

ROCLA IS A TASKFORCE
OF METRO JUSTICE,
ROCHESTER NEW YORK'S
PROGRESSIVE SOCIAL
JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

WWW.ROCLA.US

ROCLA UPDATE ON THE AMERICAS

WINTER 2015



A PUBLICATION OF THE ROCHESTER COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA

ROCLA

MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1973, the Rochester Committee on Latin America (ROCLA) seeks to build bridges between the Rochester, NY, community and the people of Latin America. Through its monthly presentations, speakers, films, and quarterly newsletters, ROCLA educates local residents about the culture, economics and politics of the countries of Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean and the ways globalization, US trade and drug-war policies impact the lives of their people. ROCLA also supports the work of frontline organizations involved in working for justice and democracy in the global south, including the Latin America Solidarity Committee (LASC), Nicanet, Committee in Solidarity with the people of El Salvador (CISPES), Network In Solidarity with the people of Guatemala (NISGUA), Rights Action and the Pastors for Peace Cuba Friendshipment. We also encourage our members and others to advocate for US policies that support human rights and reverse the often oppressive history of US involvement in Latin America. Annually, ROCLA presents its international and local White Dove Awards for outstanding leadership and service in the cause of human rights in Latin America.

Steering Committee

Marilyn Anderson, Paola Betchart, Bob and Marilyn Kaiser, Grania Marcus, Arnie Matlin, Lew Montemaggi, Peter and Gail Mott, Callie Rabe, Vic Vinkey, Tom Ward

Publishing Team

Editor: Grania Marcus
Designer: Jim Anderson



2015 ROCLA CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE! The 27th Annual Rice & Beans Dinner and White Dove Awards

Friday, March 20, 5:30pm
Gates Presbyterian Church, 1049 Wegman Road

We will honor **Jenny Atlee** and **Tom Loudon**, co-coordinators of the Nicaragua-U.S. Friendship Office of the Americas and the Honduras Accompaniment Project, with the International White Dove Award, for their 30 years of supporting the people of Honduras and Nicaragua in their fight for human

rights. **Grania Marcus** will receive the Local White Dove Award for her ongoing support of ROCLA and the Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice (GRCIJ), and decades of work on behalf of Latin American immigrants in the U.S.

See inside for more details!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO RENEW OR START YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT!

As a member-supported organization, ROCLA relies on your donations to support more than 20 organizations working on the ground fighting for democracy and justice in Latin America, to pay honoraria (and sometimes transportation) for our monthly expert speakers on issues of importance in Latin America, to publish our quarterly newsletter, and to host our members and friends at the Annual Rice & Beans Gala Dinner. For your convenience, you may use the form below to send us your \$30 annual membership donation. **Thank you for your support!**

ROCLA Membership Renewal Form

Yes! I will support the work of ROCLA and enclose \$ _____
Suggested individual rate is \$30. Suggested family rate is \$35. Student and limited income contributions are appreciated and welcomed.

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Please make check payable to **Metro Justice/ROCLA** and mail to:
Kathy Goforth, 45 Lynbrook Dr., Rochester, NY 14609

