

**RACISM & GLOBALIZATION  
JUNE 29, 2008  
CHICAGO, IL**

**SISTERS AND BROTHERS,**

**MY NAME IS RUBEN SOLIS AND I AM A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE SOUTHWEST WORKERS UNION WITH OFFICES IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS AND I AM AN ORGANIZER FOR THE BORDER AND GLOBAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS OF SWU.**

***I WANT US TO DEDICATE THIS CONFERENCE TO THE MEMORY OF THE MILLIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE AND THEIR IMPRISONMENT IN RESERVATIONS, THE MILLIONS OF AFRICANS FORCED TO BE SLAVES IN THIS COUNTRY, THE THOUSANDS OF LYNCHING VICTIMS IN THE SOUTH, AND THE THOUSANDS OF MIGRANTS WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED BY THE IMMIGRATION POLICIES OF A MILITARIZED US-MEXICO BORDER, AND TO THE HUNDREDS OF YOUNG WOMEN MAQUILA WORKERS VICTIMS OF A FEMINICIDE ON THE BORDER PARTICULARLY IN CD JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA. I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE VICTIMS OF KATRINA THOSE WHO DIED AND THOSE INTERNALLY DISPLACED BECAUSE THEY ARE TRULY VICTIMS OF WHAT RACISM HAS BEEN IN THIS COUNTRY AND IS EVEN TODAY.***

**SWU WAS FOUNDED IN 1988 AS A GRASSROOTS MEMBERSHIP BASED ORGANIZATION THAT ORGANIZES POOR SCHOOL WORKERS, COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM, AND YOUTH. SWU WORKS IN SOUTH TEXAS AND THE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER.**

**THE SIX AREAS OF STRATEGIC ORGANIZING FOR SYSTEMIC SOCIAL CHANGE ARE;**

- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE,**
- **ECONOMIC (LABOR) JUSTICE,**
- **MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT,**
- **YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT,**
- **BORDER JUSTICE AND**
- **GLOBAL JUSTICE.**

**SWU WAS FOUNDED IN 1988 AND CELEBRATES ITS 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY MAY 1 & MAY 5. AS A MOVEMENT ORGANIZER AND MILITANT I CELEBRATE MY 40 YEARS BEING ACTIVE IN THE FRONTLINE STRUGGLES.**

**TO UNDERSTAND RACISM AND TO UNDERSTAND NEO-LIBERAL GLOBALIZATION WE HAVE TO GO BACK AND IDENTIFY THE FIVE BEDROCKS OF THIS SYSTEM.**

### **FIVE BEDROCKS OF THE US CAPITALIST SYSTEM**

- **INDIGENOUS GENOCIDE**
- **PRIVATE PROPERTY**
- **PATRIARCHY**
- **SLAVERY**
- **EXPANSIONISM (MONROE DOCTRINE 1823) OR ANNEXATION**

**HUMAN MIGRATION HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN SOCIETIES.**

**THE STORY OF HUMAN MIGRATION AND THE US-MEXICO BORDER HAS TO LAY OUT THE OCCUPATION BY THE SPANISH EMPIRE SINCE 1500'S AND THEIR DOMINATION OF THE AMERICAS.**

**THE GENOCIDE PERPETRATED AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE IN MANY COUNTRIES WIPED OUT ENTIRE POPULATIONS. MILLIONS WERE FORCED INTO SLAVERY AND KILLED. FORCED MIGRATIONS AND IMPRISONMENT WAS THE RULE OF THE DAY UNDER THE SPANISH EMPIRE. WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THE SPANISH MISSIONS WERE MILITARY BASES.**

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY UNDER THE MONARCHY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COLONIES WERE PART OF THE IMPRINT LEFT BY HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF DOMINATION AND OCCUPATION. ALONGSIDE PRIVATE PROPERTY WAS PATRIARCHY AS A SYSTEM OF GENDER DOMINATION OF WOMEN.**

**TOGETHER WITH THE FORCEFUL 'CHRISTIANIZATION', THE IMPOSITION OF THE SLAVE SYSTEM, PATRIARCHY, AND THE SPANISH LANGUAGE WITH THE LOSS OF THE ORIGINAL CULTURES THE IMPACTS ON THE SOCIAL PSYCHIC HAS BEEN SEVERELY AFFECTED EVEN TO THE PRESENT DAY.**

