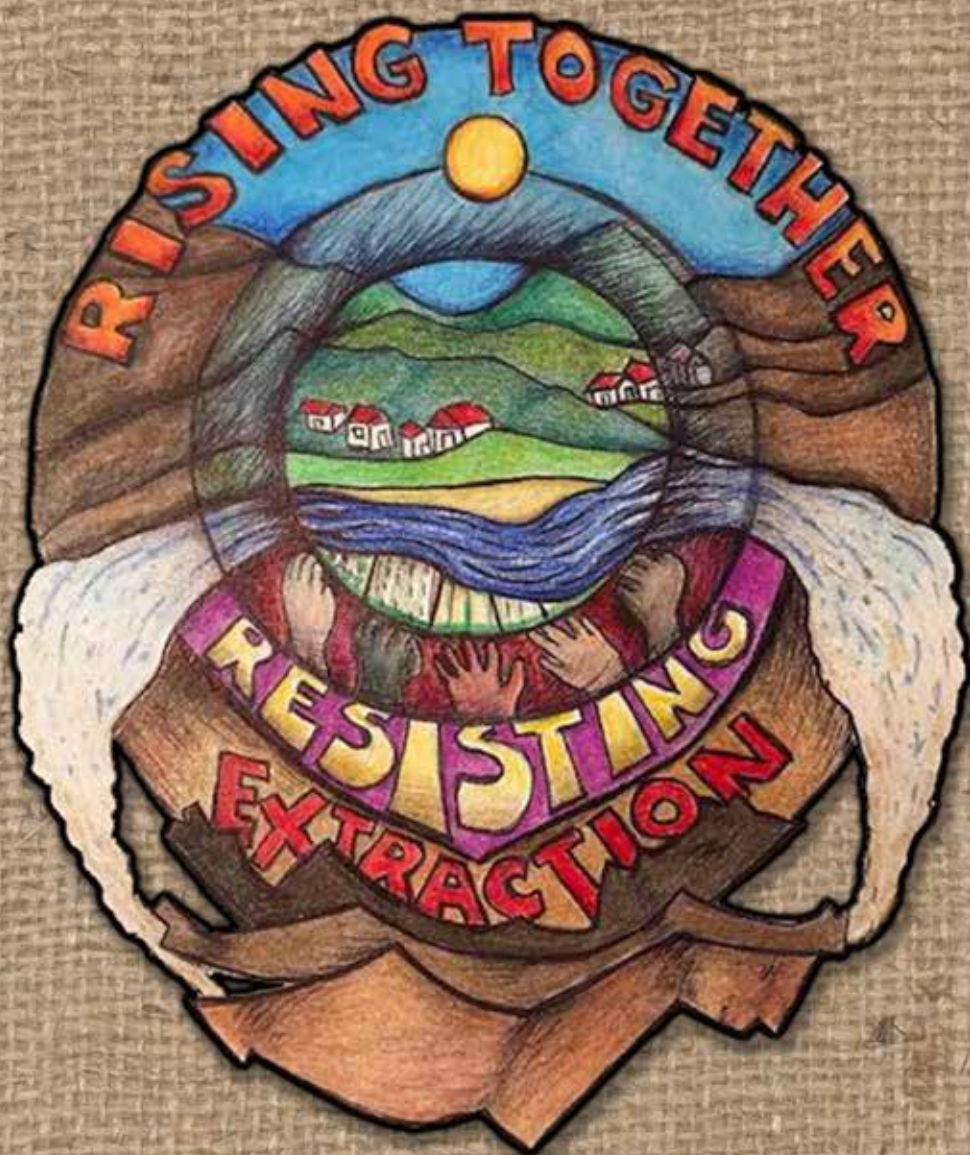


**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2021**



**Virtual Commemoration of the Martyrs  
Celebrating Human Rights  
Defenders across the Americas**



**Sister Dorothy Kazel,  
OSU**

**Sister Maura Clarke**

**Jean Donovan**

**Sister Ita Ford**

**Mother Mary of the  
Annunciation Beaumont**

**Saint Angela Merici**

# B

**Beaumont  
School**

Educating  
young  
women for  
life,  
leadership,  
and service  
to follow in  
the footsteps  
of great  
women

**WHERE YOUNG WOMEN  
LEARN TO CHANGE  
THE WORLD**

**BEAUMONTSCHOOL.ORG**

**The Community of Saint Peter  
supports the Mission and Vision of  
The InterReligious Task Force on Central America**



**We Congratulate IRTF  
for keeping the memory of  
Dorothy Kazel, OSU,  
Jean Donovan,  
Maura Clarke, MM,  
and Ita Ford, MM  
alive in our hearts  
with your words and actions.**



**The Community of Saint Peter's Social Justice Mission:  
Social Justice flows from the Eucharist which,  
as celebrated by the Community of Saint Peter,  
teaches us about the dignity of all creation,  
calls us to mutual relationships,  
invites us to solidarity,  
and sends us on a mission to listen to and accompany  
the under-resourced and marginalized in the Greater Cleveland area.**

**Join us at our Table on Sundays at 11am, 7100 Euclid Avenue, CLE  
[www.communityofstpeter.org](http://www.communityofstpeter.org)**

# IRTF HISTORY

## The Cleveland InterReligious Task Force on Central America (IRTF)

brings together people from faith and secular communities to stand in solidarity with oppressed peoples in southern Mexico, Central America, and Colombia through consciousness-raising, education, advocacy, organizing, and direct action.

IRTF was formed as a nonviolent response to the horrific violence of December 2, 1980 when two members of the Cleveland Mission Team in El Salvador were murdered: Jean Donovan and Sister Dorothy Kazel. People of faith and conscience initiated IRTF as a way to carry forward their legacy—standing in solidarity with oppressed peoples as they struggle for peace, dignity, and justice.

### IRTF's solidarity mission includes:

- protesting urgent human rights abuse cases
- working to end US military training in civilian-targeted warfare
- advocating for an end to the armed violence & forced displacement in Colombia and an inclusive and comprehensive peace and reconciliation process
- supporting people's pro-democracy movements
- joining with indigenous & Afro-descendant communities to protect their lands, waterways, and cultures
- protesting institutionalized racism and state-sponsored violence that targets communities of color
- standing with women & LGBTQ persons to end gender-based discrimination
- promoting fair trade and sweatshop-free buying to support living wages
- generating youth leadership for social justice

**Our solidarity is as important today as it ever was.**

**We invite you to be part of it.**

AFRO-DESCENDANT  
& INDIGENOUS  
SOLIDARITY

ANTI-MILITARISM  
& NONVIOLENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS

EXPLOITED LABOR  
SOLIDARITY

FAIR  
TRADE

MIGRANT  
JUSTICE

LGBTQIA+  
SOLIDARITY &  
GENDER JUSTICE

YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT

RAPID RESPONSE  
NETWORK

IRTF calls together people of the US to walk in solidarity with oppressed peoples in Central America and Colombia to achieve peace, justice, human rights, and systemic transformation through nonviolence.



## STAFF & BOARD

### Co-Coordiators

Brian Stefan-Szittai

Chrissy Stonebraker-Martínez

### Program Associates *full-time volunteer corps members*

Marc Alvarado

Pearl Chen

### *part-time*

Janet Allt, bookkeeper

### Regular Volunteers

Lauren Anderson - Rapid Response Network, case follow-up

Sr. Mary Hurley, HM - Rapid Response Network, case researcher

Joann Piotrkowski, DMin - Community Shares Rep

Ditte Wolin - database manager

### Board of Trustees

Alisha Bagley- treasurer

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Sr. Diane Therese Pinchot, OSU - co-chair

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Akshai Singh - trustee

Lisa Splawinski - trustee

# MISSION & VISION

**The InterReligious Task Force on Central America & Colombia (IRTF)** brings together people from faith and secular communities to stand in solidarity with oppressed peoples in southern Mexico, Central America, and Colombia through education, advocacy, direct action, and solidarity accompaniment exchanges.

IRTF was formed as a nonviolent response to the horrific violence of December 2, 1980 when two members of the Cleveland Mission Team in El Salvador were brutally murdered (Jean Donovan and Sister Dorothy Kazel), along with two Maryknoll missionaries (Sister Ita Ford and Sister Maura Clarke). People of faith and conscience initiated IRTF as a way to carry forward their legacy—**standing in solidarity with oppressed peoples as they struggle for peace, dignity, and justice.**

## **IRTF's solidarity work includes:**

- protesting **urgent human rights abuse cases**
- working to end US military training in **civilian-targeted warfare**
- advocating for an end to the **armed violence in Colombia** and an inclusive and comprehensive peace and reconciliation process
- supporting people's **pro-democracy movements**
- joining with indigenous & Afro-descendant communities to **protect their lands, waterways, and cultures**
- protesting **institutionalized racism and state-sponsored violence** that targets communities of color
- standing with **women, non-binary, & LGBTQ persons** to end gender-based discrimination and stop hate crimes
- promoting the solidarity economy through **worker-owned cooperatives, fair trade and sweatshop-free buying** to support living wages and worker dignity
- generating **youth leadership** for social justice

## **IRTF mission statement:**

IRTF calls together people of the US to walk in solidarity with oppressed peoples in Central America and Colombia to achieve peace, justice, human rights, and systemic transformation through nonviolence.