SAVE THE DATE & AD REQUEST

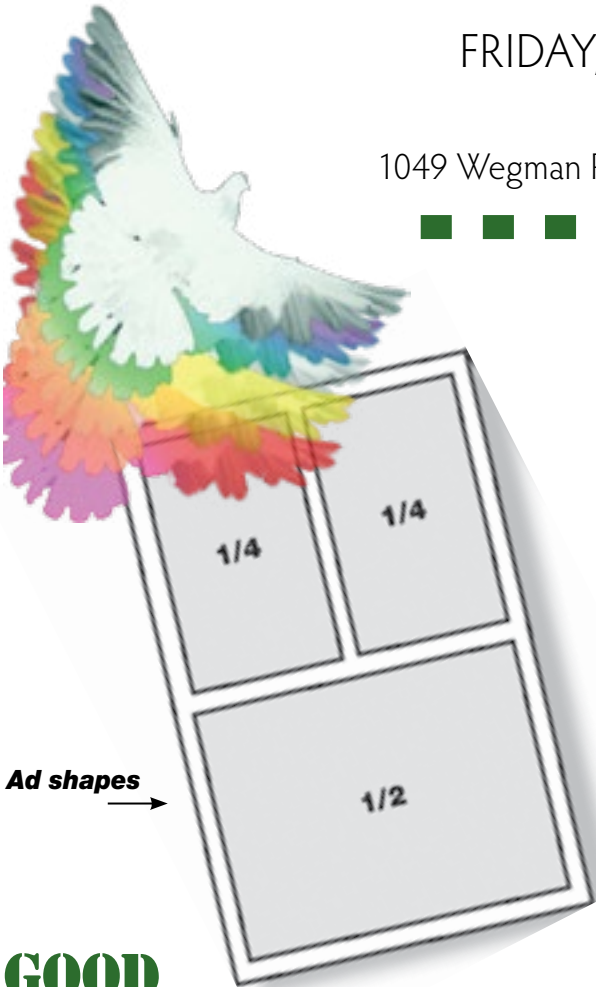
ROCHESTER COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA
CELEBRATION & FUNDRAISER

27th Annual Rice & Beans Gala Dinner & White Dove Awards

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 5:30PM

Gates Presbyterian Church*
1049 Wegman Road • Rochester, New York

This year we will honor **Jennifer Atlee** and **Tom Loudon** with the International White Dove Award for more than 30 years of work in solidarity with the peoples of Central America. The local White Dove Award will be given to **Grania Marcus** for her dedicated support of ROCLA and longtime work for justice for immigrants.



Ad shapes →

**GOOD
FOOD,
FUN,
SILENT
AUCTION,
& WHITE
DOVE
AWARDS!**

AD ORDER REQUEST

AD SIZES:

Size	Price	Height	Width
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/4-page	\$ 40.	4-inches	x 2½-inches
<input type="checkbox"/> 1/2-page	\$ 75.	4-inches	x 5-inches
<input type="checkbox"/> Full-page	\$ 125.	8-inches	x 5-inches
<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you need us to design your ad. It will cost an additional 20% of the price of your ad.			

For information or to place an order, please contact **Arnie Matlin**, ahmatlingvcp@igc.org or send this order form to: Arnold Matlin, 2290 Anderson Road, Linwood, NY 14486 to reserve ad space.

Tickets:

Sponsor: \$50; Friend: \$25 We encourage organizations to buy a table of 8 @ \$25 per person (but no one is ever turned away)

For Reservations: Bob & Marilyn Kaiser: (585) 293-3194; RJKaiser3@gmail.com

Peter & Gail Mott: (585) 464-0878, interconnect_mott@frontiernet.net

Auction Items to Donate: Gail Mott, interconnect_mott@frontiernet.net

To volunteer to help: Bob Kaiser: (585) 293-3194. RJKaiser3@gmail.com

All proceeds benefit ROCLA's work for peace and justice in Latin America.

*The church is wheelchair accessible and looped for the hearing impaired.

2015 White Dove Award Winners

Jennifer Atlee and Tom Loudon

By Dr. Arnold Matlin

The husband-and-wife team of Jennifer Atlee and Tom Loudon has worked in solidarity with the people of Central America for over 30 years. They both came to Nicaragua in 1984 to work for Witness for Peace. Throughout the 1980's they documented the terrible impact of the U.S.-backed Contra war on the people of Nicaragua, and worked to change hostile U.S.



policy towards Nicaragua and its revolution. They took enormous personal risks to accompany people in the war zones, support victims of the U.S.-backed Contras, and to build resettlement villages at the Cristo Rey project, based in Rio Blanco, where Contra raids were an ever-present danger.

Following the 1990 Nicaraguan elections, Tom and Jenny worked with rural communities recovering from decades of war. When the new Nicaraguan right-wing government, supported by the U.S., attempted to dismantle the Nicaraguan revolution, Jenny and Tom helped their Nicaraguan colleagues fight against the onslaught of neo-liberal economic policies.