**THE BOLIVARIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS SWEEPED THE AMERICAS CONTINENT BEGINNING OF THE 1800'S 'LIBERATED' DOZENS OF NATION-STATES BUT ALSO SET UP THE REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES THAT WERE SET IN LINE WITH THE COLONIAL LINES.**

**THE UNITED STATES ISSUED OUT IN 1823 THE 'MONROE DOCTRINE' TO COUNTER-ACT THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENTS IN MEXICO AND HAITI, CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE ANDES. THE US SAID THEY WERE THE 'POLICE' LATIN AMERICA AND CONSIDERED IT ITS BACK YARD.**

**IN TEXAS AS SOON AS IT BECAME INDEPENDENT IN 1821, THE ANGLO-SAXON PRO-SLAVERY MOVEMENT REVOLTED AGAINST MEXICO AND IN 1836 SET UP THE REPUBLIC (SLAVE) OF TEXAS. AS SOON AS THE SLAVE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS BECAME 'INDEPENDENT' IT SOUGHT ANNEXATION TO THE UNITED STATES. THE REASON TO ANNEX AND FOR THE TEXAS REVOLT IN THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO WAS TO HAVE MORE PRO-SLAVERY VOTED IN THE US CONGRESS BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR.**

**THOUSANDS OF MEXICAN PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO FLEE TO THE MAINLAND MEXICO TO ESCAPE THE TERROR CAMPAIGN UNLEASHED BY AUSTIN AND HIS PRO SLAVERY FOLLOWERS. THE LAND HOLDINGS ALL CHANGED HANDS IN 15 YEARS.**

**THE RACISM OF THE GENOCIDAL WARS AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE GOT SO SOPHISTICATED THAT THE 'BOWIE' KNIFE WAS DEVELOPED WITH A SHARP UPPER BLADE TO OPEN THE CHEST CAVITY OF THE INDIANS BECAUSE SCALPING WAS NOT ENOUGH TERROR.**

**AS SOON AS TEXAS WAS ANNEXED IN 1845, US MILITARY TROOPS CAME IN AND INVADDED AND DECLARED WAR ON MEXICO ENDING IN 1848 WITH THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO AND FULL FILLING THE 'MANIFEST DESTINY' TO TAKE OVER ALL THE LANDS ONTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN.**

**IRISH WHO SUPPORTED THE MEXICAN CAUSE WERE HUNG AND THOUSANDS ARE BURIED IN MEXICO CITY BECAUSE THEY FOUGHT US INVADING FORCES. GERMANS WERE TARRED AND FEATHERED FOR OPPOSING SLAVERY AND SUPPORTING THE MEXICAN CAUSE.**

**AS THESE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES ESTABLISHED INDEPENDENT NATION-STATES, THE US EMPIRE DOMINATED ONCE MORE IN THE 1890'S WITH THE WAR AGAINST SPAIN. COUNTRIES LIKE CUBA, PUERTO RICO, PHILIPPINES, AND GUAM ETC. BECAME COLONIES OF THE UNITED STATES. TO THIS DATE PUERTO RICO CONTINUES TO BE UNDER US COLONIAL DOMINATION WITH NUMEROUS 'FREEDOM FIGHTERS' SERVING LONG TERM PRISON SENTENCES FOR FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE.**

**THE MEXICAN SOCIAL REVOLUTION OF 1910-17 WAS ONE OF THE FIRST SOCIAL CONVULSIONS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. THE REVOLUTION OVERTHREW PORFIRIO DIAZ A US BACKED DICTATOR AND FOUGHT FOR LAND REFORM FOR LANDLESS *CAMPESINOS*. A MILLION PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND MILLIONS FLED TO THE US TO ESCAPE THE VIOLENCE.**

**THE ARRESTS OF PEOPLE WHO PROTESTED THE WORLD WAR I RAN INTO THOUSANDS AND IN ONE RAID KNOWN AS THE PALMER RAIDS SOME 10,000 PEOPLE MOSTLY LEFTIST WERE ARRESTED IN THE SAME DAY AND MANY DEPORTED BECAUSE THEY WERE IMMIGRANTS.**

