What is SOA Watch?

SOA Watch, which is a movement to close the School of the Americas (SOA), was founded by Father Roy Bourgeois, a vocal, dynamic leader.

The SOA, renamed the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation," but better known as the School of the Assassins, is a U.S. military training school for Latin American soldiers located in Fort Benning, Georgia. The school is synonymous with torture and military repression around the world. Its graduates have long been associated with military coups, human rights abuses and the suppression of popular movements. Hundreds of thousands, according to SOA Watch, have been tortured, raped, killed, and "disappeared" by those trained at the SOA.

According to a 2008 lawsuit, SINALTRAINAL, et al v. The Coca-Cola Co., et al., "The U.S. government has trained over 100,000 of Colombia’s military troops at the School of the Americas...SOA training manuals, which the Pentagon was forced to turn over in 1994, show that the U.S. encouraged these troops to engage in torture and murder of those accused as 'subversives,' resulting in hundreds of extrajudicial executions...In many cases, the U.S. government has also boxed them out of jobs, made it difficult for them to find work, or given them terrible jobs or no jobs at all."

Coca-Cola: Cultural Icon or Corporate Criminal?

The Coca-Cola System is a world full of lies, deception, immorality, corruption, and widespread labor, human rights, and environmental abuses. In Latin America and worldwide, it operates like a criminal syndicate with impunity.

Coke’s Crimes in Colombia & Guatemala

Strong labor unions are critical to improving wages, working conditions and human rights for all workers and for democracies to flourish. For workers in Colombia and Guatemala, a strong union can also mean the difference between life and death.

Lawsuits against Coca-Cola and its bottlers in Colombia charge that Coca-Cola’s bottlers “contracted with or otherwise directed paramilitary security forces that utilized extreme violence and murder, tortured, unlawfully detained or otherwise subjected trade union leaders.” The suits were filed on behalf of SINALTRAINAL—the major union representing Coca-Cola workers in Colombia—several of its members and the survivors of Isidro Gómez and Adolfo Munera, two of its murdered officers.

Help Stop Coca-Cola’s Abuses!

No community that places ethical concerns ahead of monetary gains should be identified with Coca-Cola nor serve as a marketplace for its sales and advertising. That is why many camps, labor unions and co-ops have removed all Coca-Cola machines and stopped serving Coca beverages at their facilities and functions.

We hope that your community will safeguard its integrity and stand up for human rights and the environment. Please join the campaign to remove Coca-Cola products, including Dasani, Fanta, Minute Maid, Nestea, Odwalla, Powerade and Sprite, from your schools, businesses, churches, union halls and government facilities. You can find all of Coca’s brand names at KillerCoke.org.

To learn more, go to www.KillerCoke.org