November 10th Dinner Forum on Saint Oscar Romero
Please join us on November 10th for our dinner forum at the Friends Meeting in Chatham - we'll celebrate the life and recent canonization of Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero. Our dear friend Esther Chávez, who worked with Archbishop Romero in San Salvador before he was assassinated in 1980, will talk about her memories of a saint, as well as leading a delegation of 23 people to witness the canonization in Rome in October.

Kindness from our Community
Expressions of kindness and solidarity, big and small, have always defined our people-powered community through the years. So when one of our long time supporters sent us a check for $250 to buy 5 goats for families in Masaya, we must say, not baaaad! Then there are folks like Jerry McKenna who use their magical powers of persuasion to inspire friends and family to pull together nearly $5,000 for scholarships for kids that once lived and worked in the streets of Managua. Over the past couple of months we’ve received over $15,000 to help Axayacatl finish their new center for women and an additional $5,000 for the projects in our new “Jim Burchell ‘People to People’ Campaign.”

We hope to see you on Saturday night for our dinner forum!

In peace and solidarity,
The PeaceWorks Board

I’d like to contribute to the EMERGENCY FUND for PeaceWorks partners because of the recent violence:

| Amount | $50 | $75 | $100 | $150 | $250 | $500 | $1000 | $______________ |

I’d like to contribute to PeaceWorks general fund to pay for shipments and other projects:

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Please add me to the PeaceWorks email list for meeting reminders and events announcements.

Name: ________________________________ Email: _____________________________________

PeaceWorks, 1125 Woolley Ave., Union, NJ 07083
917-301-6967, peaceworks.org

Dear friends,

Once again, Nicaragua has vanished from the news. The brief coverage of protests that made the back pages of newspapers this spring have all but evaporated. Does it mean that the violence and oppression has ended? Well, that’s what the Nicaraguan government would like the international community to believe.

Nicaragua update: a new normal?

On October 1st, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada addressed the United Nations General Assembly. He cut to the chase in point number one: Nicaragua sees the “world in crisis originated by savage capitalism, by interference and violations of international law and the sovereignty of our peoples, with the use of force, attempts of coups d’état and destabilizations that threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Moncada may be making a valid argument about capitalism, but he goes on to point the finger at popular protesters in point #2:

“Nicaragua has resisted the attempts of a coup d’état; our country has once again won peace, fraternal coexistence and the progressive return of normal daily life.”

November 1st, 2018
Does this mean that the Nicaraguan government sees the protests against social security cuts as an attempted coup d’etat? What exactly does it mean to win the peace — the return to a normal life?

A couple of weeks after the UN speech, on Sunday October 14th, 38 protesters were detained as they gathered to begin the “United for Liberty” march. Within a few hours of the arrests a coalition of feminist organizations put out a statement demanding that the police free the at least 13 women protesters who were targeted for arrest.

The statement also said that on that same day human rights leaders Haydee Castillo and Lottie Cunningham were detained as they attempted to get on a flight to Washington, DC to attend a meeting of the OAS “Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).” Ms. Castillo was actually removed from the flight after she had already boarded.

A few days later on October 18th the IACHR, which has documented at least 325 deaths due to the violence since April, put out a statement claiming that “during past weeks an increase in acts of violence and repression have been observed to dissuade public protest in Nicaragua.”

Moncada also argues that protesters are undercover terrorists “atrociously killing citizens, policemen, setting on fire public and private property, assaults, violations, extortion, torture, and cruel inhuman degrading treatment.” Feminists with placards? Really?

Here in NJ, the PeaceWorks community continues to get news from our Nicaraguan partners about ongoing tension and fear among community activists who question government actions. We hope that the government and those demanding their rights to peacefully assemble can dialogue and work towards a new normal...but one that is legitimate and respected by the international community.

In the meantime we are so very grateful for your support and solidarity as our partners working with street kids, climate change, and domestic violence figure out how to work in this not-normal environment.

Women being arrested at the October 14th "United for Liberty" march

74th Humanitarian Aid Shipment is out to Sea...on its way to Nicaragua!
On October 13th, the day before 38 protesters lost their liberty to unite, we packed and sent our 74th humanitarian aid shipment to Nicaragua - things that are more desperately needed than ever. According to the shipping logs we sent over 900 boxes of clothes, medical equipment, school supplies, bicycles, sporting equipment and all kinds of things that can make people’s lives in Nicaragua a little easier.

We couldn’t have done it without the 70 or 80 volunteers who showed up to pack the container — like all of the regular PeaceWorks volunteers. But then there’s the Seton Hall students. The Don Bosco students. The guys from SOMOS project that send sports equipment to Nicaragua. We are very grateful for the helping hand!

Here is a list of the contents of this shipment:

INCLUDING:

* 67 bikes
* 94 boxes of clothes
* 109 boxes of household items
* 42 boxes of medical supplies
* 17 boxes of office supplies
* 195 boxes of school supplies
* 16 boxes of sewing supplies
* 39 boxes of shoes
* 56 boxes of sports equipment
* 34 boxes of tools
* 46 boxes of toys
* 120+ walkers & wheelchairs
* 43 pieces of furniture
* 2 massage tables

* "Liberty for Hayde Castillo" Ms. Castillo, a human rights activist, was detained at the airport in Managua while attempting to fly to a meeting with the IACHR.
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