**DURING THE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION OF THE 1930'S MILLIONS OF MEXICAN AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS WERE FORCIBLY DEPORTED AND REPATRIATED.**

**HOWEVER DURING WWII THERE A SHORTAGE OF LABOR AND GUEST WORKERS OR BRACERO PROGRAMS WERE INTRODUCED TO THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS ALLOWING WOMEN TO DO INDUSTRIAL WORK.**

**THE MODERN GLOBALIZATION (A LA NEO-LIBERAL) EPOCH STARTED IN 1944 WITH THE BRENTEN WOOD AGREEMENT, AND IN 1945 WORLD BANK AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND ALONG WITH IT THE 1945 GUEST 'BRACERO' WORKER PROGRAM.**

**UNDER THE WORLD BANK WHOSE PURPOSE WAS TO ELIMINATE POVERTY MOST NATIONS HAVE BECOME HEAVILY INDEBTED IN FOREIGN DEBT MOSTLY TO US BANKS AND INSTITUTIONS.**

**IN 1953-54 OPERATION WET BACK FORCIBLY REPATRIATED A MILLION TO 3 MILLION MEXICANS AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS.**

**IN 1965 MARKED THE END OF BRACERO PROGRAM AND THE BEGINNING OF ITS REPLACEMENT THE 1965 BORDER INDUSTRIALIZATION PROGRAM.**

**IN 1994 THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) IMPACTED THE US, CANADA AND MEXICO REGIONALLY AND THE ZAPATISTA REBELLION TOOK PLACE IN CHIAPAS. BUT IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1999 THAT THE GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT TOOK ON THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) IN SEATTLE AND WON.**

**IT WAS A HISTORIC MOMENT WHEN THE MOVEMENT WON IN SUCH A DECISIVE MANNER. THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF THE BATTLE OF SEATTLE WERE FELT THROUGH OUT THE WORLD. THE ORGANIZING FOR A WORLD SOCIAL FORUM FOR EXAMPLE, WAS A RESULT OF THE DEFEAT OF THE WTO IN SEATTLE. IT WAS THERE THAT A PEOPLE OF COLOR MOVEMENT ASSEMBLY MET TO EVALUATE (WHERE WAS THE COLOR IN SEATTLE), ANALYZE AND SET A COURSE FOR FUTURE WORK. THE ASSEMBLY AGREED TO 1). WORK TO MAKE CONNECTIONS WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND HAVE THEM VISIT AND HAVE EXCHANGES GET TO KNOW THE GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT (GGJM) 2). ASSURE REPRESENTATION OF GGJM AT THE INTERNATIONAL ARENAS 3). BRING THE GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT TOGETHER TO HAVE A U.S. IDENTITY INCLUSIVE OF GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS' NOT JUST THINK TANKS AND NGO'S. THE GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT HAD A LOT OF MOMENTUM AT THIS TIME.**

**IN 2000 BUSH STOLE THE ELECTIONS WITHOUT THE POPULAR VOTE. WITH THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION CAME THE Y2K SCARE. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS THE FIRST WORLD SOCIAL FORUM THAT TOOK**

PLACE IN BRASIL WITH OVER 20,000 DELEGATES GLOBALLY. IN 2000 A GROUP OF FEW ATTENDED THE WSF I AND CAME BACK TO PROMOTE TAKING A DELEGATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR GRASSROOTS MOVEMENTS DELEGATES TO LEARN PARTICIPATE AND SHARE STRATEGIES WITH THE GLOBAL SOUTH

