

Fellowship of Reconciliation Delegation to Colombia

What's Land Got To Do With It?: Prospects and Challenges to Lasting Peace in Colombia February 21 – March 6, 2015

After decades of violent armed conflict, for the first time in history, the government has created laws to return stolen lands and recognize victims of state crimes. The government and the country's largest guerrilla group, the FARC are currently engaged in peace talks. Hope is in the air, but foreign investment skyrockets and corporations pillage the country at an unprecedented rate, aggravating Colombia's conflict, which is closely tied to issues of land access to resources. **What prospects are there for lasting peace, justice, and dignity for all Colombians? What role do consumers in the Global North have in perpetuating conflict and injustice in Colombia? What can we do to support meaningful and sustainable peace in Colombia and at home?**

Despite tremendous adversity, Colombians engage in nonviolent grassroots resistance and work courageously in their quest for peace and social justice. **IFOR Austria, SERPAJ, and FOR Peace Presence invite you to join us on a delegation to explore our work with communities, organizations, and individuals engaged in a nonviolent struggle to defend their lives, land, and dignity.**

What to Expect:

- * Meet with local human rights defenders; human rights and environmental NGOs; women peace leaders; young Conscientious Objectors; afro-Colombian, indigenous, and small-scale farmer leaders; and displaced communities
- * Learn about impacts of corporations and how global demand for energy is devastating communities and destroying vital ecosystems.
- * Meet with leaders of local grassroots secular and ecumenical peace and reconciliation initiatives.
- * Connect with a network of global activists and build relationships to strengthen the movement.



The delegation will begin in Colombia's capital city of Bogotá. Then we will head to the Caribbean Coast to visit communities affected by large-scale open-pit coal mining and a community nonviolently resisting being uprooted and driven off their land. Next we will travel to the emblematic Peace Community of San José de Apartadó to learn about their courageous nonviolent struggle to remain on their territory as small-scale farmers. The trip will end in Bogotá to meet with a group of conscientious objectors using art, nonviolent action, and legal strategies to open up spaces for Colombians to seek alternatives to conflict and redefine security to mean life affirming activities, access to healthcare and education, and the right to peace. In Bogotá, we will also conduct advocacy meetings and strategize significant ways to support the efforts for peace and social justice in Colombia and at home.



Delegation sign-ups are due by January 5, 2014 (<http://peacepresence.org/take-action/delegations/>)

Cost: €1,500 (€1,300 Students)

Delegation fee includes: meals, lodging, delegation interpreters and facilitators, transportation within Colombia, delegation set-up, and reading materials. Airfare to and from Colombia is not included.

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