



## *our developing world's voices*

[www.ourdevelopingworld.org](http://www.ourdevelopingworld.org)

[ourdevelopingworld@gmail.com](mailto:ourdevelopingworld@gmail.com)

***13004 Paseo Presada, Saratoga 95070***

**408-379-443T**

for full winter '14 issue click:

<http://blank.hypersurf.com/~odw/pages/voices2014winter.pdf>



South Africa 20th Anniversary Reality Tour  
of the first free election

People will be reflecting on those 20 years.

Still time to join us! July 8-19

Check our website [www.ourdevelopingworld.org](http://www.ourdevelopingworld.org)

Save October 18 and 19 1-5pm

Come to our Thank You Party Celebrate with us!

Vic's birthday, our 60 years together, 44 years of *our devel-*

*oping world It's all of you who have made our lives so wonderful! Please come and be thanked!* In *odw* style you're welcome to bring finger food, your song voices and instruments!

Here's what keeps us going! We hope to do another of these trips to Nicaragua for youth next year and a Reality Tour afterward.

**Liah Idelson** [www.curlsonthecape.blogspot.com](http://www.curlsonthecape.blogspot.com)

"In 2000, I celebrated my 13th birthday in Nicaragua on an *odw* volunteer trip. Our job was also to build a school. But the community and our trip planners knew that a bunch of suburban kids from California didn't know how to do construction. Instead, we worked alongside the community doing tasks that we could do: digging holes, helping to lift roof beams, and laying cement. I'm sure that things we did were wrong and this community certainly could have done the construction without our help. But of the eight of us on the trip, I believe that nearly all of us are still engaged in professions or fields that are working to lift people out of poverty, whether through education in New York City or violence protection in Afghanistan. Would we have found these fields without this trip? Maybe. But this trip certainly impacted our youthful and spongy brains. In Nicaragua, we shared meals, tasks, and laughs with people so different from us who taught us that despite their poverty, they liked, struggled, and laughed at the same things that we did. Today, that might seem obvious. At 13, that was kind of mind-blowing, and each decision I have made since then has been with these individuals in my mind. And I think the United States would be a kinder and more empathetic country if more of us have this realization.



**Albie Sachs**, South Africa retired Constitutional Court Judge and co-author of probably the best constitution in the world, is focussed on *positive possibilities* fully recognizing the good and the very bad things going on. Thus he survived the South African military car bomb that cost him an eye and an arm. The film about his Soft Vengeance is being shown at film festivals around the world. His focus on Restorative Justice advocated by Superior Court Judge Diane Ritchie up for re-election who has brought more of that here!!

***We need to adopt these attitudes so we can make the changes we need in our country:***

1. **War Is Not Working!** We've got to change our foreign and military policy.

**Gen. Wesley Clark Says Pentagon Had Plan in 2001 to Attack Seven Countries in Five Years** Excerpted from a [Democracy Now interview](#) with Amy Goodman:



GEN. :“ I knew why, because I was in the Pentagon right after 9/11. About ten days after 9/11, I saw Secretary Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz. I went to say hello to some of the people on the Joint Staff who used to work for me. One of the generals called me in."Sir, you've got to come in and talk to me a second." He says, "We've made the decision we're going to war with Iraq." This was on or about the 20th of September. I said, "We're going to war with Iraq? Why?" "I don't know," he said, "I guess they don't know what else to do." I said, "Well, did they find some information connecting Saddam to al-Qaeda?" "No, no. They just made the decision to go to war with Iraq. I guess it's like we don't know what to do about terrorists, but we've got a good military and we can take down governments." And he said, "I guess if the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem has to look like a nail."

A few weeks later, we were bombing in Afghanistan. I said, "Are we still going to war with Iraq?" He said, "Oh, it's worse than that. I just got this from upstairs" (the Secretary of Defense's office)"This memo describes how we're going to take out seven countries in five years, starting with Iraq, and then Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and, finishing off, Iran." "Is it classified?" He said, "Yes, sir." I said, "Well, don't show it to me."

**No Political Prisoners must be left behind in Burma's jails! Free Nay Myo Zin and Win Cho!**

Former political prisoners, jailed again for peaceful activities,



for organizing a protest with hundreds of farmers across Burma, calling for the release of remaining political prisoners, constitutional change, and the establishment of a farmers' union. Next day they were arrested, charged under Article 18 of the Peaceful Procession Law for holding a protest without permission and sentenced to three months in Insein Prison.