9-11 CHANGED ALL THE U.S. REALITY FIRST WITH THE WAR, PATRIOT ACT, AND THE EROSION OF MANY GAINS IN THE CIVIL LIBERTIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ARENA. A GENERAL PARALYZES SEIZED THE MOVEMENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER 9-11 AND IT TOOK MONTHS BEFORE MANY ORGANIZATIONS CAME BACK TO ACTION IN THE STREETS. SOME ORGANIZATIONS CLOSED SHOP OR DOWNSIZED AFTER 9-11 BECAUSE OF THE CHANGES IN THEIR FUNDING. ON THE BRIGHT SIDE IN 2001, CUBA ORGANIZED THE FIRST HEMISPHERIC GATHERING OF THE MOVEMENTS AGAINST FREE TRADE AREAS OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA). THE CONVERGENCE OF POPULAR MOVEMENTS & ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AMERICAS (COMPA) HELD ITS FIRST ASSEMBLY IN WASHINGTON D.C. AT THIS TIME REGIONALLY ON THE US-MEXICO BORDER, THE SOUTHWEST NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE (SNEEJ) STARTED A FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO PROTEST AT THE BORDER CITIES AT THEIR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES (CROSSINGS) PROTESTING THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA), THE MILITARIZATION OF THE US-MEXICO BORDERS AND REPRESSIVE IMMIGRATION LAWS.

IN 2002 AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE GROUP THAT ATTENDED THE FIRST WSF, IN 2001 A GROUP OF GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDED THE WSF II AND CAME BACK DECIDED TO HOLD AN ORGANIZING MEETING FOR THE FORM GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE DEDICATED TO MAKING SURE PEOPLE OF COLOR AND GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE WSF PROCESS. THE ORGANIZING MEETING TOOK PLACE IN CHICAGO WITH ABOUT 14 ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING. SO IN SPITE OF THE SETBACKS AND EARLY PARALYZES, THE MOVEMENT REBOUNDED AND REGROUPED. CUBA HELD THE 2002 FTAA HEMISPHERIC GATHERING WHICH DOUBLED UP INTO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ASSEMBLY OF COMPA. THE SOUTHWEST NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE (SNEEJ) ORGANIZED THE 2<sup>ND</sup> PROTEST AT THE BORDER CITIES AT THEIR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES (CROSSINGS) PROTESTING THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA), THE MILITARIZATION OF THE US-MEXICO BORDERS AND REPRESSIVE IMMIGRATION LAWS.

THE TURN-AROUND STARTED IN 2003 WITH THE FEBRUARY 15, GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST THE WAR ON IRAQ WHERE MILLIONS CAME TOGETHER ACROSS BORDERS TO DEMAND AN END TO THE WAR. THE FIRST GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE (GGJ) DELEGATION AND PERHAPS THE LARGEST THERE HAS BEEN TO A WSF TOOK 100 PEOPLE TO PORTO

ALLEGRO, BRASIL. GGJ HELD THE PROPOSAL MEETING ON THE US SOCIAL FORUM WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ALONGSIDE THE JOBS WITH JUSTICE ANNUAL GATHERING IN MIAMI, FL. LATER IN FLORIDA WAS THE FOCUS OF THE MOBILIZATION AGAINST THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS WHOSE GOAL WAS TO ADOPT THE FREE TRADE AREAS OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA), A NAFTA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT FOR THE WHOLE CONTINENT. THE ROOT CAUSE COALITION (MADE UP BY COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS, MIAMI WORKERS CENTER, AND POWER U) AND THE MARCH AND RALLY ORGANIZED BY THEM GALVANIZED THE GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT AS A POWER BASE OF ITS OWN IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST NEO-LIBERAL GLOBALIZATION OF CAPITAL. IN SEATTLE, THE POWER BASES OF THE MOVEMENT WERE HELD BY THE ECOLOGISTS (ENVIRONMENTALISTS), THE LABOR UNIONS (AFLCIO), THE ANTI-GLOBALIZATION NGO'S AND THE YOUTH AND ANARCHISTS ON THE STREETS. NOT UNTIL MIAMI AND THE ROOT CAUSE MARCH DID THE PEOPLE OF COLOR GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT HOLD A POWER BASE AND IDENTITY. THE GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT FINALLY LANDED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE III FTAA HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE IN CUBA DEFINED THE CONTINENTAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST FTAA. THE BATTLE OF CANCUN IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) WAS MARKED BY THE IMMOLATION OF THE KOREAN CAMPESINO PARK?????. THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL SNEEJ BORDER-WIDE MARCH AND PROTEST TOOK PLACE AND HELD DOWN AT LEAST 5 INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES WITH THE SLOGAN 'PRODUCTS SHOULD NOT PASS, IF PEOPLE CAN'T CROSS'. IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, SOUTHWEST WORKERS UNION ORGANIZED THE FIRST OF TWO CONFERENCES OF GLOBALIZATION AND THE FTAA.