## **Program Areas:**

### **Afro-descendant & Indigenous Solidarity**

Promoting dignity and equality for Afro-descendant and native peoples, resisting state-sponsored violence and institutionalized racism

### **Anti-Militarism & Nonviolence**

Resisting militarism and upholding self-determination, freedom, democracy, and social and economic justice.

### **Environmental Human Rights**

Resisting assaults on land, sovereignty, natural resources, and local cultures

### **Exploited Labor Solidarity**

Engaging consumers to reform trade policies and empower workers for improved wages and working conditions

### **Fair Trade**

Promoting living wages, self-determination, gender equality, and transparency through democratic processes

### **Gender & LGBTQ Solidarity**

Supporting women, non-binary, & LGBTQ+ people to end discrimination and stop hate crimes

### **Migrant Justice**

Organizing for humane and welcoming immigration policies that promote family re-unification and recognize the right to seek political asylum

### **Rapid Response Network**

Protecting people living under threat, demanding investigations of human rights crimes, and bringing human rights criminals to justice

### **Youth Empowerment**

Accompanying, empowering, and supporting youth to become a new generation of leaders for peace and justice

### **Vision Statement**

The InterReligious Task Force on Central America & Colombia envisions a world of peace in which all beings live with dignity and in mutual relationships of solidarity.



We proudly support IRTF and all people of goodwill who believe that our strength is in our diversity.



In support of the IRTF and your work for human rights in Central America and Colombia



Church of the Resurrection  
32001 Cannon Rd., Solon, Ohio 44139  
[www.churchofresurrection.org](http://www.churchofresurrection.org)



Pilgrim Congregational UCC is a proud, longtime supporter of IRTF ... a Just Peace, Open & Affirming congregation in Tremont.

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!**

Sunday Service **10am** in-person and streamed on our website; communion on the 1st Sunday each month. 2592 W14th St in Tremont • 216-861-7388 • [pilgrimalive.org](http://pilgrimalive.org) • FB @pilgrimalive • TW @pilgrimalive • IG @pilgrimucc\_cle



*"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want ... That is what love looks like."*  
St. Augustine



[www.SrsOfCharity.org](http://www.SrsOfCharity.org)

# Cleveland Nonviolence Network

presents the 6th annual

## State of Nonviolence

Thursday, December 2, 2021, 7pm EST  
via Zoom

Dr. Andrew J. Bacevich

Professor Emeritus of International Relations and History at Boston University

his books include: *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War* (2010), *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism* (2008), *The New American Militarism: How Americans Are Seduced by War* (2005)

<https://www.facebook.com/clevelandnonviolencenetwork>



### St. Paul's Community Church

United Church of Christ  
4427 Franklin Blvd. Cleveland  
worship  
Sundays 10:30-12noon

Watch us live:  
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscommunityucc/>

### St. Paul's Community Outreach

open Tue-Fri  
9:00-12:30  
nurse, clothing, food

Supportive Community

All Are Welcome!

## MARSHY MEADOWS FARM

*is proud to continue our support  
of the IRTF on the occasion of  
the Commemoration of the  
Martyrs of Central America &  
Colombia.*

We sell 100% grass-fed  
beef raised on OEFFA  
certified organic  
pasture on our farm in  
Windsor, Ohio.

Marge & Mardy Townsend  
Amilcar Martinez

440-272-5174



*Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU*



*Jean Donovan*



*Sister Ita Ford, MM*



*Sister Maura Clarke, MM*

1980-2020

*As we commemorate the 40th anniversary  
of their deaths, we are remembering with  
compassion, transforming lives through  
contemplation and recommitting to justice.  
Let us honor their memories by making  
efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the  
people of Central America.*



**URSULINE SISTERS  
OF CLEVELAND**

[www.ursulinesisters.org](http://www.ursulinesisters.org)

**In solidarity.**

*Adelante IRTF!*



**CRLN**

*Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America*



Walsh Jesuit remembers these women for others who committed their lives to achieve peace, human rights and transformation through nonviolence in El Salvador.

**walshjesuit.org**

**WALSH JESUIT**

MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS



## STUDENT INTERNS 2020-2021

The InterReligious Task Force on Central America & Colombia provides high school and college students a place to develop their passion for justice. IRTF accompanies, empowers, and supports young people on their path to leadership for positive social change.

**Rachel Aul**  
Kent State University, 2021

**Cammy Bly**  
College of Wooster, 2022

**Caroline Davies**  
Laurel School, 2022

**Jordan Deskins**  
Case Western Reserve University, 2022

**Cierra English**  
Cleveland State University, 2022

**Eleanor Gaddy**  
Case Western Reserve University, 2021

**Rebeca Mateo**  
University of Minnesota, 2021

**Kail Nicholas**  
Baldwin Wallace University, 2021

**Kristin Ronzi**  
University of Pittsburgh, 2020

**Rebekkah Schimmel-Doerr**  
Bowling Green State University, 2022

**Lily Shannon**  
Kent State University, 2021

**Kylie Smith**  
University of Delaware, 2022

**Stella Sommers**  
Hawken School, 2022

**Thank you for volunteering with IRTF.  
We truly appreciate your incredible dedication.**



1501 Cherry Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
Tel: 215-241 7249  
[info@actionreconciliation.org](mailto:info@actionreconciliation.org)

For over 50 years ARSP has been committed to working toward reconciliation and peace, as well as fighting racism, discrimination and social exclusion. Every year around 180 volunteers, mostly aged between nineteen and twenty-five are active for ARSP in thirteen different countries on a variety of educational, historical, political and social projects. Visit us at [www.actionreconciliation.org](http://www.actionreconciliation.org)

Together we make the world more peaceful. Every day.

Honoring the work of the  
InterReligious Task Force on Central America  
and the legacy of the martyrs of  
Central America and Colombia.



Dominican  
Sisters of Peace  
Sisters and Associates  
in Mission  
[www.oppeace.org](http://www.oppeace.org)

*If you want peace,  
work for justice.*  
- Pope Paul VI

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fair trade products  
[revydirect.com](http://revydirect.com)

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Handcrafted accessories made from natural and recycled materials by artisans in El Salvador. Each purchase from Revvy helps our artisans fund:

- ◆ Environmental cleanup efforts
- ◆ Organic farming
- ◆ Better education
- ◆ Opportunities for women
- ◆ Preservation of culture

GREATER CLEVELAND  
COMMUNITY  
SHARES



DONATE TO IRTF THROUGH  
COMMUNITY SHARES.  
TEXT "SHARES" TO 91999.

TOGETHER WE DO MORE

IRTF IS A PROUD MEMBER OF  
COMMUNITY SHARES



## Cleveland Jobs with Justice salutes the Interreligious Task Force on Central America

Cleveland Jobs with Justice is proud to stand with  
IRTF as we unite in the struggle for immigrant rights,  
economic justice and workers' rights!



Join us as we  
continue the fight  
together!

[clevelandjwj.org](http://clevelandjwj.org)



Thank you IRTF for your  
faithful dedication to the  
people of Central  
America & Colombia. We  
love working with you!

*Adelante!*

John Carroll  
UNIVERSITY  
CAMPUS MINISTRY



## LATIN AMERICA WORKING GROUP

[www.lawg.org](http://www.lawg.org)



## ST. PATRICK PARISH

Bridge Avenue

Moving Forward with Our Mission

**#weGIVE  
CATHOLIC**  
November 30, 2021  
Northeast Ohio's Online  
Day of Catholic Giving

*With gratitude to the  
Interreligious Task Force on Central America  
for 41 years of commemorating the martyrdom of the Cleveland  
women in El Salvador and for working to promote peace, justice,  
human rights, and systemic transformation through nonviolence.*

[humilityofmary.org](http://humilityofmary.org)



  @SistersofHM



Cleveland Ecumenical  
Institute for  
Religious Studies

Cleveland Ecumenical Institute for  
Religious Studies

2747 Fairmount Blvd  
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118  
Phone: 877 723 4777  
(877 723 CEIRS)

E-mail: [CEIRS2000@gmail.com](mailto:CEIRS2000@gmail.com)  
Web Address: [www.CEIRS.org](http://www.CEIRS.org)

Check our website for upcoming Winter Courses!