Beginning in 2000, as Central American representatives for the American Friends Service Committee, Tom and Jenny supported regional networks to educate and organize opposition and alternatives to the "free trade" and "structural adjustment" policies being promoted by the U.S. They moved to Washington D.C. in 2005 to work with the Quixote Center, and are now on the staff of the Friendship Office of the Americas, founded in 1991 to develop policies of peace and justice between the United States and the peoples of Nicaragua and the Americas.

In 2009, a military coup in Honduras, supported by the U.S., shocked the region, marking a dangerous return to the military dictatorships of the past. Tom and Jenny responded to requests from social movement and human rights leaders in Honduras, supporting the efforts of a civil society-led Commission of Truth. In August of 2010, Tom was appointed Executive Secretary of the Commission of Truth in Honduras.

Tom and Jenny are also organizers for the Honduras Accompaniment Project, PROAH, a project of the Friendship Office of the Americas. PROAH provides protective accompaniment for human rights defenders and communities at risk in Honduras. Since the coup, Honduras has suffered from the highest homicide rates in the world (outside of active war zones). Jenny Atlee is the author of *Red Thread: A Spiritual Journal of Accompaniment, Trauma, and Healing*, which chronicles her experiences during the Contra war in the 1980s. ■

Grania Marcus

This year, the Local White Dove Award will go to Grania Marcus. Since 2012, Grania has served on the ROCLA Steering Committee, as ROCLA's dedicated newsletter and Rice & Beans dinner program editor, as a member of the Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice (GRCIJ) Steering Committee, and as a writer and speaker on immigration issues.



Grania began her long journey toward justice work teaching math to African women in Zambia in the 1960s. In the 1970's and 1980's she was an anti-hunger and anti-nuclear activist and organizer on Long Island and then in Central Florida. In 1987, she found her passion working in solidarity with farmworkers in Brockport, N.Y. Grania saw the need for a more welcoming community for these valuable workers, and in 1988, she co-founded the Brockport Ecumenical Outreach Committee (BEOC), a group of eight churches that worked together to organize a *Bienvenida* (welcome) celebration each Spring, coordinated community forums, opened food and clothing pantries, developed workshops to improve farmworker-police relations, and worked with various farmworker service organizations and community members to advocate for farmworker rights.

Ten years later, Grania began working with the Brockport Migrant Education Program, tutoring the children of farmworker families, advocating for farmworker rights, and co-directing a Mexican Youth Dance Group called *El Corazón Mexicano*.

From 2004-2007, she volunteered for the Presbyterian Border Ministry *Frontera de Cristo*, where served as an organizer connecting rights, advocacy and church groups in Arizona with those in Mexico. She co-founded a migrant hospitality center in Agua Prieta, Sonora, partnered with churches and a Mexican drug treatment center to found a water and encampment ministry in the Sonora desert to save migrant lives, and participated in a migrant "underground railroad," which resulted in her arrest by Border Patrol!

During the past decade, Grania has lobbied public officials for immigrant rights in New York, Arizona and Washington, DC, has preached and taught about the deportation dragnet, immigration reform and the crisis of migrant deaths in churches throughout the U.S. and has worked on media relations for several organizations. When Grania moved to New York City in 2007, she helped mount campaigns to defend immigrants facing deportation with the New York New Sanctuary Coalition. While serving as ROCLA's editor and public relations point person, she also works on immigrant defense and other projects with the Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigrant Rights. ■

UPDATES AND ACTIONS

OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ACTION ON IMMIGRATION: WHAT IT IS, HOW YOU CAN HELP

By Grania Marcus and John Ghertner, M.D.

On November 20, 2014, President Obama issued an Executive Order fulfilling part of his inaugural promise to fix our immigration system by changing immigration enforcement. The President's executive action changes policy in four important ways:

Undocumented immigrants who have been in this country for five years and have a U.S.-born or Legal Permanent Resident child will be able to apply to safely remain in this country for three years with work authorization. This is called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA), and is expected to help approximately 4.4 million undocumented immigrants nationally.

