

Nonviolence Organizer from Mexico

Berkeley and San Francisco – May 17 & 18

Fed up with the spiraling collateral damage of the drug war and sparked by the torture and murder near Cuernavaca of several young people, including the 24-year-old son of Javier Sicilia, poet, columnist and nonviolence activist, Mexican civil society groups are coordinating nationwide actions May 5 to 8, including a march from Cuernavaca to Mexico City. The theme for the May 5-8 actions is “Estamos hasta la madre. Alto a la guerra. Por un México justo y en paz,” or “We are fed up! Stop the war! For a just and peaceful Mexico.”

Pietro Ameglio, a prominent Gandhian nonviolence educator/activist and close collaborator of Javier Sicilia, will be in the Bay Area this month, speaking about the current crisis in Mexico and the emerging nonviolent resistance. In January 2011, Pietro played a key role in a public demonstration and fast in Juarez, the most violent city in Mexico.



“In the two days following our original gathering in Juarez,” Pietro wrote, “six women were murdered, two of them in Juarez itself; there were kidnappings, disappearances, massacres. All of which raises the question: If our gathering and a public fast didn't halt the violence, what good were they?

“But it was never suggested that this action was going to stop the barbarity. Rather it was intended to contribute to creating better conditions for listening, for coming together and for community action; to increasing the ties of national and international solidarity; to developing the next stages of our broad-based and peaceful struggle; and to shouting out in a very public way ‘Enough!’

“We are in the midst of a tragic war not of our making - the Mexican government declared war against organized crime, and we know that violence generates violence. The saying of Gandhi is more than ever applicable here: ‘An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.’”

Pietro Ameglio of Mexico has worked for more than two decades promoting active nonviolence in Latin America. Currently his efforts are at the heart of an emerging nonviolence movement in Mexico, offering new hope against uncontrolled drug violence and increasing militarization.

May 17, 7 pm: Metta Center for Nonviolence
1730 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Berkeley (near Berkeley BART)

May 18, 7 pm: Center for Political Education
522 Valencia St., San Francisco (near 16th St. BART).

Event organizers: IF and Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz; Fellowship of Reconciliation and Global Exchange in San Francisco; and the Metta Center for Nonviolence. Contact: John Lindsay-Poland, 510-282-8983