# AT EQUAL EXCHANGE, WE ALL ACT LIKE WE OWN THE PLACE.



**And actually, we do.**  
Our roastery has over  
**100 worker-owners** with  
an equal stake and an  
equal vote in our business.

Fortunately we all agree that the small-scale  
farmers who grow our food and the precious land  
that nourishes it deserve the utmost respect, so we  
conduct business in the most fair, most sustainable  
way possible. The results are pretty delicious.

Small Farmers. Big Change.

[equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop)



## THANK YOU!

TO THE  
**VOLUNTEERS**  
WHO MADE THIS  
EVENT POSSIBLE &  
TO THE GENEROUS  
**SPONSORS**  
& **DONORS**  
WHO SUPPORT US  
THROUGHOUT  
THE YEAR.

## West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

*Our Mission is to inspire more people to lead  
lives of meaning and purpose. We affirm and  
promote the inherent worth and dignity of  
every person. We promote justice, equity and  
compassion in human relations.*

[www.wsuuc.org](http://www.wsuuc.org)

**Worship Service &  
Religious Education  
Sunday at 10:15 a.m.**

Rev. Anthony Makar  
Senior Minister

20401 Hilliard Boulevard  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116  
**440.333.2255**

ONE CHURCH  MANY PATHS  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church



THE NORTHEAST OHIO SIERRA CLUB (NEOSC)  
SUPPORTS IRTF IN ITS PURSUIT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

The NEOSC is a group of about 5,000 members who are  
fighting against climate change and for clean water and  
clean air in Northeast Ohio.

We have a Water Sentinel program  
and the following active committees:

Energy and Ecology  
Health and Environment  
Water Quality  
Fracking  
Rainforest  
Political

We welcome new members with fresh ideas!

JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB NOW!  
Visit: [www.neosierragroup.org](http://www.neosierragroup.org)  
Questions: Contact Steve McPhee, 440.891.0714



Celebrating 41 years of solidarity as we commemorate  
the martyrs of Central America and Columbia.



In Solidarity  
**Costello International**

Promoting and Distributing-Traditional Jewelry Crafting From Guerrero, Mexico  
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Please Support IRTF-[www.irtfcleveland.org](http://www.irtfcleveland.org) | Please Support Jolt-[www.jolttx.org](http://www.jolttx.org)  
Focusing on issues impacting the Latin community in Texas.  
Jolt is the most effective grassroots organizer of the Texas Latin community.



## *Ida B. Wells Foundation*



***The Ida B. Wells Foundation  
Seeks to Promote Justice,  
both Economic and Social,  
in Cuyahoga County, Ohio***

FOR DONATIONS OR  
A GRANT APPLICATION:  
THE IDA B. WELLS FOUNDATION  
C/O CHARLES HURST  
9907 LAKE AVENUE, #205  
CLEVELAND, OH 44102



# MAGNIFICAT

EDUCATING FAITH-FILLED WOMEN LEADERS SINCE 1955



WE REMEMBER THE MANY WOMEN OF FAITH  
WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US AS WITNESSES FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE.  
**DOROTHY, ITA, MAURA, AND JEAN, PRÉSENTÉ!**

20770 Hilliard Blvd. | Rocky River | 440.331.1572 | [magnificaths.org](http://magnificaths.org)

**Thank You IRTF**  
for your critical work

calling together people to  
walk in solidarity with the  
oppressed peoples of Central  
America and Colombia  
to achieve peace, justice,  
human rights, and systemic  
transformation through  
nonviolence.



## FutureChurch

*Seeking changes so that all Catholics  
may participate fully in Church life and leadership.*

**visit us online at:**

[www.futurechurch.org](http://www.futurechurch.org)  
[www.youtube.com/futurechurch1](http://www.youtube.com/futurechurch1)  
[www.catholicwomenpreach.org](http://www.catholicwomenpreach.org)

# FEATURED PARTNERS

**HONDURAS SOLIDARITY NETWORK (HSN)** is a network of approximately 30 organizations from across Canada and the United States, recognizing the fundamental role that our governments play in the social, economic, and political context in Honduras. Formed after the June 2009 military coup that ousted the democratically-elected president of Honduras, HSN advocates for policies to promote human rights and increase internal security in Honduras while decreasing extreme poverty and entrenched violence. HSN has consistently denounced the human rights violations of the Honduran post-coup regime, including murders, disappearances, criminalization of human rights defenders, and corruption in the judicial system. Many HSN members have long-term trusting relationships and projects with grassroots organizations and movements in Honduras, accompanying the people of Honduras in their journey to re-establish democracy and create a safe and healthy place for their families to thrive.

**Honduras  
Solidarity  
Network**

HSN meets the second Monday of the month via Zoom. For info, contact

[brian@irtfcleveland.org](mailto:brian@irtfcleveland.org)

[hondurassolidarity.org](http://hondurassolidarity.org)

[facebook.com/HondurasSolidarityNetwork](https://facebook.com/HondurasSolidarityNetwork)

[@HondurasSolidarityNetwork](https://twitter.com/HondurasSolidarityNetwork)

The **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY OF GUAPINOL** is one of several organizations defending land and environmental rights in Colón Department on the Atlantic coast of Honduras. The committee in Guapinol coordinates its defense and resistance efforts with several other groups through the Comité Municipal de Defensa de los Bienes Comunes y Públicos (CMDBCP, or Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods), based in Tocoa, Colón. CMDBCP members include: Environmental Committees of Sector San Pedro (13 communities), Environmental Committees of Sector Abisinia (14 communities); Coordinadora de Organizaciones Populares del Aguán (COPA, or Coordinating Body of the People's Organizations of the Aguán Valley); Fundación San Alonso Rodríguez (FSAR), and Parroquia San Isidro de Tocoa. The objective of CMDBCP is to provide a platform in which these organizations can mobilize resources in order to protect public goods in the region and to advocate for the right to food, water and a safe environment.

The Guapinol case has garnered international attention. In August 2018, community members organized the Encampment for Life as a means of nonviolent resistance to prevent impending environmental harms to the Guapinol River imposed by the construction of an iron oxide mine, meant to supply the US company Nucor Steel, based in Charlotte, North Carolina. The CMDBCP identified several environmental, social, human, and economic impacts of large scale mining projects in the Atlantic zone carried out by the Los Pinares mining company. They have documented how Los Pinares is destroying animal life and contaminating small rivers (water sources for 13 communities) that empty into the Río Aguán; this puts 90,000 inhabitants at risk of losing their agricultural crops and homes.



In October 2018, a Honduran court inappropriately used a law that was designed to prosecute members of highly dangerous crimes, such as those committed by gangs and other organized crime, in order to criminalize 18 members of the Encampment for the Defense of Water and Life. On October 27, 1500 members of the Honduran Army, Cobras (militarized anti-riot police units), the National Preventative Police and other security forces—heavily armed with rifles, shields, clubs, and tear gas bombs—evicted a defenseless and peaceful population from the Encampment for Life. Three people were killed. When the people of Guapinol tried to peacefully take back the Encampment one day later, a group of 20 heavily armed paramilitaries in civilian clothes attacked them in the presence of the Army and the National Police. Several people were beaten and wounded, and they burned the home of one of the community leaders.

Since September 2019, eight members of the Environmental Committee of the Community of Guapinol have been imprisoned in “preventive detention” awaiting formal charges: **Porfirio Sorto Cedillo, José Abelino Cedillo, Kelvin Alejandro Romero, Arnold Javier Alemán, Ever Alexander Cedillo, Orbin Nahúm Hernández, Daniel Márquez, and Jeremías Martínez**. Bail has been repeatedly denied. They await their trial on trumped charges.

[guapinolresiste.org](http://guapinolresiste.org)

[#LibertadParaGuapinol](https://twitter.com/LibertadParaGuapinol)

[#freeguapinol](https://twitter.com/freeguapinol)

**OHIO BAIL REFORM** On any given day in Ohio, as many as 12,000 people are held in jail pretrial. Most are jailed not because of what they've allegedly done, but because of what they don't have: cash to bail themselves out. This detention is expensive not only for those incarcerated but for state taxpayers.

In September 2020, the ACLU of Ohio released a fiscal impact analysis of bail and the impacts of getting rid of it. The report was the product of a two-year project for which the ACLU hired an expert economist to determine what cost savings could be realized if Ohio were to adopt common sense bail reform. The numbers were astonishing. Implementation of the policy reforms would save Ohio roughly \$200 million each year!

The ACLU of Ohio recommendations are simple: create a release valve for everyone, much like the one that currently exists only for the wealthy. Instead of resources determining someone's freedom, the ACLU proposes that most people go home on the same day as their arrest, and for those who pose a flight risk or a threat to a specific person, conditions of release or detention hearing should be held within 48 hours.

