

# PRESENTE

www.soaw.org

## 30th Anniversary Commemorative Gathering at Fort Benning November 15-17, 2019

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Central American University (UCA) massacre. On the morning of November 16, 1989 the Atlacatl Battalion of the Salvadoran Army, led by 19 School of the Americas (SOA) graduates, entered university grounds and brutally assassinated Elba Ramos, her 16-year old daughter, Celina Ramos, and six Jesuit priests—amongst them, Father Ignacio Ellacuría, an outspoken critic of El Salvador’s military dictatorship. The SOA Watch movement initially formed to denounce this massacre — one of the many atrocities that occurred in Central America as the United States funded civil wars and trained military at the SOA/WHINSEC.



We estimate that more than 83,000 Latin American state forces have been trained at the SOA/WHINSEC in counterinsurgency techniques (i.e. civilian-targeted warfare), sniper tactics, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence, interrogation tactics, and torture. Graduates of the SOA have consistently used these tactics to wage war against their own people — resulting in massacres, assassinations, torture, forced disappearances, the destabilizing of economies, land grabs by corporations that pillage the earth and value profit over people, and forced migration of millions throughout the hemisphere. Additionally, in September 2019, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shared that Fort Benning, GA, home of SOA/WHINSEC will be the new location of an “urban warfare” training facility that is expected to include “hyper-realistic” simulations of homes, hotels, and commercial buildings in Chicago and Arizona. This means that ICE, in addition to US Border Patrol agents already being trained at the SOA/WHINSEC, will have access to similar training to use on communities within the United States. Border Patrol, which operates with impunity, is accused of serious human rights violations, including murder, rape, and destroying critical humanitarian aid.

## Program

**Friday, November 15th**  
(2420 Fort. Benning Rd. –  
Columbus, GA 31903)

**5:30pm:** Sunset/Candlelight Vigil at the gates of Fort Benning and Welcome from Roy Bourgeois, SOA Watch Staff, and the Commemorative Gathering Working Group. We will begin promptly at 5:30, we recommend arriving early

**7:00pm:** People are invited to meet for a community gathering at the Vallarta restaurant one mile from the gate of Ft. Benning (2151 Fort Benning Rd.)

*Close the School of the Americas  
Memoria y Resistencia*



**CLOSE the SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS**

Fort Benning, Georgia  
November 15 - 17, 2019

From the School of the Americas to the Border  
**¡NO MÁS MUERTES!**

A COMMEMORATIVE GATHERING:  
BRIDGING THE PAST AND PRESENT  
REMEMBERING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (UCA) MASSACRE

www.soaw.org @SOAWATCH @SCHOOLOFTHEAMERICASWATCH @SOAWATCH

**Tucson, AZ Office**  
202-234-3440  
225 E 26th St  
Suite 7  
Tucson, AZ 85713  
www.soaw.org  
info@soaw.org

# Program

**Saturday, November 16th**  
(Bibb Event Center 3715  
1st Ave. – Columbus GA  
31904)

**8:00am:** Registration

**9:00am:** Welcome, opening, and keynote speaker at the Bibb Mill Event Center

**10:00am:** Tribute to the Prisoners of Conscience and those who have “crossed the line” at Fort Benning

**10:15am:** Panel I – SOA Watch: Bridging the Past and the Present of the Organization, the Movement, and Lessons Learned over the last 30 years of Resistance

**1:00pm:** Music

**1:30pm:** Panel II – The Frontlines of Resistance: Effective Organizing Strategies in the Face of US-led and Supported Violence

**5:00pm:** Break

**6:00pm – 7:30pm:** Pax Christi Program

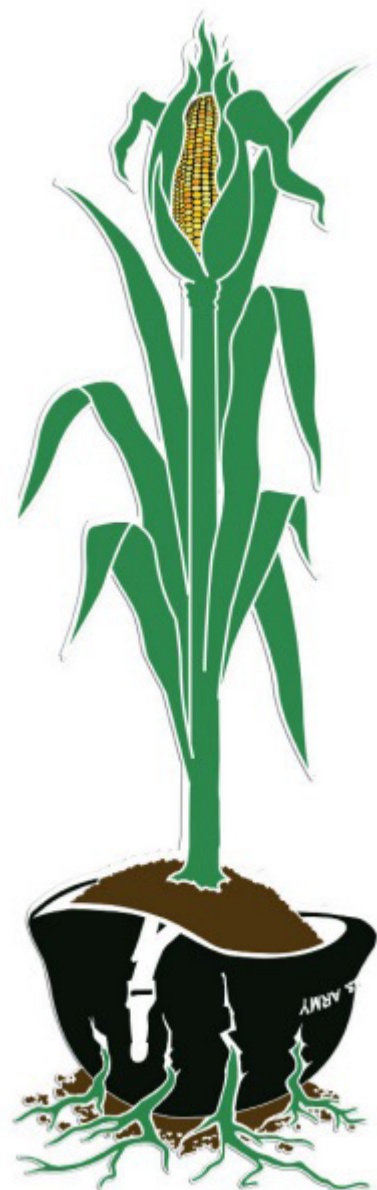


**Sunday November 17th**  
(South Entrance Gate,  
2420 Fort. Benning Rd. –  
Columbus, GA 31903)

**9:15am:** Walk of Peace  
Pagods Buddhists and Veterans for Peace (leaving Candlewood Suites, 3389 Victory Drive, 1.6 miles, about 30 minutes)

**9:30am:** Program will be at the Gates of Ft. Benning: Litany, Presentes, procession of the fallen, music and the Puppetistas.

**2:30pm:** SOA Watch community and friends will be gathering at the Vallarta restaurant (2151 Fort Benning Rd.) – all are welcome to join us!



**THE RESISTANCE AND  
STRUGGLE FOR LIFE  
CONTINUES**

**NO MORE SCHOOL OF  
THE AMERICAS**

**Adelina Nicholls:** [www.glahr.org](http://www.glahr.org) - **Ana Maria Vasquez:** [www.borderpatrolvictimsnetwork.blogspot.com](http://www.borderpatrolvictimsnetwork.blogspot.com)

**Azadeh Shahshahani:** [www.projectsouth.org](http://www.projectsouth.org) - **Catherine Gaffney:** [www.nomoredeaths.org](http://www.nomoredeaths.org)

**Leslie Schuld:** [www.cis-elsalvador.org](http://www.cis-elsalvador.org) - **Rita Ellis:** [www.pazamigos.org](http://www.pazamigos.org)

**SOA Watch [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) - [info@soaw.org](mailto:info@soaw.org)**