

The Eyes Wide Open Film Series presents
***Plan Colombia:
Cashing In on the Drug War Failure***



February 2002. With most of the U.S. military aid under the so-called "Plan Colombia" anti-drug package delivered, Colombian President Andres Pastrana unilaterally withdraws from the peace process with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and steps up violence in this 50-year quasi-civil war.

In the post 9-11 context and with the U.S. State Department now branding the leftist FARC a "terrorist organization" and openly targeting it, what is left of the initial anti-narcotics purpose of the U.S. "Plan Colombia"?

Is the U.S. Government still concerned with fighting drugs?

20 years of drug wars in the Andes have resulted in a two-fold INCREASE in cocaine imported into the U.S. in the last ten years alone. Could there be alternate purposes to a plan focused on beefing up the Colombian military and spraying coca fields in rebel-held parts of the country when coca is grown in many parts of Colombia that are not being sprayed?

This video sheds light on the complex issues of drug-trafficking and civil struggle in Colombia and the impact of both the current chemical-spray program carried out by the U.S. Defense-contractor Dyncorps and the multi-billion-dollar aid package delivered to the brutal Colombian military. Additional insights are provided on the significant factor oil has become in the Colombian equation, a country with the same oil potential as Venezuela, today the second largest oil supplier to the U.S.

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Official site: www.plancolombia.org

Additional Resources

Updates:

- Under Bush, Plan Colombia was renamed the Andean Counterdrug Initiative and extended to Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.
- On November 10, 2005, Congress voted for an additional \$735,000,000 for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative. The vote in the Senate was 91 to 0, in the House it was 358 to 39.
- Rep. McGovern introduced an amendment to reduce funding for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative by \$100 million. It was voted down.
- On February 21, 2005, eight civilians were murdered by the Colombian Army in San José de Apartadó, including Luis Eduardo Guerra, the leader of the peace community and 3 children aged 2, 6 and 11.
- On November 17, 2005, the new leader of the San José Peace Community, Arlen Salas-David, and 6 other civilians were murdered by the Colombian Army.

Organizations:

Colombia Human Rights Network
» colhrnet.igc.org

Colombia Support Network
» www.colombiasupport.net

Colombia Solidarity Campaign
» www.colombiasolidarity.org.uk

School of the Americas Watch
» www.soaw.org

Take Action:

Urge your representatives to support HR 1217, calling for the suspension of the authority for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly known as the School of the Americas)

Special thanks to Linux Club for their hospitality.