In March 2021, a large network of organizations released a statewide public opinion poll of voters' views on criminal justice and the pretrial system. The results show that a strong majority of Ohioans believe the current system is deeply flawed and are eager to support common sense bail reform policies. (Results of the opinion poll were jointly released by ACLU of Ohio, Americans for Prosperity Ohio, The Bail Project, The Buckeye Institute, Ohio Justice and Policy Center, and The Ohio Organizing Collaborative.)

In May 2021, the ACLU of Ohio issued a warm endorsement of bipartisan bills on bail reform that were introduced in the Ohio General Assembly.



On May 18, the bill sponsors said that there is unprecedented bipartisan support to end wealth based detention with 46 co-sponsors from both parties and both chambers. In a statement, the ACLU of Ohio policy director Jocelyn Rosnick said that "these proactive, companion, bipartisan bills are a long time coming...[and]...we are overjoyed and relieved to see that reoccurring themes and concerns about our broken pretrial justice system are being addressed head on in this legislation."

[ohioorganizing.org/bailreform](https://ohioorganizing.org/bailreform)

[ohiojpc.org/our-work/collaborative-policy-reform/](https://ohiojpc.org/our-work/collaborative-policy-reform/)

[acluohio.org/en/publications/ohio-could-save-big-implementing-bail-reform-fiscal-impact-analysis](https://acluohio.org/en/publications/ohio-could-save-big-implementing-bail-reform-fiscal-impact-analysis)

[acluohio.org/en/publications/how-ohioans-feel-about-bail-reform](https://acluohio.org/en/publications/how-ohioans-feel-about-bail-reform)

[acluohio.org/en/press-releases/aclu-ohio-issues-emphatic-support-bipartisan-bills-reform-ohios-broken-cash-bail](https://acluohio.org/en/press-releases/aclu-ohio-issues-emphatic-support-bipartisan-bills-reform-ohios-broken-cash-bail)

## FEATURED PRESENTERS

### HONDURAS SOLIDARITY NETWORK (HSN)

**Karen Spring** is the longtime co-coordinator of HSN and the host of the Honduras Now podcast. Her work involves educating North Americans about the impacts of U.S. and Canadian foreign policy in Honduras and the region. Based in Honduras, Karen supports community-based organizations defending their natural resources and territory against mining, hydroelectric dams, tourism, and other large-scale "development" projects. A large emphasis on her work is also the impacts of privatization on public sector services and the role of militarization and foreign security policies on human rights.

Karen has been living in Honduras since July 2009, visiting previously in 2008 from Guatemala where she lived for 16 months. Educated in Canada, Karen holds a BSc in international relations and human biology from the University of Toronto, a BSW from Lakehead University and a Masters of Public Health from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, Canada. Her thesis work titled, Understanding the Limitations of employer prevention programs in transnational settings: A case study of women workers in Canadian-owned maquiladoras in Honduras, focuses on the health problems Honduran women suffer as they work on the assembly lines in Canadian-owned sweatshops.



Karen has written several articles and reports about human rights issues including *Mining in impunity: Coerced Negotiations and Forced Displacement by Aura Minerals in Western Honduras*. Karen has testified before Canadian Parliamentary committees about human rights in Honduras. She has been published in the *Huffington Post* and together with Sandra Cuffe, co-authored articles for *Alternet*, *Truthout* and *Upside Down World*.

See Karen Spring's blog at [aquiabajo.com](https://aquiabajo.com).

Listen to her regular podcasts at [HondurasNow.org](https://HondurasNow.org)

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY OF GUAPINOL

Arrest warrants were issued for 18 members of the Guapinol Encampment for Defense of Water and Life when a violent eviction was carried out in October 2018 by 1,500 security personnel of the National Army, Cobras (militarized anti-riot police units), and the National Preventative Police.

**Reynaldo Domínguez Ramos** was one of several water defenders arrested and imprisoned. On March 4, 2019, Reynaldo—along with Juan Antonio López, Carlos Leonel George, José Adalid Cedillo Mendoza, and Marco Tulio Ramos—were released when they received a ruling of final dismissal. But the good news was only short lived. On August 13, 2019, the Court of Appeals of Francisco Morazán revoked their order of release, leaving the door open for the Public Ministry to present more evidence against the environmental defenders over the next five years. This puts Reynaldo Domínguez Ramos and fellow water defenders at risk of being arrested and imprisoned again.

The Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods of Tocoa (CMDBCP) strongly rejected the court decision “because it confirms once again the political persecution against human rights defenders, whose resolution is the living expression of the systematic oppression of the rich against the oppressed. The right they protect is private corporate law over the collective rights of the communities and their assets, that explains the criminalization and militarization.”



The government continues to harass Reynaldo Domínguez Ramos and the other water defenders. At around 4:00pm on July 23, 2021, agents of the National Police in the community of Pajuiles, municipality of Tela, Atlántida Department, unjustly detained Reynaldo Domínguez and released him an hour later. Despite the fact that Reynaldo Domínguez presented his letter of exoneration from the criminal processes for

which the Los Pinares mining company accuses him, he was nevertheless detained by the National Police. Such acts of harassment are clearly meant to intimidate Reynaldo and the other water defenders.

Since September 2019, eight other members of the Environmental Committee of the Community of Guapinol have been imprisoned in “preventive detention” awaiting formal charges: **Porfirio Sorto Cedillo, José Abelino Cedillo, Kelvin Alejandro Romero, Arnold Javier Alemán, Ever Alexander Cedillo, Orbin Nahúm Hernández, Daniel Márquez, and Jeremías Martínez.** Bail has been repeatedly denied. They await their trial on trumped charges.

[guapinolresiste.org](http://guapinolresiste.org)

## OHIO BAIL REFORM

We do not live in isolation. The health of one community interacts with the pulse of another, an interdependent web of relationships fostered between the people and the public sphere. When structures exist, perpetuating and enforcing exclusion of marginalized identities, we are obligated to subvert them. ACLU’s historic legacy blossomed from the community to the nation, catering to the democratic health at the pulse of America’s future.

**Melekte Melaku** believes any pursuit of justice begins by cultivating deep connections to the people directly impacted, coupled to advocacy and potential for policy change. After graduating from Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Melekte devoted a year serving with the educational non-profit CityYear. There she provided individual and group coursework interventions, socio-emotional coaching, and coordinated programming for a multidisciplinary arts after-school curriculum. She developed a school-wide attendance awareness initiative with school administration contributing to the rise of average daily attendance by over 10% by end of year. She also has extensive experience canvassing and organizing on behalf of issues related to environmental justice, mass incarceration, voter rights, and access to quality education.



In her current work as an organizing strategist with the ACLU of Ohio, Melekte Melaku coordinates Ohio bail reform efforts in collaboration with other statewide organizations like Americans for Prosperity Ohio, The Bail Project, The Buckeye Institute, Ohio Justice and Policy Center, and Ohio Organizing Collaborative.

[acluohio.org/en/biographies/melekte-melaku](https://acluohio.org/en/biographies/melekte-melaku)

## MAURA CLARKE, MM

Maura Clarke was born on January 13, 1931, and lived in Queens, New York. She joined Maryknoll in 1950. In 1959 she was sent to Nicaragua where she taught school and did pastoral work in a Capuchin parish in Siuna, a remote city in eastern Nicaragua. She remained there until 1977. In Nicaragua, she was known by the people as "the angel of our land."

On August 5, 1980, just two and a half weeks before Sr. Carla Piette died during a flash flood, Maura Clark went to El Salvador to explore the possibility of working there. It was a hard decision - to leave behind 20 years of relationships in Nicaragua at such an exciting moment in its history, and to take on the human and pastoral challenge of El Salvador in a time of persecution. After Carla's death on August 23, Maura decided to take her place working at Ita Ford's side.

She was quickly immersed in the emergency work among the victims of the repression. The days were often difficult and the internal struggle radically challenging. Despite the increasing violence, Maura decided she would remain in El Salvador, "to search out the missing, pray with the families of prisoners, bury the dead, and work with the people in their struggle to break out of the bonds of oppression, poverty, and violence" (words written by friends of Maura).

She told them the days would be difficult and dangerous, but assured the other sisters of her "certain confidence in God's loving care of her, Ita, and all the people."

**"I want to stay on now," she wrote. "I believe now that this is right...Here I am starting from scratch but it must be [God's] plan and [God] is teaching me, and there is real peace in spite of many frustrations and the terror around us and the work, etc. God is very present in [God's] seeming absence."**

On December 2, 1980, Maura gave her all, even her very life, for the people of El Salvador.



## DOROTHY KAZEL, OSU

Dorothy Kazel was born on June 30, 1939, and joined the Ursuline Sisters, a teaching order in Cleveland, in 1960. Dorothy taught for several years and later became involved in ecumenical and interracial community programs. She was teaching at Beaumont School while discerning her call to join the Cleveland diocesan mission team in El Salvador. She did so in 1974.