[Please email President Thein Sein to demand the immediate and unconditional release of Nay Myo Zin, Win Cho and the remaining political prisoners in Burma.](#)

### **Venezuela's Protests May Be Different From What You Are Told ( excerpts)**

Mark Weisbrot, *Huffington Post*, April 28, 2014, *Folha de São Paulo* (Brazil), April 13, 2014  
[See article on original website](#) (excerpted and edited for lack of space.)

The biggest Western media have drafted a charmingly simple narrative of the situation: peaceful protesters risen up against a government due to shortages, high inflation, and crime, taken to the streets and been met with brutal repression from a government that also controls the media.

Indeed there have been some peaceful opposition marches, but the daily protests are anything but peaceful. In fact, [about half](#) of the daily death toll from Venezuela that we see in the media – now at 41 -- are actually civilians and security forces apparently [killed by protesters](#). A much smaller fraction are protesters alleged to have been killed by security forces. State TV in Venezuela has only 10 percent of the TV audience; the *New York Times* had [to run a correction](#) for falsely reporting that opposition voices are not regularly heard on Venezuelan TV. [They are on TV](#), even calling for the overthrow of the government – the announced goal of the protest leaders from the beginning. These are not like the protests last year in Brazil, or student protests (2011-13) in Chile, organized around specific demands.

Of course the increased shortages and rising inflation over the past year have had a political impact on Venezuela, but the people most hurt by shortages are decidedly not joining the protests. The protests are joined and [led by the upper classes](#), who are least affected.

The protests really got going as a result of a split within the Venezuelan opposition. Henrique Capriles, who lost to Chávez and then Maduro in the last two presidential elections, was considered too conciliatory by the extreme right, led by [Leopoldo López](#) and María Corina Machado who decided the time was ripe to topple the government through street protests. Both were involved in the 2002 military coup against then President Chávez; María Corina Machado even [signed the decree](#) of the coup government that abolished the elected National Assembly (AN), the Constitution, and the Supreme Court.

I'm not defending the jailing of López or the Venezuelan AN decision to expel Machado, just as I would not defend the French government's [prosecution](#) of far-right politicians for Holocaust denial, or the proposed banning of the fascist Golden Dawn party in Greece. But we should be

honest about these Venezuelan opposition leaders who are trying to make the country ungovernable, so as to gain by force what they have been unable to win in 18 elections over the past 15 years. Brazil's former president Lula da Silva and current president Dilma Rousseff have no illusions about protests in Venezuela. Now 50 years since Brazil's coup brought in the military dictatorship that put them in prison, They remember what a coup looks like. Other governments of South America have made similar statements. But they have also offered to [mediate](#) between the government and any opposition leaders who are willing to participate in a dialogue. This process looks encouraging. Let's hope so; that is the only way forward in Venezuela.

*Mark Weisbrot is co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, in Washington, D.C. He is also President of Just Foreign Policy ( [www.justforeignpolicy.org](http://www.justforeignpolicy.org) ).*

**PROAH Human Rights 3 month Report** [jennya@friendshipamericas.org](mailto:jennya@friendshipamericas.org) [Summary of Human Rights issues and events in Honduras](#), October thru December 2013. On January 27, 2014 Juan Orlando Hernandez was inaugurated as President following a deadly year of targeted political violence leading up to national elections last November. The new president has vowed to address the pervasive and systemic violence that reign in Honduras by further militarizing the country. (funded by our US tax \$\$) For many in Honduras, the future looks grim.

"Further deterioration of Honduran society is expected. The creation of new military police force weeks before the elections, combined with creation of legal frameworks like charter cities law or the mining law, the deliberate delay of the process of purging the police and the judicial institutions of corruption...all under the leadership of the president elect represent dark clouds that foretell a phase of growing authoritarianism, impunity, corruption and loss of national sovereignty." Padre Melo, [America](#).

The U.S. State Department has voiced strong support for the new President and his militarization formula. However, thanks to education and advocacy efforts, members of Congress continue to register alarm regarding human rights abuses, U.S. security assistance to Honduras, and the direction of U.S. policy.

The 2014 Appropriations Bill included stronger human rights conditions and restrictions on U.S. security assistance to Honduras and also prohibits U.S. involvement in international financial institutions backing of large hydro dams in Honduras. This prohibition should apply to the hydro dam in Rio Blanco where the local community and COPINH had peaceful protest for over a year, suffering intense persecution and criminalization.