The 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a program for those brought to the U.S. as children, has been expanded to include those continuously present in the U.S. since January 1, 2010, or before. An additional 290,000 youth are expected to qualify.

An enforcement program that many have called a "dragnet," Secure Communities, has been terminated. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was previously able to use local and state law enforcement agencies to detain suspected undocumented immigrants. A non-mandatory notification system will replace it.

Revised guidance on the priorities for deportation will be issued to focus on "felons not families."



In 2014, immigrant advocacy groups united behind the goal of stopping deportations.

How You Can Help: Volunteers Needed!

The Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice (GRCIJ), in collaboration with Wally Ruehle, Esq. of the Legal Aid Society Immigration Project and volunteers, is planning legal clinics to help immigrant families determine their eligibility for the DAPA program and assist them in completing applications. GRCIJ and its member organizations have committed to helping organize volunteers to do a brief pre-screening of potential applicants and register them. You do not need to know Spanish to volunteer—GRCIJ is seeking both Spanish speaking and non-Spanish speaking volunteers. On January 22, 2015, Mr. Ruehle led a well-attended first training for volunteers in Rochester. A videotape of the training session will be made available on YouTube for those wishing to volunteer who cannot attend a training.

Two information/pre-screening workshops for immigrant families are already scheduled in February, where volunteers will assist under the guidance of volun-

teer lawyers:

Saturday February 14 from 10am to 2pm
– Blossom View Nursing Home, 6884 Maple Avenue in Sodus, N.Y.

Sunday, February 22 from 2 to 6pm
– Padre Pio Our Lady of Fatima Church, 65 South Main Street, Elba, N.Y.

Attorney Ruehle plans to do two additional workshops for families in March. They will be held at the Geneseo Migrant

Center in Mt. Morris, N.Y. and at a site to be determined in Geneva, N.Y. GRCIJ will also be seeking volunteer help for those when dates and details are available.

Please consider volunteering for this important opportunity to work with undocumented farmworkers in the Rochester area. **For more information, please contact: Dr. John "Lory" Ghertner, johnguertner@gmail.com, (585) 733-3171. To volunteer, contact Wally Ruehle, Esq., WRuehle@lasroc.org.**

STOP FAST TRACK!!

ROCLA has previously highlighted urgent actions to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). With the current bipartisan support for the TPP in Congress, it is more important than ever to express your opposition to Fast Track consideration for the TPP and other free trade deals. [Ed. Note]

A bill to "fast track" all free trade deals during the next four years, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), has been introduced in Congress. Passing





the Baucus-Hatch-Camp Fast Track bill (S. 1900 and H.R. 3830) would limit Congress' ability to debate the secretive TPP, the biggest trade agreement in the history of the United States involving 12 countries stretching from Chile to Japan, with 792 million people and 40 percent of the world economy.

Fast Track would permit the Executive Branch to sign trade agreements before Congress votes on them, locking down the text and precluding any amendments on a 2,000-page TPP that has been negotiated in almost total secrecy. The vast majority of Americans have been barred from reviewing the TPP's proposals, while approximately 600 corporate lobbyists have had regular access to the negotiating texts as so-called "cleared advisors." In the Senate, fast track means passage by a simple majority.

Fast track would also hamper our ability to fight for trade policies that benefit working people by virtually guaranteeing the passage of all trade deals, no matter how much they increase corporate influence over the economy, push down wages, offshore manufacturing jobs or threaten national sovereignty. It would also increase the TPP's inevitability and advance the same failed trade and economic policies that have left working people behind for the past 20 years.

The ROCLA Winter 2014 *Update on the Americas* detailed the destructiveness of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which has been described as "NAFTA on steroids." Particularly troubling are its provisions that would limit sovereign laws to protect the climate, ensure the safety of food, medicine and other consumer goods, threaten worker rights and wages,

and increase the cost of medicines.

In the words of Communications Workers of America (CWA) President Larry Cohen, whose opposition to the TPP has been particularly vocal, "Every trade deal since NAFTA has allowed corporations to sue nations that adopt legislation that [they believe] limits future profits . . . Currently, multinationals have 500 pending secret arbitration lawsuits against governments regarding environmental protection, workers' rights, and health and consumer issues . . ." Virtually all arbitrations that have been settled have resulted in a win for the corporation bringing the claim.

