

Resolution Against the Coup in Honduras! U.S. Hands Off!

Submitted to the National Antiwar Conference Held at La Roche College in Pittsburgh on July 10-12, 2009 by the Continuations Body, National Assembly to End the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and Occupations. This resolution was unanimously approved.

On June 28, the U.S.-trained Honduran army deposed the elected president of that nation, Manuel Zelaya, waking him in the dead of night, abducting him from his bed in the presidential palace, and expelling him to Costa Rica, where he held a press conference in his pajamas alerting the world to the coup. The coup has been denounced by the Organization of American States and by virtually every nation on earth.

U.S. State Department officials — both civilian and military — have admitted that they were well aware that a coup was being plotted within Honduras, as they had been participating in high-level discussions between the Honduran Congress, military, and president in the weeks leading up to the Zelaya overthrow. But the American government, Honduras' leading trading partner and a major donor of military and civilian aid, remained silent in the face of the pending coup.

Honduras has long been a bastion of U.S military might in Central America, as it was a staging ground for the Reagan-era Contra attacks on the Sandinista-led government in Nicaragua. The U.S. has long been a training ground for death-squads and torture operations that operated in many places in Central and Latin America, including Honduras itself. Hundreds of Honduran military officers participate in the counter-insurgency training programs at the U.S. School of the Americas (nearly 1,000 from 2005-07) and the bi-national relationship in this regard is one of the most extensive that the U.S. enjoys with any Latin American nation.

The Pentagon has maintained a constant presence in the country, where its Joint Task Force Bravo for the Southern Command coordinates joint exercises with Central American militaries. The U.S. shares the Soto-Cano air base in Honduras with the Honduran air force.

It is becoming increasingly clear that while the U.S. government seeks to give the appearance of working to isolate the Micheletti regime in Honduras — and endorsing similar efforts in the United Nations and the Organization of American States -- it is privately setting terms on Zelaya's return to power. The Obama Administration has notably declined to join the call for Zelaya's "unconditional"

restoration to power, instead advocating “negotiations” with the coup-makers on the terms of the democratically- elected president’s return.

The National Assembly to End the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars and Occupations, consistent with its position on the right of oppressed nations to self-determination and opposition to U.S. intervention, condemns the coup d’etat in Honduras and stands in solidarity with the Honduran workers and farmers as they organize mass street mobilizations and political mass strikes to thwart the illegal government of Robert Micheletti. We support self-determination for the people of Honduras and stand opposed to any U.S. attempt to “negotiate” the future of this sovereign nation with the coup-makers.

The National Assembly stands in solidarity with the people in Honduras as they face the savage repression of a military dictatorship.

U.S. Out of Honduras! Hands Off! Self-determination for Honduras! No to U.S. Intervention! For the Immediate and Unconditional Return of President Manuel Zeyala to the Presidency of Honduras!