IN 04 BUSH STEALS THE ELECTIONS ONCE AGAIN AS WAR RAGES ON IN IRAQ AND SEVERAL OTHER MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM IS MOVED TO INDIA THIS YEAR AND GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE (GGJ) TAKES A SIZEABLE DELEGATION. THE FIRST SOCIAL FORUM OF THE AMERICAS TAKES PLACE IN QUITO, ECUADOR AND SWU HOLDS THE SECOND FTAA GLOBALIZATION CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. SNEEJ ORGANIZED THE 4TH ANNUAL BORDER-WIDE ACTIONS ON THE US-MEXICO BORDERS. GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE (GGJ) ORGANIZED THE US SOCIAL FORUM CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON DC TO DETERMINE IF THE POLITICAL WILL AND NEED EXISTED TO ORGANIZE FOR THE USSF. THE ANSWER WAS A YES, AND THE USSF PROCESS TOOK OFF. CUBA HELD THE 3<sup>RD</sup> FTAA HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE.

IN APRIL OF 2005, THE GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE GROUP BECAME AN ALLIANCE OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS. THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE THE QUESTION AROSE THAT AFTER THE WSF THEN WHAT? HOW DO WE WORK TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE GLOBAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT IN THE US. IT WAS DEEMED THAT GGJA HAD ALL THE NECESSARY

ELEMENTS TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. THE FOUNDING MEETING OF GGJA WAS HELD IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS AND HOSTED BY SWU. THE UNIFIED CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (CAFTA) ALMOST WON IN VOTING DOWN THE AGREEMENT IN THE US CONGRESS. CUBA HELD THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FTAA HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE.

THE US SOCIAL FORUM ORGANIZING PROCESS WAS TAKING PLACE IN 2006 AND THE DATES HAD TO BE MOVED TO 2007 DUE TO THE TRAGIC IMPACTS OF HURRICANE KATRINA & RITA ON THE GULF COAST STATES. IT WAS THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE GGJ ALLIANCE WHO ACCOMPANIED THE USSF PROCESS ALL ALONG THE WAY. WITHOUT GGJA THE USSF WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. THE PEOPLES HURRICANE RELIEF FUND (PHRF) ORGANIZED THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY OF GULF COAST SURVIVORS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT OF RETURN. THE SOUTHEAST SOCIAL FORUM AND THE BORDER SOCIAL FORUM TOOK PLACE ON THE ROAD TO ATLANTA AND THE USSF. GGJA PARTICIPATED IN THE PUERTO RICO SOCIAL FORUM (PRSF).

IN 2006 MASSIVE MIGRANT MARCHES TOOK PLACE TO COUNTER THE GROWING XENOPHOBIA IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PROPOSAL TO CRIMINALIZE ALL UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS PROPOSED BY SENSENBRENNER. THE MEGA-MARCHES STARTED IN FEBRUARY AND MILLIONS MARCHED IN THE MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH LEADING TO THE APRIL NATIONAL DAY OF MOBILIZATION THAT FOCUSED ON PRESSURING CONGRESS TO HALT THE RACIST ATTACK ON IMMIGRANTS AND THEN THE MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL STRIKE AND DAY OF ACTION THAT SAW 5 MILLION MARCHING AND THE GREAT AMERICAN BOYCOTT. THE MEGA-MARCHES WERE RESPONDED TO BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WITH MASS DEPORTATION RAIDS IN FACTORIES, MOVIE THEATRES, SHOPPING MALLS, AND HOUSING COMPLEXES.

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION MOVED TO FURTHER MILITARIZE THE US-MEXICO BORDER BY ADDING NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS, REGULAR ARMY AND BORDER PATROL. BUSH, CONGRESS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) PUSHED THE BORDER WALL OF DEATH TO BE EXTENDED ALONG THE ENTIRE US-MEXICO BORDER FROM BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA. THE FURTHER MILITARIZATION OF BORDER CONTINUED THE TREND STARTED IN 1980'S.