The mission team's main tasks had involved visiting parishioners and preparing people for the sacraments, but that changed by the late 1970s because of increased repression and political violence. Dorothy wrote home about the corpses that daily were being found along the roadsides and described the mutilations as "sick, demonic."

While the danger of the repression was closing in on the mission team, Dorothy and the others wrestled with what they should do. On October 3, she wrote to a friend,

**"We talked quite a bit today about what happens IF something begins. Most of us feel we would want to stay here...We wouldn't want to just run out on the people...I thought I should say this to you because I don't want to say it to anyone else - because I don't think they would understand. Anyway, my beloved friend, just know how I feel and 'treasure it in your heart.' If a day comes when others will have to understand, please explain it for me."**

Dorothy never made it back to the US. On the evening of December 2, 1980, she and Jean Donovan got into their van and drove to the airport outside San Salvador to pick up the Maryknoll Sisters, Ita and Maura, returning from their regional assembly in Managua. Tragically, on the way home, soldiers raped and killed the four women.



## ITA FORD, MM

Ita Ford was born in Brooklyn, New York on April 23, 1940. After college at Marymount, she joined the Maryknoll Sisters in 1961. In 1973 she was assigned to Chile, arriving there only a few months before the September 11, 1973, US-backed military coup that overthrew the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende. Ita remained in Chile until 1980, when she and fellow sister Carla Piette responded to a call for help from El Salvador's Archbishop Oscar Romero.

In June of that year, the two sisters began working with the Emergency Refugee Committee in Chalatenango. In this work Ita saw first-hand the Salvadoran reality, working with the homeless, the persecuted, the victims of savage repression and counterinsurgency war, the violence of a military dictatorship determined to wipe out any trace of opposition with incredible ruthlessness.

On August 23, Carla and Ita were caught in a flash flood as they were crossing a river. Ita survived, but Carla did not. While the impact of the loss of her dearest friend was profound, she found friendship in her new partner, Sr. Maura Clarke.

Both women attended a liturgy on December 1 in Managua, during which Ita read a passage from one of Romero's final homilies:

**"Christ invites us not to fear persecution because, believe me . . . the one who is committed to the poor must run the same fate as the poor, and in El Salvador we know what the fate of the poor signifies: to disappear, be tortured, to be held captive - and to be found dead."**

The following day, December 2, 1980, she and Maura boarded a plane to return to El Salvador.



## JEAN DONOVAN

Jean Donovan, the youngest of the four church women killed on December 2, 1980, was born on April 10, 1953. After graduate work at Case Western Reserve University, Jean took a lucrative management position at Arthur Andersen, one of the "Big 5" accounting firms. However, her heart called her somewhere else.

Jean arrived in El Salvador in July 1979, a time when the repression was intensifying and the church had become a major target. She became Caritas coordinator for the diocesan mission program. In addition to keeping the books, she worked in La Libertad with Sr. Dorothy Kazel, distributing food for the poor and the refugees and carrying out family education programs.

Jean was very devoted to Msgr. Romero, often coming to the cathedral on Sundays to hear his homilies which at that time were the only source of news and truth left in El Salvador. After his assassination, Jean and Dorothy were among those who took turns keeping vigil at his coffin. And they were present in the cathedral when the overflow crowd in the plaza attending his funeral on March 30, 1980, was attacked by security forces, resulting in a panicked stampede. The massacre left 44 dead and hundreds of wounded. As Jean sat crowded among the desperate people who fled into the cathedral for safety, she fully believed that she might die that day.

Two weeks before she was murdered, with the bloodbath already begun, she wrote to a friend in Connecticut:

**"Several times I have decided to leave El Salvador. I almost could except for the children, the poor bruised victims of this insanity. Who would care for them? Whose heart would be so staunch as to favor the reasonable thing in a sea of their tears and helplessness. Not mine, dear friend, not mine."**



# ANTI-MILITARISM & DEMOCRATIZATION

Resisting militarism and upholding self-determination, freedom, democracy, and social and economic justice.

## Nonviolence & Democratization

- to support people's pro-democratic, nonviolent movements
- to support people's sovereignty and democracy instead of military and coup-imposed governments
- to advocate for public policy and US accountability to people's pro-democratic movements

## US Foreign Military Influence

- to end US training of Latin American military and other security forces in Central America and Colombia and on US soil
- to end the US militarization of humanitarian, economic, environmental and other foreign assistance to Central America & Colombia.
- to eliminate long-term US military presence in Central America & Colombia, including personnel and bases

IRTF envisions a world where US relations with Central America and Colombia have moved beyond mostly military-to-military ties toward relationships that develop and uphold self-determination, freedom, democracy, and social and economic justice. By shifting money and human resources away from militarism—both in the US and in Central America and Colombia—more resources are devoted to meeting human needs.



## Heights Friends of Immigrants

is an all-volunteer organization that supports and advocates for immigrants in northeast Ohio, especially asylum seekers and those being targeted by ICE. We value our partnership with IRTF!

**Please consider joining us ... all are welcome!**

We meet via zoom the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. When it's safe to meet in person again, we'll resume gathering alternately between Forest Hill Church Presbyterian (Cleveland Heights), Saint Dominic (Shaker Heights), and St. Paschal Baylon (Highland Heights).

**Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 7 at 7pm**

Our activities include organizing volunteers to observe at Immigration Court, material support for immigrants and their families, transportation assistance, tutoring and participation in vigils and protests in collaboration with IRTF and other organizations working to defend the rights of immigrants.



*Solange and her four children from the Democratic Republic of Congo*

For more information and to sign up for our listserv:

Anne Hill, [anne.hill2@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hill2@gmail.com)



# ENVIRONMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Resisting assaults on land, sovereignty,  
natural resources, and local cultures

## Degradation & Mega-Projects

- to stop the forcible exploitation-for-profit of lands and resources from so-called development projects: mining, logging, industrial agriculture, oil drilling, and infrastructure (highways, dams, power grids)
- to create transparency and accountability for foreign investors, including US-backed international financial institutions
- to allow people to have sovereignty and autonomy over their lands
- to create ethical investment opportunities in public and private sectors

## Resistance Solidarity

- to stop the criminalization of organized opposition and peaceful protest
- to stop the repression and lethal violence targeted at opposition leaders
- to raise awareness about government policies and corporate practices that impede people's environmental defense movements

## Climate Crisis Response

- to demonstrate imbalances in climate crisis impact on communities based upon their geographic location, occupation, race, socio-economic class
- to advocate for climate change adaptation strategies and policies that are community-based and community-oriented
- to recognize and bring attention to peoples and communities displaced by the climate crisis, also known as climate refugees

We stand with all those who feel the effects of the climate crisis, a crisis caused by capitalist colonialism that preys especially on poor, Black, and Indigenous communities of color in Latin America.

# EXPLOITED LABOR

Engaging consumers to reform trade policies and empower workers for improved wages and working conditions

## Global Economic Policy

- to create international and domestic legally enforceable workplace and environmental standards and trade policies through legislative advocacy and consumer campaigns.
- to build union-to-union relationships among workers in the US and Central America and Colombia for solidarity as resistance to the race to the bottom.

## Worker Rights

- to support workers in organizing larger numbers of independent unions and democratizing their workplaces.
- to support workers who want to start alternative, democratic models of production and economic relationships.

IRTF envisions a world where the economic system has been transformed to allow workers better housing, healthcare, nutrition, education and other basic needs for their families. Workers control the conditions under which they work, maintaining a value of labor that upholds the human dignity of the worker.





## FAIR TRADE

**Promoting living wages, self-determination, gender equality, and transparency through democratic processes**

### **Support for Cooperatives**

- to support the growth of Fair Trade cooperatives as an alternative economic model
- to promote community-to-cooperative relationships between northeast Ohio and Central America/Colombia
- to educate northeast Ohioans on policy questions that impact local economies in Central America and Colombia

### **Consumer Advocacy**

- to strengthen popular support for fair trade
- to institute more fair trade products into local businesses
- to get corporations to use more fair trade sources in their products

**IRTF envisions a world where people work for themselves and do not have to be dependent on the dominant economic model that perpetuates inequality and exploitation of people and the environment. Instead, self-determination, gender equality, transparency, and democratic organization are the norm.**

## LGBTQIA+ SOLIDARITY & GENDER JUSTICE

**Supporting women & LGBTQ+ people to end discrimination and stop hate crimes**

As women and the LGBTQ+ community in Latin America have become more vocal and visible, they increasingly become the target of human rights abuses—especially those who are social and political activists.