For an up-to-date detailed critique of the TPP, see <http://www.citizenstrade.org/ctc/trade-policies/tpp-potential-trade-policy-problems/>. To stop Fast Track, please sign the letter at http://org.salsalabs.com/o/1034/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=16706. ■



CUBA: **U.S. AGREES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS**

By David L. Wilson

ROCLA has long-advocated for an end to the U.S. embargo of Cuba, and for more than two decades has participated in Pastors for Peace's Friendship Caravan bringing critical goods to the Cuban people and traveling there without a license. While President Obama's agreement with Cuban President Raúl Castro does not end the embargo, it reestablishes diplomatic relations, and loosens some of the restrictions on travel and trade. Both countries also released political prisoners. [Ed. Note]

In a surprise move, Cuban president Raúl Castro and U.S. president Barack Obama announced in separate television

appearances on December 17, 2014, that their two countries were now working to renew diplomatic relations, which the U.S. broke off nearly 54 years earlier, in January 1961, under former president Dwight Eisenhower (1953-1961). The two countries were releasing a total of 58 prisoners in the agreement, officials said, and the U.S. will loosen some restrictions on contacts with Cuba by US residents; however, the U.S. government's 52-year-old embargo against trade with Cuba will remain in effect.

. . . President Castro said the agreement "in no way means that the heart of the matter has been resolved," but he added that "the progress made in our exchanges proves that it is possible to find solutions to many problems." President Obama described the previous U.S. policy towards Cuba as "an outdated approach that for decades has failed to advance our interests" and said the accord will "begin a new chapter among the nations of the Americas."

As part of the agreement, Cuba released U.S. citizen Alan Gross, who had been serving a 15-year prison sentence in Cuba since 2011 for his work there as a contractor for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). At the same time, the U.S. released Antonio Guerrero, Gerardo Hernández and Ramón Labañino, three of the "Cuban Five," a group of Cuban agents that U.S. courts convicted in 2001 of espionage-related activities; the other two agents, René González and Fernando González, were released earlier after serving their sentences. Cuban officials said Gross, who was unwell, was freed for humanitarian reasons. Apparently the three Cubans were not exchanged for Gross, but for a U.S. spy who had been imprisoned in Cuba for nearly 20 years. The Cuban government also agreed to release 53 Cubans that the U.S. had described as "political prisoners."

Unidentified former U.S. intelligence agents told the media they were certain the spy was Rolando Sarraff Trujillo, a Cuban cryptologist who was arrested in 1995 and was serving a 25-year sentence for revealing Cuban secret codes to the U.S. Reportedly, his actions helped lead U.S. intelligence to the exposure of a number of important Cuban agents in the U.S.: the Cuban Five, Ana Belén Montes, Walter

Kendall Myers and Gwendolyn Myers . . .

The U.S. government will also ease restrictions on different categories of travel to Cuba by U.S. residents—for family visits, official visits, and journalistic, professional, educational and religious activities, and public performance—and travelers will also be able to bring back \$400 worth of goods, including up to \$100 in tobacco and alcohol products. However, private tourism will still be forbidden. Banking connections will be increased, and U.S. residents will be able to send family members in Cuba \$2,000 every three months, up from \$500 at present. The U.S. State Department has been instructed to “re-evaluate” its 22-year-old listing of Cuba as a “state sponsor of terrorism,” a designation which has been questioned even by establishment groups like the Council on Foreign Relations think tank. The U.S. president lacks the authority to end the trade embargo . . . but on Dec. 17 Obama asked for an “honest and serious debate about lifting” it.

