

Crisis in Colombia

an Update

In South America, growing US military involvement is encountering civic movements for peace and human rights and governments seeking independence from Washington.

Colombia has become a focus for this encounter, as US policy prolongs a long war that's displaced millions of Colombians, and controversy seethes over pervasive civilian killings, US military bases, and a proposed free trade agreement.

In 2000, a policy called "Plan Colombia" was developed by the governments of the US and Colombia with the stated purpose of eradicating coca crops to reduce export of cocaine to the US. The plan has cost the US taxpayers more than \$7 billion, 80 percent destined for military aid and the eradication of coca. But the plan has failed either to diminish cultivation of coca or the export of cocaine to the US.

The Presbyterian Church-USA has committed to an engagement with Colombia's humanitarian crisis. The Church has a 154-year relationship with the

Presbyterian Church of Colombia and has answered the call to help them in their ministry of accompaniment to the displaced population and the most impoverished communities, and the search for peace as the fruit of justice.

Activist and author John Lindsay-Poland of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Task Force on the Americas Director Dale Sorensen will discuss US

militarization in the hemisphere, impacts on human rights, and grassroots responses. Both recently returned from fact-finding delegations in Colombia. They will show photos of affected Colombian communities and maps of US aid and human rights violations with their presentation.



Redwoods Presbyterian Church

110 Magnolia Ave • Larkspur

Friday, October 8, 7:30 pm

Donations accepted, refreshments served

Sponsored: Redwoods Presbyterian Church and Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas
Information: Call the Task Force 415/924-3227