To strengthen the LGBTQ+ rights movement in Ohio, we are learning from our Latin American friends:

- tactics and strategies (political, social media and other) they are using to promote acceptance of LGBT persons
- personal stories of coming out and the impacts on familial and other personal relationships
- how we might form networks of support to help our families become more welcoming toward their LGBT sisters & brothers

### **Build Allyships**

- to connect faith congregation partners in Latin America with congregations in Ohio
- to connect community groups, such as local PFLAG & GLSEN chapters
- to create cross-border ally associations, with professional groups and others
- to connect women & LGBTQ leaders in Latin America with leaders of other issue movements in their countries

### **Stop Hate**

- to advocate for hate crimes legislation that includes gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation
- to protect those in immediate harm through an emergency response network
- to support legal defense when gender/LGBTQ rights activists are criminalized

**IRTF envisions a world where all people are guaranteed their basic human rights, where women & LGBTQ+ persons no longer face fear or discrimination in the workplace, education, healthcare and other institutions.**



## AFRO-DESCENDANT & INDIGENOUS SOLIDARITY

Promoting dignity and equality for Afro-descendant and native peoples, resisting state-sponsored violence and institutionalized racism

### Cultural Preservation

#### Goals:

- to stand with communities (particularly Indigenous and Afro-descendant) to secure safe space to thrive and carry forward their cultures from generation to generation
- to stop the repression of communities (particularly Indigenous and Afro-descendant) as they organize their lives according to traditional values and ways
- to support economic ventures that preserve traditional cultures, promote environmental sustainability, and meet local human needs

### Racial Justice

#### Goals:

- to link the struggles for dignity, equality and liberation among Afro-descendant and Indigenous peoples in the US, southern Mexico, Central America and Colombia
- to promote solidarity between majority populations and Afro-descendant/Indigenous populations within and among nations
- to stop state-sponsored violence against Afro-descendant and Indigenous peoples
- to create safe space and economic opportunities for Afro-descendant and Indigenous peoples

## MIGRANT JUSTICE

Organizing for humane and welcoming immigration policies that promote family re-unification and recognize the right to seek political asylum

At this moment, amidst the incredible suffering being caused by inhumane immigration policies, we call on people here in the US to look at immigration from the perspective of poor and marginalized peoples. To see them as Sister Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan did when they served on a mission team in El Salvador—with love, mercy, and compassion. To understand the root causes of their migration.

IRTF is known and respected in circles of immigrant support and defense. Our perspective on immigration has never been so much about immigration policy but on policies affecting emigration. It was US foreign policy that fueled the civil wars in Central America during the 1980s, and US policies continue to fuel violence in the region today.

IRTF (together with Cleveland Jobs with Justice) played a lead role in convening the Immigration Working Group CLE in early 2017. The Immigration Working Group is a collaborative of organizations and individuals that meets regularly to share information and coordinate strategies to meet the needs of immigrants in our communities (particularly those at risk of deportation).

### Please consider volunteering with one of these initiatives:

- Safe Hotels Campaign
- Bond Packets
- Bus Reception
- Public Actions
- Help for ICE Raid Victims
- Faith Leaders for Immigrant Support
- Rapid Response Team
- Court Monitoring
- Overnight Hospitality
- Sponsor Families
- Legislative Advocacy

Immigrants, especially the undocumented, are extremely vulnerable at this time. This takes an incredible toll—emotional, psychological, economic—on them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers.



# NORTHEAST OHIO RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

**24-hour hotline and supportive structure to respond to immigration enforcement actions, offering legal, moral, material, and spiritual accompaniment to vulnerable immigrant families**

The NEO Rapid Response Network (NEORRN) is a collaborative effort composed of faith-based groups, immigrant support and empowerment organizations, nonprofits, activists, and concerned individuals.

NEORRN seeks community partners. Listed below are 7 ways that partners can help support this effort. We hope that you will give this thoughtful consideration and reply to us at [neohiorrn@gmail.com](mailto:neohiorrn@gmail.com).

- spread the word
- reach out to vulnerable immigrant communities
- host an information night (you choose the online platform)
- find volunteers for off-site dispatch or on-site response teams
- identify bilingual volunteers (Arabic, Spanish, English)
- invite volunteers for our emotional/spiritual support teams
- offer your building as a training site for NEORRN volunteers

NEORRN is part of a national effort to offer legal, moral, material, and spiritual accompaniment to vulnerable immigrant families. This is a critical and dangerous time, as families and communities across Ohio are being targeted for detainment by ICE and CBP.

Across the U.S., networks such as NEORRN have played an important role in combating fear by:

- providing a trusted and non-partisan source to verify ICE/CBP enforcement actions
- offering solidarity and support to individuals and families impacted by enforcement activities
- recognizing and ensuring the inherent dignity, freedom, and inalienable rights of every neighbor in their midst

# OHIO FAIR TRADE NETWORK

**Through education, networking, and advocacy, the Ohio Fair Trade Network brings consumers together with dedicated fair trade and Alternative Trade Organizations (ATOs) to expand the fair trade movement and markets for artisan and small-scale farmer products throughout Ohio.**

IRTF has its roots in the Central America solidarity movement of the 1980s. Supporting fair trade is an act of solidarity. When the armed violence formally ended by the mid-1990s, campesino communities asked us to support their farm and artisan cooperatives. That's when we introduced Equal Exchange fair trade coffee to NE Ohio; Heinen's became the first grocery chain in the US to sell it in all its stores. We also began supporting workers' anti-sweatshop campaigns and their opposition to corporate-dominated "free trade." By making conscientious consumer choices and pushing for changes in trade policies, we have organized Ohioans to support living wages, healthy work environments, and environmentally sustainable production methods.

IRTF played a lead role in organizing the Ohio Fair Trade Network in 2006 when several fair trade organizations—volunteer, for-profit businesses, non-profits, and faith congregations—gathered at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland, OH, for Ohio's first-ever Fair Trade Summit. In 2009, the Ohio Fair Trade Network held the first annual Ohio Fair Trade Teach-In & Expo at John Carroll University. In addition to educating hundreds of Ohioans about fair trade each year, this annual event provides a sales outlet for dozens of fair trade vendors, generating tens of thousands of dollars in much needed income for artisans and farmers across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



### Throughout the year, the Ohio Fair Trade Network:

- educates Ohioans on the principles of fair trade
- provides resources for consumers and retailers interested in fair trade
- organizes fair trade sales to generate more income for producers
- creates opportunities to host producers on speaker tours
- collaborates with teachers to offer workshops and increase the availability of fair trade products on high school and college campuses
- holds monthly fair trade meet-ups for networking among fair trade organizations, consumers, and advocates

### The Ohio Fair Trade Network website has resources on:

- how to source fair trade products
- how to run a fair trade party, bazaar, or other event
- how fair trade cooperatives operate and why their strength/integrity is vital to fair trade
- how fair trade products are made/distributed and where the money goes
- how fair trade products and cooperatives are certified
- the roles that national and international fair trade organizations play and what membership in those organizations means
- how implementation of fairer trade policies benefits both workers in the US and workers overseas

### Meetings:

The Ohio Fair Trade Network holds monthly meet-ups.

[www.OhioFairTrade.com](http://www.OhioFairTrade.com)

## RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

Protecting people living under threat, demanding investigations of human rights crimes, and bringing human rights criminals to justice.

*What if \$4  
could save a life?*  
**It can. It does.**

**IRTF responds to 72 urgent human rights cases each year in southern Mexico, Colombia and Central America to:**

**PROTECT** people living under threat  
**DEMAND INVESTIGATIONS** into human rights crimes  
**BRING HUMAN RIGHTS CRIMINALS** to justice  
**ENSURE** that human rights abuses are not happening in the dark

### HOW DOES THE RRN WORK?

- 1 IRTF receives an urgent human rights alert from the victim's organization.
- 2 IRTF writes a letter urging protection and investigation.
- 3 IRTF attaches RRN members' names and addresses.
- 4 IRTF faxes, emails and mails the letters to government officials in the US and the countries where the death threats and other abuses are occurring.
- 5 IRTF posts the letters at [IRTFcleveland.org](http://IRTFcleveland.org) and sends summaries to RRN members, their congresspersons and US senators

**Save a life. Demand justice.**  
**Become an RRN member today!**  
[www.IRTFcleveland.org](http://www.IRTFcleveland.org)

*"We cannot do everything, and there is  
a sense of liberation in realizing that.*

*This enables us to do something, and do it very well.*

*It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,  
a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace  
to enter and do the rest."*

**Archbishop Oscar Romero, San Salvador**



*Your partners in peace and  
Colombia Solidarity*

**The Bridge Foundation, Inc.  
and the  
Commission on Catholic  
Community Action**

## LITANY OF THE MARTYRS

Since we gathered one year ago, we have written dozens of letters to express our outrage and call for justice in the deaths of dozens of people in southern Mexico, Central America, and Colombia whose lives were cut short because they dared to speak truth to power.