David L. Wilson is the editor of Weekly New Update on the Americas. Excerpt reprinted with permission from “Weekly New Update on the Americas, #1247,” December 21, 2014, <http://weekly-newsupdate.blogspot.com>. ■

THE TRAGEDY OF THE STUDENTS OF AYOTZINAPA, GUERRERO, MEXICO

By Andrés Guevara
Andrés Guevara is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Rochester from Cuernavaca, Mexico. He offers his point of view on the disappearance of 43 students in Mexico. [Ed. Note]

On September 26, 2014, students from the rural teacher’s college of Ayotzinapa made the 80-mile trip to Iguala, Mexico, possibly to demand better conditions for their college. They disrupted a city hall event there organized by the Mayor’s wife. The students were using a bus they had commandeered for transportation and the police attacked, killing two students. The police also shot at the bus of a semi-professional football team,



With photos of their missing children in hand, family members of the Ayotzinapa students marched in Acapulco a month after the disappearance of their children. Photo: upsidedownworld.org

killing one of the players and the driver. Later on, some of the remaining students gathered around the scene to speak with the press. The police surrounded them and forced 43 of them into their vehicles. One of the students, Julio César Mondragón, tried to run but was later captured by the police; his body appeared the next day without eyes and his face was flayed to bare skull.

Little is known about the whereabouts of those 43 students, but according to Mexico’s Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam, the local police handed them over to the local gang “Guerreros Unidos,” who killed them and destroyed most of the evidence, including the bodies. Some of the parents refuse to believe this story and have not given up searching for their children. Mass graves that were later found in the area turned out to be unrelated to the missing students.

The case of Ayotzinapa has generated many national and international protests, more than previous atrocities, perhaps because the mayor of Iguala was allegedly involved in the disappearance, the crime was committed against students, and authorities could not just fabricate a story that the students’ disappearance was a result of a dispute between rival gangs, as they have in some other cases.

Ayotzinapa also came amidst many other instances of violence. Even more outrageous crimes have happened and continue happening. The activist Atilano Román was murdered while giving a live radio broadcast; the doctor and Twitter activist Miut3, who reported on wide-

spread crime in the northern state of Tamaulipas bordering the U.S., also was killed; and 300 people were massacred in Allende, Coahuila, just 38 miles away from Eagle Pass, TX. While estimates of the lives lost to the violence in Mexico during the past decade vary widely, all agree that the numbers are in the tens of thousands.

The problem in Mexico is not just the ongoing war on drugs, and it is not going to be solved solely by giving more and heavier weapons to the police forces. Direct relationships between authorities and criminals, as in the case of Ayotzinapa, show that corruption is one of the biggest problems of Mexican police institutions. Their lack of control over the drug cartels has allowed the cartels to diversify their sources of income, relying on kidnapping, collecting “security” fees across all economic activities and even illegal mining of iron ore. The Mexican government is clearly not in control of the violence, and has abandoned a large portion of its population to the mercy of drug lords who decide who can live and who can’t. Unfortunately, the government does not seem to have an incentive to solve the violence.

The press could play a major role in revealing the corruption and illegal actions of officials, but few journalists are doing the investigations, because Mexico has become a very dangerous country for journalists. According to Reporters Without Borders, Mexico is only slightly safer than Iraq, and at least 88 Mexican reporters have lost their lives since 2000 for investigating and writing about the violence. Even so, empowering the press may be the best strategy to pressure the government to solve this crisis. It is in the interest of all us to help stop these crimes against humanity. ■



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION: CHANGE THE SYSTEM, NOT THE CLIMATE



By Paola Macas Betchart

During the December 2014 United Nations Convention on Climate Change in Peru, environmental and indigenous groups and leaders from many countries met in parallel to address violations of the rights of indigenous peoples and the rights of nature. Ms. Macas Betchart, a social and environmental justice activist and native of Ecuador, who wrote about the work of indigenous groups in Ecuador in the Spring 2014 issue of the ROCLA newsletter, updates us here about the important environmental work that paralleled the summit in Peru. [Ed. Note]

The United Nations Convention on Climate Change held its 20th Convention of the Parties (COP20) from December 1-14, 2014, in Lima, Peru. Representatives of 190 countries spent two weeks discussing the creation of a green climate fund, transparency on emissions and education and awareness about climate change. As exciting as it might sound, these discussions did not necessarily address the key problems about the climate crisis. No real solutions were presented—this meeting was expected simply to set the stage for further conversations at the COP21 that will take place in Paris in December 2015.

