



Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis

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As Franciscan women committed to promoting peace and justice, we support the right of SOA Watch to peacefully raise their voices in protest to the activities of the military camp known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, Georgia.

We believe restrictions being imposed on SOA Watch is an infringement of the people's constitutional right to freedom of speech. The restrictions of limiting the number of protesters and the removing of the stage and sound restrict these rights. We feel this is being done to squelch the 25th anniversary of faithful protesters raising their voices against the violence that has resulted from the actions of those who are trained at the WHINSEC facility. The activities of graduates from WHINSEC in El Salvador and other Central American countries are well documented. The humanitarian crisis with children fleeing Central America is due solely to the violence in those countries.

Therefore, we raise our voices and join those of SOA Watch in saying "basta!"... enough!

Sisters Marjorie, Michelle, Jeanne, Judy

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