

HONDURAS

What the U.S. media does not say



Honduran people & international community respond

Despite facing tear gas and gunfire that has so far killed nine people and injured scores, despite 1,500 detentions, the people, organized by the National Popular Front of Resistance against the Coup, have been on the streets daily since June 28. They are courageously demonstrating to bring back their elected President Zelaya, to restore constitutionality in the country and for their right to have a Constitutional Assembly to forge the future that they want in their own country.

There has been widespread condemnation from international organizations like the United Nations, the Organization of American States, UNASUR, ALBA and others and from the vast majority of the international community. Most ambassadors have been recalled and trade and cooperation with the illegitimate government have been greatly reduced or suspended.

If so many people and countries oppose the coup, how can the Micheletti government stay in power?

Only U.S. support holds up the coup regime in Honduras and prevents the return of democracy in that country. The U.S. is Honduras' major trading partner. Washington used that country as its military outpost against the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and the Salvadoran Revolution in the 1980s. The Pentagon keeps its largest military base in Central America, Palmerola, now called Soto Cano, in Honduras. The criminal "Contras" operated in Honduras, trained by the infamous School of the Americas. The Honduran military is intimately linked to the Pentagon and receives from the U.S. war machine every kind of material aid and weapons, assistance in training, surveillance and military actions.

Washington's role

The U.S. government claims to be on the side of democracy and constitutionality. But it has made no real effort to pressure the Micheletti regime to relinquish power and return Zelaya to office. Even the "Arias Plan," named for Costa Rica's President Oscar Arias, hand-picked by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to "mediate" the crisis and favor U.S. interests, included the return of Zelaya to office. Two of the Micheletti's "advisors" during these talks were Lanny Davis, once part of Clinton's campaign team and Bill Clinton's personal lawyer, and Bennett Ratcliff, from a San Diego law firm.

Another suspicious fact is that Col. Richard A. Juergens, who was the Director of the Special Operations Command during the February 2004 kidnapping of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, now commands Soto Cano base. The Honduran military stopped at Soto Cano on June 28 while taking President Zelaya to Costa Rica.

A wealth of information shows the CIA fronts USAID and the National Endowment for Democracy had funded organizations opposing Zelaya's government. U.S. officials, including Otto Reich, John Negroponte and the U.S. ambassador in Honduras, have been reported to have met or have links with business organizations and people behind the coup.

If the U.S. withholds all aid to Honduras, including military, the de facto government could not survive one day!

In the U.S., the mainstream media coverage favors the illegitimate government. It does not report about the people resisting and trying to bring back real democracy in Honduras.

Impact of the coup

The coup signals a return to the evil period of U.S. sponsored military dictatorships in Latin

This small Central American country of almost 8 million people has been at the center of worldwide attention since June 28, when in a military coup d'état like those carried out in the 1970s in Latin America, the Honduran military forced its legitimate president, Manuel Zelaya, from his house at gunpoint and took him to Costa Rica. The military then installed an illegitimate and criminal regime, with Roberto Micheletti its president.

This usurper government has ruled since then by extreme force and repression of the masses, with constant curfews, mass detentions, assassinations and multiple acts of violence. The police and army have established a state of siege, constantly violating the human rights of the majority who demonstrate against the coup. The coup regime also prevents freedom of expression, closing radio and TV stations that report the news truthfully.

Why was President Zelaya abducted?

Since taking office in 2006, Zelaya has taken some measures benefiting the most oppressed and poorest people of Honduras, including the Afro-Hondurans and the Indigenous who had been excluded from effective participation in society. Health care, education, jobs and social security improved. Zelaya increased the minimum wage by 60 percent, a raise both Honduran oligarchy and transnational companies like U.S.-based Chiquita Brands opposed.

Under Zelaya, Honduras became a member of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA), a union of nine Latin American and Caribbean countries. Venezuela and Cuba initiated ALBA, basing it on solidarity in trade and cooperation in education, health, infrastructure development, culture, sports, etc. ALBA proclaims the integration of the region for the people's benefit not for companies' profit. Because of its strong reliance on the members themselves and not on U.S. companies or government, Washington sees ALBA as a threat to its long-time destructive domination of the region.

America during the 1970s that killed so many people. Most Latin American countries are now trying to escape the control and domination of the United States. They have elected popular governments that are trying to improve the lives of the population who is poor. Some, like the people and governments of Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador, are looking at socialism as the kind of society that will elevate the quality of life of their peoples and bring equality, justice and peace. They have rejected the U.S. blockade against Cuba and are now trading and communicating

with this island nation. They have also opened relations and trade with other countries around the world, some of which Washington calls "rogue states." They are asserting their independence, just as Zelaya tried to do. These countries see the coup in Honduras as a very serious threat that is closely linked with the increase of U.S. militarization of the region.

What can you do? Expose the truth and U.S. government and media's complicity!

The mainstream media lies about what is hap-

pening in Honduras. Read alternative sources and become familiar with what is happening. Write to the newspapers and demand that truth be told. Write letters to the editor. Talk to your family, friends, and coworkers about it. The same negative way that the media portrays poor people, people of color, workers demanding fair wages here, they portray our brothers and sisters in Honduras and elsewhere. We have more in common with the people in Honduras resisting the coup than with the bosses of AIG, Bank of America, General Motors and other big companies in the U.S.

Sign the online email petition to Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Joe Biden, Congress, the U.N. and the media at: <http://www.iacenter.org/hondurasp petition>

For more information contact: International Action Center

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