Many indigenous groups fear that the solutions eventually presented by the United Nations will not fit into their holistic vision of mother earth, and will only contribute to the privatization of their resources and territories. In the western market-based vision, nature has only a monetary value and the right to pollute can be transferable through the carbon market. This conception of nature does not consider the intertwined and complex relationship that people have with their environment.

To reveal and document specific abuses that have already occurred, on December 5 and 6, 2014, the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature organized the second International Rights of Nature Ethics Tribunal. Using as a tool the Universal Declaration for the Rights of Mother Earth, thirteen distinguished judges examined twelve major cases that have remained outside the consideration of formal institutions, but where the rights of nature and human rights have been violated.

Experts and witnesses presented evidence of the damages and effects of these specific cases that exacerbate climate change as a global threat. This evidence included destructive oil and mineral extraction in South America, notably the Texaco/Chevron case, the Yasuni National Park case and the Condor Mirador mine in Ecuador, the Conga Mine and Four River Basin in Peru, and the Belo Monte Dam case in Brazil. Another case sought protection for the Defenders of the Earth after the Bagua massacre, whose perpetrators were on trial in Peru.

Two full days of work resulted in the collection of important evidence and testimonies, but also in proposals to boycott companies that violate human and natural rights, and ban such companies from the UN negotiating process. The participants also invited organizations and individuals “to exercise their autonomous, responsible, and

sensible right to disconnect from the devastating transnational business model and to enroll in the exercise of supporting a model that is respectful of nature, reinforces the collective spirit which seeds and advances freedom, justice and harmony with nature.”

The slogan of the Peoples Summit on Climate Change, which took place in Lima from December 8-11, 2014, was in the same spirit: “Let’s change the system and not the climate.” This parallel gathering reunited many social movements, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples’ leaders and groups, campesino communities, women, youth, artists, and committed activists from around the world.

Many events were organized to discuss topics including food sovereignty, alternatives to resource extraction, dignified work, indigenous and collective rights, and rights of mother earth, among others. The summit offered different spaces where groups shared their visions and goals, but also their real concerns about their capacity to live in harmony with nature. In the indigenous world-view, Mother Earth is a sacred living being, which depends on all other living beings. The rivers, the mountains, and all animals become part of an extended family; people and nature are one.

For more information: Peoples Summit on Climate Change, <http://cumbrepuebloscop20.org/thelima-declaration-peoples-summit-climate-change/>; International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature, <http://therightsofnature.org/final-verdict-lima/> and United Nations Convention on Climate Change, <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lima/lima-call-for-climate-action-puts-world-on-track-to-paris-2015/> ■



METRO JUSTICE EDUCATION FUND
ROCHESTER COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA
803 West Ave, Suite 370, Rochester, NY 14611

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
**U.S. POSTAGE
PAID**
PERMIT #1812
ROCHESTER, NY

ROCLA UPDATE ON THE
AMERICAS

SIGN UP FOR ROCLA'S EMAIL LISTSERVE!

To sign up for the ROCLA e-mail list and receive announcements of our programs and other special information, please visit this link: <http://stopha.com/rocla>. You can enter your name and e-mail there to subscribe or unsubscribe. Stay informed about ROCLA programs, upcoming events and urgent actions! ■

HELP KEEP ROCLA'S WEBSITE CURRENT!

ROCLA has a lively website (see: <http://rocla.us/>) where webmaster Jim Bearden posts current information about Latin America on an ongoing basis, as well as announcements of programs and other news. If you have information, articles or action opportunities about Latin America that you believe may be of interest to ROCLA members, please email the link or content to Jim at: jeb.bearden@gmail.com. ■

REMINDER!

You can now opt to receive your ROCLA newsletter electronically (and in color!) by email. The members that have chosen this option receive their newsletter sooner than the print version, ROCLA saves the cost of postage and paper, and the environment benefits. If you would like to switch to email delivery, please let Marilyn Kaiser know: rjkaiser3@gmail.com. ■