Vigilance, accompaniment and advocacy are urgently needed. Honduras faces a new storm of militarization, with U.S. backing, without a real plan to address systemic violation of human rights, corruption and impunity. Ask Congress to sign the letter to Kerry.

**"700 settlement units were announced in Jerusalem, and poof - that was sort of the moment." Secretary of State John Kerry**

For the first time (in 20 years of US supposedly the honest broker)— and despite later efforts to backtrack— a U.S. Secretary of State admitted it was the Israelis who are derailing talks. He couldn't have been more clear about the recent sequence of events that have driven these talks to the brink:

1. Israel refused to release the last group of Palestinian prisoners they had promised to free,
2. They announced construction of 700 new settlement units.

Only then did the Palestinians announce that they would attempt to join 15 international human rights conventions. The US and Israel still vigorously criticized that move, which begs the question: what kind of "peace process" considers signing on to covenants promoting the rights of children, the disabled, and others is a threat to peace?

Unilateral Israeli actions to undermine peace go back much further.

**Since the Oslo Accords, Jewish settlers on Palestinian land has more than doubled - to more than 650,000.** Netanyahu campaigned on a promise of one million Jewish settlers, "fact on the ground".

The U S repeatedly rewarded the Israeli government when it violated law or agreements, fueling the occupation with \$3.2 billion in annual military aid, **acting like a broker in these talks — representing Israel.**

The losers in this peace scam? Palestinians most of all, but also every Israeli who wants a lasting and just peace. And every US resident wanting our tax money used for freedom and democracy, not occupation and apartheid. **The terms Kerry and Israel set forth have nothing to do with equality – they'll require Palestinians to sit at the back of the bus. (if they can even get on the road the bus is on!)**

An unprecedented demand that the Palestinian Authority recognize Israel as a Jewish state is **code for condemning Israel's 25% of citizens who aren't Jewish to second and third class status**, and denying the internationally recognized rights of Palestinian refugees.

The future Palestinian "state" looks like the holes in a piece of Swiss cheese, thanks to decades of US-enabled settlement expansion. Whatever the rhetoric of a "two-state solution," **Israeli policies have already created a de-facto single state: all of Israel, the West Bank, Gaza and occupied East Jerusalem, built on the premise of separate and unequal lives for Jews and non-Jews.** The very definition of apartheid.

**So what next? The balance of power is changing.**

**That will only happen when all parties can sit down together with equal power.** Israel has one of the strongest militaries in the world, the only nuclear arsenal in the Middle East, and the unconditional backing of the world's sole super power. **The successes of the Palestinian-led nonviolent movement for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS that led to the downfall of South African apartheid) are growing, with billions of dollars and major multinational corporations already impacted.** Prime Minister Netanyahu mentioned BDS 26 times in his

speech to AIPAC, the largest U.S. pro-Israel lobbying organization. *This is the Palestinians' Montgomery Bus Boycott.* For Jews it's a form of *tochecha*, the Jewish tradition of sacred rebuke, coming from a place of love and the religious obligation to remind one's friends to live by their values. It is also a nonviolent and principled way to liberate our own community from the dehumanizing role of oppressor.

**BDS is really working:.** Israeli finance minister Yair Lapid warned even a limited EU boycott could cost the Israeli economy over \$5 billion dollars a year. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, "The boycott is moving and advancing uniformly and exponentially. Those who don't want to see it, will end up feeling it." Already impacted, even Israel's business elites are organizing to demand a negotiated agreement.

BDS is a movement rooted in Palestinian civil society – women's groups, trade unions, students – and so it has no leader that can be stopped. No single funder that can be cut off. Grounded in international law, asking for an end to occupation, equality for Palestinian citizens of Israel, and a just resolution for millions of refugees. BDS is the way to get to the negotiating table.

**And we ask you to continue to join us in this historic movement.** So that all who live in Israel and Palestine, in whatever configuration both peoples choose, can live as equals, with the same opportunities to raise families safely, go to school, and build a future.



How foreign and domestic concerns overlap: This from the separation/apartheid wall in Palestine! Occupy has saved many homes that were under water, tangibly helped Hurricane Sandy victims, etc.