UNDER 'OPERATION GATE KEEPER' IN THE CALIFORNIA AND BAJA CALIFORNIA BORDER SAW THE ERECTION OF A TRIPLE WALL AND NEARLY 4000 DEATHS OF MIGRANTS SINCE THEN, AND 'OPERATION SAFE GUARD' IN ARIZONA AND SONORA SAW THE DEATHS OF APPROXIMATELY 2000 DEATHS OF MIGRANTS SINCE 1994, AND 'OPERATION HOLD THE LINE' IN EL PASO, TEXAS, NEW MEXICO AND CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO SAW THE FEMINICIDE ASSASSINATIONS OF 450 YOUNG WOMEN, AND THE DEATH OF HUNDREDS OF MIGRANTS WHO

**DROWNED AND EZIQUIEL HERNANDEZ JR SHOT BY ARMY SOLDIERS SECRETLY DUG IN ON THE BORDER. OPERATION RIO GRANDE AND OPERATION STREAMLINE HAVE WITNESSED THE DEATHS OF 250 MIGRANTS ANNUALLY DROWNED OR SHOT BY BORDER PATROL OR WHITE RACIST RANCHERS AND VIGILANTE GROUPS.**

**THESE MILITARIZE OPERATIONS SAW THE USE OF ELECTRONIC SENSORS, FOOTBALL STADIUM LIGHTS, NIGHT VISION, HEAT VISION, BORDER WALLS, BORDER PATROL AND MILITARY PATROLS INCLUDING HORSE, MOTORCYCLE, HELICOPTER, AIRPLANE AND DRONE SURVEILLANCE PATROLS.**

**THE FIRST EVER UNITED STATES SOCIAL FORUM (USSF) TOOK PLACE IN JUNE 27-JULY 1, 2007 IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. WITH 12,000 DELEGATES AND 20,000 PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN THE FOUR DAY CONVERGENCE, THE USSF WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM WAS MOVED THIS YEAR TO NAIROBI, KENYA IN AFRICA. ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OF DECEMBER, 2007 FARM WORKERS FROM THE US-MEXICO BORDER REGION ORGANIZED A PROTEST AND A TAKEOVER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE IN CD JUAREZ-EL PASO TO PROTEST THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) AND TO LAUNCH A 'TRACTOR CARAVAN' TO MEXICO CITY TO PROTEST THE LIFTING OF THE AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION TO MEXICO'S SMALL FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS, THAT WILL "RUIN WHAT LEFT OF THE SMALL FARMER IN MEXICO" ACCORDING TO CARLOS MARENTES. GGJA CELEBRATED ITS 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY AS THE ALLIANCE AND 5 YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF GRASSROOTS GLOBAL JUSTICE GROUP.**

**2008 KICKED OFF WITH THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION ON JANUARY 26, THAT SAW MILLIONS OF PEOPLE MOBILIZE AROUND THE WORLD. THE 'TRACTOR CARAVAN' TOOK OFF FROM Cd. JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA TO PROTEST AGAINST THE NAFTA IN MEXICO. THE GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION REPLACED THE WORLD SOCIAL FORUM WHICH NOW WENT TO BE ORGANIZED EVERY TWO YEARS. THE NEXT WSF WILL BE IN 2009 IN BELEM, BRASIL. THIS YEAR THE SOCIAL FORUM OF THE AMERICAS WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON OCTOBER 7-12 IN GUATEMALA. THE US SOCIAL FORUM II IS PLANNED FOR 2010.**

**TODAY WE ARE FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE AND SYSTEMIC SOCIAL CHANGE THAT CONNECTS THE LEVEE AND THE BORDER WALL OF DEATH, THE SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST, I.E., BLACK-BROWN AND RED UNITY BECAUSE WE SHARE THE SAD DISTINCTION OF ALL BEING 'INTERNAL COLONIES' WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND ALL FALL UNDER THE CONTROL OF HOMELAND SECURITY. ON JULY 12 WE ARE CALLING FOR A 'NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION' AGAINST THE BORDER WALL OF DEATH.**

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