### SOUTHERN MEXICO

Journalist **Gustavo Sánchez Cabrera**, who reported on crime and politics in the Tehuantepec Isthmus region, was riddled with bullets in front of his 15-year-old son in Morro Mazatán, Oaxaca, while they were traveling on a motorcycle on June 17. He had survived a previous attempt on his life when gunmen shot him in July 2020. (RRN letter July 3, 2021)

At 10:00am on July 5, indigenous Tzeltal human rights defender **Simón Pedro Pérez López**, age 35, was shopping with his youngest son at the outdoor market in the center of Simojovel municipality, Chiapas, when an attacker riding on a motorcycle shot him in the head. Just nine days before his assassination, he accompanied residents to file a complaint with the local government, requesting intervention to hold back armed groups who have been coming to the highlands for the past several years, extorting families and forcing some off their land. (RRN letter July 6, 2021)

Response: **¡presente!**

### EL SALVADOR

Three FMLN party members were killed over the course of three days. On January 31, **María Gloria Rogel de López** and **Juan de Dios Tejada** were killed when gunmen opened fire on their pickup truck in San Salvador as they were returning from a campaign rally supporting the candidacy of Rogelio Canales for mayor of the capital. Both victims were veterans of El Salvador's civil war (1979-1992). Five others who were injured after being shot are hospitalized. Late at night on February 3, two gunmen entered the home of FMLN former councilman **José Nelson Berrios Méndez** in Chirilagua. They shot and killed him. (RRN letter February 12, 2021)

Response: **¡presente!**

## HONDURAS

Security forces used excessive force to carry out an eviction on the banks of the Río Blanco in San Pedro Sula, Cortés Department, on December 1. **Rafael Flores Hernández** died after being shot several times by municipal police agents, who, accompanied by military personnel, carried out the violent eviction. (RRN letter December 21, 2020)

At 8:30pm on December 26, four armed men in balaclavas entered the home of Lenca indigenous leader **Félix Vásquez** in the village of Ocotal, in Santiago de Puringla, La Paz Department, on December 26. They shot and killed him in front of his adult children, whom they beat and threatened. Félix Vásquez, age 60 and a recent widower, was the Secretary General of the Union of Rural Workers (UTC) in La Paz. He was also a pre-candidate for Congress for the Libertad y Refundación (LIBRE) party. (RRN letter December 29, 2020)

Twenty-six year-old nursing student **Keyla Martínez** was arrested for an alleged violation of a COVID-restriction curfew during a weekend visit to her hometown of La Esperanza in Intibucá Department. She died in police custody on February 7. While police initially reported her death as a suicide, an autopsy found that she had died from “mechanical asphyxiation” in her jail cell. (RRN letter February 15, 2021)

Indigenous environmental defender **Juan Carlos Cerros Escalante**, age 41, president of the Nueva Granada Board of Trustees, and a leader of the local indigenous community in Chinda, Santa Barbara Department, was shot 40 times as he was returning from his mother’s house with his children on March 21. He led Communities United of Chinda, a local group opposing the “El Tornillito” hydroelectric dam that is being constructed in hamlets near the Río Ulúa. (RRN letter March 25, 2021)

Long-standing land conflicts between campesinos and businesspersons in the Bajo Aguán Valley of Colón Department have placed campesino leaders at serious risk for many years. **Santos Marcelo Torres**, former member of the organization Movimiento Campesino Fundación Gregorio Chávez (MCRCG, also known as “Gregorio Chávez”), was killed on June 26, and **Juan Manuel Moncada**, a recent leader of “Gregorio Chávez” on July 6. (RRN letter August 15, 2021)

In October 2016, **Óscar Javier Pérez** was an eyewitness to the assassinations of José Ángel Flores, president of MUCA (Unified Campesino Movement of the Aguán Valley) and Silmer Dionisio George, also a leader of MUCA. On September 20, 2020, one of the murderers of the two campesino leaders was captured. In an apparent attempt to silence him from testifying, Óscar Javier Pérez was riddled with bullets at his home in the community of Quebradas de la Arena, Tocoa, Colón Department, on October 10, 2021. (RRN letter October 12, 2021)

A mayoral candidate for the municipality of Santa Ana de Yusguare in Choluteca, **Nery Fernando Reyes**, was shot to death on October 8, the latest victim in a pattern of violence being inflicted on elected officials and candidates of the opposition LIBRE party (Freedom and Refoundation Party). At least 15 people linked to politics were murdered from December 2020 to September 15, 2021. (RRN letter October 23, 2021)

**Erika Tatiana Martínez García** (known as Tatiana) became the fourth transwoman murdered in Honduras this year. Her body was found with stab wounds at her home in the Díaz Valenzuela neighborhood of Santa Rosa de Copán, Copán Department, on September 26. Tatiana, age 32, was a respected community leader who advised and accompanied LGBTI people to file complaints when they were victims of crimes. She had been the victim of previous threats and attacks. (RRN letter October 24, 2021)

Response: **¡presente!**

## GUATEMALA

**Cecy Ixpata** and **Andrea González**, two transgender women leaders of the LGBTQ community, were assassinated in two separate attacks just two days apart. Cecy Ixpata, member of Otrains Reinas de la Noche, was found beaten inside a local produce market in Salamá, Baja Verapaz Department. Andrea González, a member of the Christian human rights group Cristosal and the legal representative of Otrains Reinas de la Noche, was shot dead near her home in Guatemala City. (RRN letter June 22, 2021)

**Regilson Choc Cac**, a Q’eqchi Mayan 16-year-old land rights defender and member of Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA), was shot to death on July 20 at 10:30pm in San Juan Tres Ríos, Cobán, Alta Verapaz Department. Regilson Choc Cac is the third CCDA leader murdered in this community in the past five years. (RRN letter August 4, 2021)

On September 20, **Ramón López Jiménez** (a 44-year-old father of three small children and community leader in Corral Viejo, municipality of Santa María Xapalán, Jalapa Department) left home to work early in the morning. In the afternoon his family went out to look for him because he had not returned home. His dead body, showing wounds from a machete and gunshots, was discovered in a gutter near a creek near the Volcán de Paz in the village of La Paz, Santa María Xapalán. He was treasurer of the board of directors of CODECA (Committee for Campesino Development) in Jalapa Department. (RRN letter September 24, 2021)

Response: **¡presente!**

## COLOMBIA

**Byron Revelo Insuasty**, a member of the SIMANA teachers union in Nariño Department, was abducted while en route to union elections on November 13. He was never seen again until November 22 when his body was found in a morgue in Tumaco. (RRN letter November 23, 2020)

**Douglas Cortés Mosquera**, a member of the Risaralda Teachers Union (SER) who taught visual arts in Balboa, was killed with two gunshots on November 22 in La Virginia, Risaralda Department. (RRN letter November 23, 2020)

Hitmen on motorcycles shot and killed environmental leader **Javier Francisco Parra Cubillos** as he was in route to his office in La Macarena, Meta Department. The 47-year-old worked as coordinator of CORMACARENA (Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Special Management Area of La Macarena), which organizes against deforestation in the region. He was known in the Serranía de La Macarena Mountain range as “the protector of Caño Cristales,” the famous “river of five colors,” named so for its rock bed and colorful aquatic life. (RRN letter December 22, 2020)

Hitmen on motorcycles murdered environmental leader **Harlin David Rivas** at his workplace in the Barrio Yesca Grande neighborhood of Quibdó, Chocó Department on November 30. A student of environmental engineering at the Technological University of Chocó, he was active in the National Youth Environment Network. (RRN letter December 22, 2020)

**Juan Carlos Petins**, age 45, an indigenous Nasa resident and spokesperson of the Nega Cxhab Belalcázar reservation in Paéz municipality, Cauca Department, was shot in the chest several times by armed gunmen and died on December 5 in the Tálaga reservation. (RRN letter December 23, 2020)

At 1:00am on December 6, hooded men carried out a massacre in the rural area of Santander de Quilichao, Cauca Department. They entered a family home, fired gunshots indiscriminately at six people, killing four. One of those killed was **Carlos Escue**, a musician who served as youth coordinator in the nearby Nasa indigenous reservation Munchique Los Tigres. (RRN letter December 23, 2020)

**Hernán Eduardo Pino Julicué**, the 30-year-old son of the renowned indigenous leader Luz Eyda Julicué, was shot to death on December 6 in the Los Tanques neighborhood of Caloto, Cauca Department. (RRN letter December 23, 2020)

Journalist **Felipe Guevara Henao**, who was a legal reporter for the Q’Hubo newspaper, was assassinated on December 23, 2020 in Cali, Valle del Cauca Department. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

