

We stand  for peace in Colombia.

The first Mother's Day was a protest against the bloodshed of the Civil War by women who lost their sons. We are rescuing the day for peace in Colombia this year.

Vigils around the country advocating for peace in Colombia were started in March of 2005 as a response to the massacre of 8 residents of the San José de Apartadó peace community, which has rejected the presence of all armed forces since its formation in 1997. The community holds the Colombian military responsible while the government is blaming guerrilla forces. A full, transparent investigation of the massacre is necessary in order to ensure justice in this case. The civilian population is under attack from all sides, and this is but one of many cases of abuses by the Colombian military.

*In the last five years the U.S. has given more than three billion dollars to the Colombian military. Plan Colombia, the U.S. policy towards Colombia, has not reached its aims of curbing drug production or leading the country to peace. Yet President Bush is asking for another 600 million in military aid in 2006. *Why does the United States continue to turn a blind eye to human rights abuses when providing military aid?**

The Message for Your Member Congress: Current U.S. policy in Colombia has failed. Why does the US continue to fund and support aerial fumigations of coca crops considering the ineffectiveness of this policy? Why does the US continually overlook the human rights situation in Colombia when distributing military aid? **It's time for a new policy that prioritizes social assistance instead of military aid.**

For more information on U.S. policy to Colombia, the San Jose peace community case and others, national vigils and more, go to
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