## **Domestic Issues**

### **Put Overturn Citizens United Act On The November Ballot**

Pass SB1272 Action Page: <http://www.peaceteam.net/sb1272.php>

Support Congressional action to amend McCutcheon

**AlterNet: 10 Ways America Has Come to Resemble a Banana Republic**  
<http://www.alternet.org/economy/10-ways-america-has-come-resemble-banana-republic>

**Rethinking Schools** invites you to join the effort launched February 1 by the national Teacher Activist Groups (TAG) network: "**No History Is Illegal: A Campaign to Save Our Stories**" -- by teaching lessons from and about the banned Mexican American Studies program ( in Tucson). Visit the "[No History Is Illegal](#)" website, where you'll find curriculum materials from the Mexican American Studies program as well as teaching ideas and resources developed by TAG teachers around the country.

Here's the TAG "pledge," which Rethinking Schools supports: "In solidarity with the students and teachers in the Mexican American Studies program in Tucson, AZ, I pledge my support to teach and raise awareness about their struggle and to ensure that the perspectives and stories of historically marginalized populations are kept alive in our classrooms and communities." Sign on [here](#).

### **US Tax Inequity:**

Did you see The Daily Show's [segment on corporate tax dodging last week](#)? It's pretty spot-on, even citing some brand-new research from Citizens for Tax Justice. That study looks at 288 Fortune 500 companies and finds that 26 of them paid negative federal corporate income taxes in any of the last five years ( That means they got rebates!)– despite the fact that these companies made a combined \$170 billion in profits!

**Ways the Press Will Treat Cartwright Different From Snowden** By Juan Cole  
Last year [NBC reported Gen. James "Hoss" Cartwright](#) is under investigation as source for [David Sanger's 2012 New York Times article](#) revealing that the United States is behind the Stuxnet computer virus, used to infect computers at Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment facilities and at the Bushehr nuclear energy plants and delay their going hot.

High government officials in Washington routinely leak classified information, as part of turf battles inside the government. Perhaps Cartwright used Sanger to ensure that Stuxnet was not wholly abandoned (it was his baby). That leaks are routine makes the harsh espionage charges against people like Edward Snowden (and Chelsea Manning) so hypocritical. He who is without leaks should cast the first stone.

How these intersect! Suspicion now falling on Cartwright because the NSA knows journalist David Sanger's phone number getting a FISA warrant to go through Sanger's

***our developing world's voices***

already-stored records would have been child's play. Under the PATRIOT Act the FBI promised to use it only for counter-terrorism. A hollow promise.

If we can't trust them not to infect us with worms, why in the world should we trust them with all of our personal information? Since Cartwright is a member of the inside-the-Beltway elite, you can bet that the press will not treat him the way they have Snowden or Manning, even if he proves guilty. Here will be the differences:

- No one will obsess about the exercise habits of Gen. Cartwright's wife.
- Gen. Cartwright will not be characterized as "a 63-year-old hacker, nerdy" or "flaky." David Gregory won't ask that David Sanger be prosecuted for espionage because he aided and abetted Cartwright's leaking.  
Gen. Cartwright won't be accused of being a spy for Iran.  
Cartwright's loyalty to the United States won't be impugned by anchors or congressmen. Dirt won't be dug up on David Sanger's private life in an attempt to discredit his reporting on Cartwright's Stuxnet.  
It's not what is done. It is who does it that matters in Washington. (Including Chelsey Manning) Even past closeness to power covers a multitude of sins.

**Too many items for one issue of voices: *These have been left out. Email us [odw@magiclink.net](mailto:odw@magiclink.net) if you'd like any of them.***

"Martti Ahtisaari" <[connect@theelders.org](mailto:connect@theelders.org)> **Elders update: why every conflict can be resolved**

<[dannarogers1@hotmail.com](mailto:dannarogers1@hotmail.com)> **Veolia, Mekorot and the struggle for Palestinian water rights** *Susan Koppelman on March 22, 2014 [11](#)*, Mondoweiss.net

**Yes! Magazine is a marvelous source of positive possibilities! An article of Zero Waste is an example!**

**Vic and Barby borrowed to join the Interfaith Peace Builders delegation to Israel/Palestine August 9-24. They met a wide variety of people from both sides who are acting non violently, sometimes working together to end the occupation. Invitations welcome to share these first hand experiences and/or facilitate "Mornings in Jenin" discussions.**

**We hope tax deductible donations will come to pay off the loan! And /or earmarked for Reality Tour Scholarships for low income students who need the experience to be knowledgeable global citizen/leaders with heart!**