



our developing world's voices fall '15

www.ourdevelopingworld.org

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From Local to Global and Global to Local!

We are horrified that UC Regent Richard Bloom and his wife Sen Diane Feinstein are threatening the UC Regents to incorporate a definition of anti-semitism that mirrors the non binding one the US State Department wrote in 2010 that equates words against the policies and actions of the State of Israel to anti-semitism. Webster defines it as discrimination against Jews, NOT against a nation's policies. More horrifying is that if enacted, speech so defined would render suspension or expulsion from the University system!

That would also means that actions to boycott, divest or call for sanctions would result in the same. Where is the 1st amendment? Where is academic freedom? How can a university with a mission to explore ideas and educate using critical thinking and democratically acting continue to be considered world class with such a ruling? Thanks to:

[Glenn Greenwald](mailto:glenn.greenwald@theintercept.com) glenn.greenwald@theintercept.com ggreenwald

“My country right or wrong: When right to be kept right when wrong to be put right.” US Senator in 1872. What can we do to stop this travesty? We have written our legislators in Sacramento including Governor Brown and the editor of the San Jose Mercury.

Recently M Barghouti, a long time Palestinian activist made comments on KPFA that suggested that US policy is enabling Israel to continue an inhumane policy, that Israelis of all people should recognize this. We wouldn't encourage an enabler of an abuser of alcohol, drugs or individuals but comments against the blatant war against Gaza summer of 2014 and the continuing human rights abuses of Palestinians should not be enabled by US tax dollars and US weapons. Coincidentally, Richard Blum is in the weapons industry.

CUBA: Join Us!!!!

our developing world led a small group to Cuba in June and had a potluck/program with mojitos (for a \$5 donation) that was very successful...people had a good time and we received many emails and phone calls complimenting and thanking us for the great evening. So we're offering it again on **Sunday October 18 6 pm potluck dinner, 7 pm program** with Seema Sharma and Joseph Mutti. Anyone who was there in '15 is welcome to join in the discussion.

Cubans reminded us: Normal' relations include respect for each other's sovereignty and non-interference in the domestic affairs inside the country. President Raul Castro said: “We must learn the art of coexisting with our differences in a civilized manner;” a hard lesson for the US government to remember – and we, US citizens, have the responsibility

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to remind our elected officials. Democracy relies on us: we need to be active. p1

Encourage Pres. Obama to release the Guantanamo prisoners (Most have never been charged and many were cleared for release years ago). Let's close it and give it back to Cuba, respecting their sovereignty.

We'd be open to invitations to present in other venues.

ADDICTED TO WAR

Pope Francis urged the US to stop selling weapons of war (or giving them away as we're doing to Israel and other countries). This is our biggest most lucrative industry...with pharmaceuticals next. When we have such powerful lobbies to increase profits its hard for legislators not to see war as the solution to all problems, including domestic (militarizing our police).

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Pope also rightly sees climate change as the pressing issue that can't be left for the next generation.

Obama's words sound good, but he has yet to withdraw permission to drill in the Arctic. Another issue to press him on.

REGIME CHANGE

US tax dollars go to supporting opposition in many countries: Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, among others. Many here felt it was inappropriate for Netanyahu to be invited to speak to Congress against the Iran anti-nuclear deal, but US dollars have gone to opposition to overthrow elected leaders for many decades. Respect for sovereignty realizing that we aren't necessarily the model for all nations is important...Especially now when our election season is on for all too long!

DIVERSE POINTS OF VIEW

We find that KPFA (Pacifica) is vital for keeping us a informed of many and varied countries and cultures as well as the a more complete news coverage. Yes! Magazine stresses the positive things that are being done and the Nation is certainly an important source. All the Justice organizations: CCR (Center for Constitutional Rights) and ACLU. Vietnam Vets Against the War hepus see how vets help each other using art and poetry and giving voice to their stories. They said in their recent newspaper how the closest bonds they have are with their buddies who are working against war.

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HEALTH

Since the horrendous increase in pharmaceuticals we could do well to lobby Washington to allow Medicare and Affordable Care Act to negotiate lower prices for bulk buying.

MEXICO [Inter-American Human Rights Commission Report Slams Mexican Government Version of Ayotzinapa Atrocities: 10 key points](#)

By Ted Lewis and Janice Gallagher (edited slightly for length)

A body of independent experts (GIEI), appointed by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, rejects the government's conclusions about key elements of last year's attacks on unarmed students during which six people were killed and 43 forcibly disappeared. The report underlines coordination between local, state, and federal police, as well as the Army during the hours of the attacks and cites official obstruction of justice in the months since the crimes took place.

Families of the disappeared reaffirm ongoing struggle and announce major mobilization on September 26th, the first anniversary of the state crime.

Here are ten takeaways from the experts' 560-page report:

1) **Yes: it was the state**

[Mexico's own police forces killed six people, disappeared 43 students, and wounded more than 40](#) on the night of September 26th, 2014. While the involvement of a (police-affiliated) drug cartel is alleged, it is *undisputed* – even by the Mexican state – that members of two different local police forces perpetrated this violence.