Indigenous activist **Fablio Armando Guanga Quistial** of the Awá community El Gran Rosario was killed on December 23, 2020 after being abducted from his home in Tumaco, Nariño Department. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

Town councilor **Pedro Alejandro Pérez Doria** was murdered on December 24, 2020, while having lunch with companions in San Pelayo, Córdoba Department. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

Peasant farmer and environmental defender **Roberto Eduardo Parra Ovalle**, who had been receiving threats for campaigning against deforestation and land appropriations, was killed December 25, 2020 in Mesetas, Meta Department. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

Indigenous community activist **Juvenal Vitonás Achicué** was shot dead on December 26, 2020, by armed men on a motorcycle while standing in front of a pharmacy in Toribío, Cauca Department. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

A teacher who organized education programs for children in rural communities, **Luis Alberto Anay Ruiz**, was found murdered on December 27, 2020, five days after leaving his home to go fishing in Tumaco, Nariño Department. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

**Omar Moreno**, member of SINTRAGRIM (Independent Agricultural Workers Union of Meta) and the Patriotic Union political party, was murdered by on December 28, 2020 by armed men on a motorcycle while he was traveling in a taxi between Llorente and Pasto, Nariño Department. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

**Norbey Antonio Rivera**, member of ASCAMTA (Campesino Association of Workers of Argelia) in Popayán, Cauca Department, was assassinated on December 30, 2020. His partner Nancy Santacruz, a town councilor, had already been displaced from Argelia after receiving death threats. (RRN letter January 11, 2021)

**Óscar Mira**, age 59, former mayor of Yarí, Antioquia Department, was shot dead outside his parents’ house after receiving multiple threats and having survived two recent attacks. (RRN letter March 11, 2021)

The body of **Juan Carlos Correa Restrepo**, former FARC ex-combatant, was found on February 12 in San Andrés de Cuerquía; he had been abducted on January 23. He became the 257th former combatant killed since entering the peace process. (RRN letter March 11, 2021)

Resident of the indigenous reserve Los Almendros, **Orlando Manuel Chimá**, age 22, was shot and killed in confrontations between the army and an armed group in Cáceres, Antioquia Department, on February 15. He was training to join the indigenous community unarmed guard who provide security but carry only traditional wooden batons. (RRN letter March 11, 2021)

At least five hooded armed men broke into a coffee farm at about 3:00am on February 17 in Andes, Antioquia Department. They forced workers who were asleep to leave their bedrooms, then interrogated and tortured them before **killing five farm workers**. (RRN letter March 11, 2021)

**Carlos Andrés Bustos Cortes** became the 262nd former FARC combatant murdered since entering the reincorporation peace process. As he was traveling by motorbike in Puerto Asís, Putumayo Department, armed men shot and killed him on March 23, injuring his passenger. Although registered with the National Protection Unit, Carlos had not received any protective measures. (RRN letter March 30, 2021)

**Carlos Alberto Vidal**, president of the SINTRACOS sugar workers union (Sindicato de Trabajadores de Cosecha Castilla) was shot dead while walking his dog at around 5:00pm on March 29, close to his home in the La Casilda neighborhood of Flórida, Valle del Cauca Department. (RRN letter March 30, 2021)

The bodies of Awá indigenous leader **José Santos López**, age 54 (former governor in the reservation El Gran Sábalo), and **Jhon Edwar Martínez**, age 22, were found the day after four armed men abducted them in Tumaco, Nariño Department. (RRN letter March 30, 2021)

**Aura Esther García Peñalver**, a leader of the Wayúu Indigenous Arronshy community of Cardón Township, Uribia municipality, La Guajira Department, became the 41st social leader assassinated in Colombia in 2021. Two unknown persons ambushed her and shot her to death as she and her husband were entering her community on a motorcycle. (RRN letter April 11, 2021)

**Dr. Luis Octavio Gutiérrez Montes**, manager of the César Uribe Piedrahita Hospital in Caucasia, Antioquia Department, was shot and killed on April 13 by unknown assailants. He had denounced before the Cooperative of Hospitals of Antioquia (COHAN) alleged acts of corruption that were being committed in his hospital. Dr. Gutiérrez is the second worker at César Uribe Piedrahita Hospital to be shot dead in less than a year. (RRN letter April 23, 2021)

Four unidentified armed men violently abducted **Sandra Liliana Peña Chocué**, a Nasa indigenous governor, from her home in the indigenous reserve of La Laguna-Siberia in Caldonio in Cauca Department and shot her. She died on the way to the hospital. As governor, Sandra Peña had received multiple threats from illegal armed groups who promote the expansion of illicit crops, illegal mining, and drug trafficking. (RRN letter April 28, 2021)

When Mobile Anti-Riot Squad (ESMAD) police in Cali, Valle del Cauca Department, opened fire on demonstrators on April 28, **17-year-old Marcelo Agredo** was shot in the head and killed. During the first two weeks of mass demonstrations, the Colombian human rights ombudsman had received reports of at least 41 civilians and one police officer killed. (RRN letter May 13, 2021)

ESMAD (Mobile Anti-Riot Police) aggressively attacked demonstrators, medics and journalists in the Usme neighborhood of south Bogotá, threatening human rights observers, injuring at least 42, and arresting many more. **Jaime Alonso Fandiño**, age 33, was killed after an ESMAD agent shot him in the chest with a high-powered projectile from close range. (RRN letter June 25, 2021)

Community leader **Diana María Jaramillo Henao** age 49, was assassinated in Bello, Antioquia Department, on June 20. Diana Jaramillo was dedicated to community work in the 5 Estrellas neighborhood of La Gabriela. (RRN letter July 1, 2021)

Social leader **Ángel Miro Cartagena Correa**, a member of Community Association of High Quality Coffee Producers of Dabeiba (APROCAD), went missing on June 14. His tortured body was found in the Urama River in the rural area of Dabeiba municipality, Antioquia Department, on the afternoon of June 20. (RRN letter July 2, 2021)

**Jesús Danilo Mora Londoño** became the 29th signatory of the Peace Agreement assassinated in 2021 and the third one in Putumayo. The ex-combatant was enrolled in the reincorporation process at the Territorial Space for Training and Reincorporation La Carmelita, located in a rural area of Puerto Asís. (RRN letter August 16, 2021)

Student leader **Esteban Mosquera**, age 26, was killed in Popayán, Cauca Department, when he left the house to walk his dog at 6pm on a Monday. Esteban had played an organizing role in recent protests over inequality and state violence. (RRN letter September 11, 2021)

**Marco Tulio Gutiérrez Mendoza**, a 62-year-old campesino and secretary of the Community Action Board of Albania village, was killed by armed men in Lusitania village, municipality of Lejanías, Meta Department. The Institute for Development and Peace Studies (INDEPAZ) had denounced the presence of several armed groups in the region, including the AGC paramilitaries (Self-Defense Forces Gaitanistas). (RRN letter October 25, 2021)

**Dilio Balarín**, an indigenous Embera community leader, was shot to death near the Alto Guayabal Reservation. He and five other leaders were being threatened by AGC paramilitaries, which operate in the Bajo Atrato River area. The Alto Guayabal Biodiverse Humanitarian Reserve is designated as a conflict-free zone in this area where local communities are threatened by multinational companies involved in extractive industries. Just four days prior, former indigenous Embera governor of the Chidima-Toló Reservation, **Efren Antonio Balarín Carupia**, was also killed by AGC paramilitaries in Acandí, Chocó. (RRN letter October 25, 2021)

**Erley Osorio Arias**, a local leader of the agricultural & mining workers' federation FEDEAGROMISBOL, was kidnapped on September 26, reportedly by AGC paramilitaries (also known in the area as Clan del Golfo), in the South of Bolívar. His body was found on September 30. FEDEAGROMISBOL blames the mayor of Montecristo municipality for delay in organizing a search for him. (RRN letter October 25, 2021)

**María Steffania Muñoz Villa** became the 10th female ex-combatant and signer of the Peace Accords killed when she was attacked in the village of Mazamorrero, outside of Buenos Aires municipality. María Steffania Muñoz Villa was a member of the Carlos Patiño de La Elvira Territorial Space for Reincorporation (ETCR) in Buenos Aires. Her partner (also an ex-combatant) Yorbis Valencia Carabali was also killed on the outskirts of Buenos Aires on July 25. At least 289 ex-combatants have been assassinated since the signing of the Peace Accords in November 2016. (RRN letter October 25, 2021)

Response: **¡presente!**

The martyrs of El Salvador killed in 1980:

**SAINT OSCAR ARNULFO ROMERO**

**JEAN DONOVAN**

**SISTER ITA FORD**

**SISTER MAURA CLARKE**

**SISTER DOROTHY KAZEL**

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Art by Sister Mary Southard, CSJ



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