

PEACE POTLUCK

for Justice & Solidarity in Colombia

Marcos is visiting from CPT-Colombia. He will share stories about the safe havens that CAHUCOPANA (Corporation of Humanitarian Action for Coexistence and Peace in Northeastern Antioquia) has built to host and shelter social leaders and human rights defenders who have been threatened. CAHUCOPANA is asking the Colombian government to officially recognize those safe havens or refugees and requesting the State to provide collective protective mechanisms. CPT-Col has been accompanying CAHUCOPANA since 2008 because an international presence can increase the space of security for its leadership.



Christian Peacemaker Teams

Sunday, November 11, 2018

6:30-8:30pm at 4241 Lorain Ave, Cleveland 44113

Please bring a dish to share and a free-will offering

Join us as we share food and listen to Marcos drop some knowledge about human rights, peace and justice in Colombia. He will be in Cleveland to talk about his work with the Christian Peacemaker Teams and the challenges faced by rural communities and human rights workers and organizations. There have 7.7 million people displaced since 1985, according to the Colombian government. In 2017 the process began for implementing the Peace Accords between the Colombian government and the FARC, the largest of the revolutionary guerilla organizations. In 2017 there were slightly more than 300 human rights defenders murdered worldwide, and **121 of those killings happened in Colombia**, compared to 60 in 2016. Little has improved in 2018.

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Christian Peacemaker Teams

CPT places teams at the invitation of local peacemaking communities that are confronting situations of lethal conflict. These teams **support and amplify the voices of local peacemakers** who risk injury and death by waging nonviolent direct action to confront systems of violence and oppression.

CPT work includes:

- accompanying our partners as they work nonviolently to defend their rights and communities.
- advocacy; amplifying the stories and voices of those experiencing violent oppression.
- human rights observation and reporting.
- solidarity networking; partnering with individuals and organizations to work toward change.

CPT understands **violence to be rooted in systemic structures of oppression**. We are committed to undoing oppressions, starting within our own lives and in the practices of our organization.

CPT **enlists spiritual communities and individuals in an organized, nonviolent alternative to war**. CPT's initial roots among Mennonites, Church of the Brethren and Quakers have spread into a broad ecumenical network that supports spiritually-centered peacemaking, creative public witness, nonviolent direct action, and protection of human rights.

About Marcos, team member of CPT-Colombia

Marcos received an Aeronautical Engineering degree from The National University of La Plata (NULP) (Argentina) in 2006, a master's degree in Space and Aeronautics after studying in Germany, UK and France 2009-2011, and a master's degree in human rights from The National University of La Plata in 2016. He worked as teacher and researcher in applied sciences, in the field of space technology at NULP till 2016. He has worked extensively in the defense of human rights with marginalized communities in his country and in regions where armed conflict is present and under military occupation. He volunteered with grassroots social organizations in his city, accompanying land and human rights defense processes from a psycho social and legal perspective. Marcos' first contact with CPT was in 2013 during his 3-month service with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel - EAPPI (www.eappi.org), an ecumenical initiative of the World Council of Churches (www.oimoumene.org). He served with the EAPPI team in the city of Hebron where CPT has had a continuous presence since 1995. The two organizations cooperate in daily tasks, accompaniment, and monitoring human rights abuses. He then coordinated the EAPPI committee in Argentina and represented it at the WCC (2014 to 2017).

[1] <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2018/may/01/2017-deadliest-year-on-record-colombian-human-rights-defenders>

[2] <https://pbicolombia.org/cahucopana/>