The report found that federal police detained one of the five buses the students were traveling in – a fact denied by the Mexican officials, that military participated in the monitoring of the student movements, and that members of military intelligence were present at two locations where the students were killed and disappeared during the course of the evening.

2) **The students were stalked and then killed and/or disappeared by local police forces**

When the students attempted to return to their school, about 1 ½ hours away, local and federal police forces blocked their exit and attacked. Police and military forces followed the movements of the students throughout evening: they observed the students when they left their school at 6pm, until the local police first attacked them at 10pm – and until the attacks ended after midnight. Students locked themselves inside one of their buses after being stopped. The police then broke off branches from nearby trees, broke the windows of the bus, threw pepper spray and tear gas inside the bus. Students with their hands up, were forced to lie on the ground. Municipal and federal police forcibly disappeared them while military intelligence observed. p3

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3) The attack was coordinated and sustained

The attack did not happen in an isolated burst of violence – rather over the course of more than three hours in nine different locations.

It was not chaotic: different police and military forces regularly communicated throughout the night, and the expert group suspects that a policeman in downtown Iguala was issuing commands to the various participating groups. The records of communication from that group, called C4, went missing during the height of the attack. There are different explanations of why these records are missing: perhaps they were communicating on an encrypted network, or perhaps the Secretary of National Defense has control of those records.

At no point did municipal, state police or soldiers intervene to protect students or other civilians. In a widely reported case, members of the military refused to help a student with a bullet wound to the face who had sought medical attention at a health clinic.

4) Students wanted to raise money and arrange for transport – not disrupt a speech

The students had planned to peacefully commandeer several buses on the night of September 26th, and also to ask for donations from motorists along the highways.

The expert group reports that the practice of commandeering buses and fundraising from motorists “has been traditional amongst the different *normales* [rural teachers’ colleges] in Mexico,” and had happened for years generally without violence, arrests or legal charges being brought. Bus companies, in response to these practices, developed guidelines for their drivers: they pay them their salary during the time when their bus is taken over, and in turn expect them to stay with their bus.

Despite initial reports claiming the students wanted to disrupt the speech of the mayor’s wife, whose brother is a leader with local criminal group *Guerreros Unidos*, her speech was in fact over before the students arrived in the town of Iguala.

5) The state’s explanation that the disappeared students were incinerated at the Cocula trash dump was demonstrated to be patently false, even scientifically impossible.

In January 2015, the then-Attorney General of Mexico, Jesús Murillo Karam, claimed that the municipal police had handed over the 43 students to the *Guerreros Unidos* criminal gang, who then killed them and burned the bodies in the Cocula trash dump.

José Torero, a leading fire expert engaged by the expert group, found that the destruction of 43 corpses in an open air dump would have required many conditions that simply did not exist: 500 cords of wood or 100s of tons of tires; very high heat that would have scorched the surrounding earth and vegetation (they were not scorched); and a fire that would have burned for more than two and a half days — far longer than any of the “witnesses” claimed it had taken. In addition, such a large fire would have produced a plume of smoke hundreds of feet high visible for miles around. No local residents reported seeing such a thing.

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6) The official investigation has been discredited by errors, lies, destruction of evidence and the likely use of torture to obtain testimony

It started when officials identified mass graves said to contain the bodies of the Ayotzinapa victims. Closer investigation revealed that those graves held other murder victims.

Then, the lies deepened and the story about the incineration of bodies at the Cocula trash dump (entirely based on likely coerced testimony) was presented as fact. That lie now stands in ruins as does the entire edifice of the official story

Faith in the authorities was further undermined by revelations that various [CCTV video recordings](#) made on the night of the disappearances were destroyed.

7) Widespread practice of enforced disappearance by state forces facilitated the attack

Why did state officials think they could get away with this attack on unarmed civilians? Human rights groups [recently documented](#) what they call “a cycle of impunity and violence.” In this cycle, crime rates continue to increase as the justice system falls further behind in punishing those responsible for committing crimes, especially if those responsible work for the government. This impunity emboldens perpetrators to commit more crime. This cycle has landed Mexico at number two in a [worldwide impunity index](#), and in a recent survey, Mexicans reported that a perpetrator had been indicted in only 7.5% of all crimes.

8) Devastating impact of survivors and families:

Poor handling and dishonesty of the official investigation has added to the pain experienced by families of the Ayotzinapa disappeared.

At the press conference held by the Ayotzinapa families after the GIEI report launch, Mario César Gonzalez Contreras, the father of one of the missing students commented that, “it became very clear that the garbage dump at Cocula was government theater...the [state version that our children were burned at the] dump has always tortured the families of the 43 disappeared.”

Another family member summarized: “the first death was when we knew our son had been disappeared; the second when they [the state] wanted to turn over the first graves they found; the third death happened when they found even more graves; the fourth when they [claimed our son had been burned in] the Cocula dump.”

9) Context of war on drugs fuels corruption and violence

The state of Guerrero, like all of Mexico, has been deeply affected the drug war. Iguala, where the abductions took place is, according the report, “an important place for heroin trafficking.”

The dynamics of the drug war have ensured the profitability of the illicit drug trade and frequently have led to the kind of state-criminal collusion seen in Guerrero. p5

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The GIEI report recommends further investigation of the possibility that one of the buses commandeered by the students was (unbeknownst to them) carrying a load of drugs. In the opinion of the experts, this might explain the unprecedented ferocity of the attack on the students.

If this theory –that the students inadvertently commandeered a bus with drugs or cash — is true, the implications about the nature of the Mexican state and U.S. sponsored drug war are politically explosive, given that state actors committed the violence and led the cover up that ensued.

10) The case fueled massive protest – and the report could reignite citizen outrage

Last fall the Ayotzinapa case fueled a massive backlash against President Enrique Peña Nieto. Enormous solidarity marches took place across Mexico and around the world and Peña Nieto's standing tumbled. Peña Nieto survived with support from Washington, but this new report comes at a moment when his hold on power is further weakened by a falling peso, low oil prices, a resurgence in drug war violence, and the fact that he is entering the traditional weaker second-half of his six year term. Representatives of the Ayotzinapa community who spoke at a press conference Sunday invoked the example of neighboring Guatemala where persistent street protests recently brought down a corrupt president.

Ted Lewis is the Human Rights Program Director at Global Exchange.

Janice Gallagher is a postdoctoral fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs. She works on issues of governance, human rights and violence in Latin America.

Tags: [#drugwar](#), [#FueElEstado](#), [#HumanRights](#), [Ayotzinapa](#), [Mexico](#)

BOEHNER RESIGNED FROM CONGRESS

Tea Party Republicans pulled off a major coup.

John Boehner is not only stepping down as Speaker, but he's retiring from Congress altogether. If we thought Speaker Boehner was bad, a Tea Party Speaker will be worse. AND with Boehner out of the picture, Republican leadership is vulnerable to a Tea Party takeover. Before he leaves he wants to see Planned Parenthood defunded (though no federal funds go for abortions and they are the only source for women's reproductive health care for many poor women. And will he have the strength to avoid a defunding of the government?

BERNIE SANDERS AND ELIZABETH WARREN

Both have been strong on economic issues. Have you seen them on The Late Show with Steven Colbert? Wish they'd heed the Pope's appeal to end war. p6

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Important to us because we saw how BDS aided stopping apartheid in South Africa:
Just arrived in the inbox:



BDSmovement.net newsletter - Sept. 2015 from Ramullah

Welcome to the BDSmovement.net newsletter, published by the

Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee

Huge French multinational Veolia completely divests from Israel

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and its worldwide partners are celebrating the withdrawal of the huge French corporation Veolia from the Jerusalem Light Rail (JLR), an illegal rail system built to facilitate the growth and expansion of Israeli colonial settlements on occupied Palestinian territory.

The sale of its stake in the JLR project ends all of Veolia's involvement in the Israeli market, including all projects that violate international law and the human rights of the Palestinian people.

The sale follows an extensive 7-year boycott campaign against Veolia, due to its complicity in the Israeli occupation. The campaign cost Veolia contracts around the world estimated to be worth over [\\$20 billion](#).

"Veolia's withdrawal from Israel sets an example to all companies that are complicit in Israel's human rights violations. This is a victory for the BDS movement and all our partners from other rights movements who have helped in pressuring the company. - See more at:

<http://www.bdsmovement.net/2015/bds-marks-another-victory-as-veolia-sells-off-all-israeli-operations-13270#sthash.9Phvr5lq.dpuf> [Read more.](#)

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[Join us: Olympics without Apartheid!](#)

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Join our campaign for the exclusion of Israeli security firm ISDS from the Rio'16 Olympics. [Read more.](#)



[UN faces pressure over contracts with G4S](#)

G4S is a British private security company that acts as a key contractor for Israel's apartheid regime, providing services and equipment to the police force and prison service, as well as military checkpoints and settlements in the occupied West Bank. The BDS movement is calling on the UN to end its contracts with the company. [Read more.](#)

-UE

The United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America voted to back the Palestinian BDS on Israel, the second national union in the United States, and the largest so far, to do so. Palestinian trade unionists and activists warmly welcome them. [Read more.](#)

[Over 1,100 Black activists, artists, scholars, students and organizations signed the 2015 Black Solidarity Statement with Palestine](#)

They have released this statement reaffirming their "solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and commitment to the liberation of Palestine's land and people." [Read more.](#)

Summer'16 A very special opportunity!

Tell us if you'd like to join us in Guatemala, the birth place of odw, for a restful vacation based at Hotel Toliman on Lake Atitlan, that our wonderful Guatemalan friend Chati, first met in 1980 is now running. Many craftspeople live nearby, a variety of excursions available. **p8**

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