



SOA Watch Protest: Nov '03

Welcome sign at entrance to protest area.



Ignatian family teaching (3 hr) on Saturday. A packed tent. Jesuit speaks of a "century of solidarity" with the most needy. He is from university in San Salvador where 6 Jesuits, their housekeeper, and her daughter were brutally murdered in December 1989.



Jesuits reading names of more than 40 Jesuits murdered in countries around world. Very moving litany.



Pastor welcomes group at
United Methodist Church on
Saturday evening

Sister Caryl Hartjes, CSA,
recently released from jail,
challenges group to "go past
your comfort zone."





Family man and priest explaining why they will cross line and risk 3-6 months in jail.

Blessing those planning to cross line onto Fort Benning.



Saturday evening liturgy planned by Jesuits. 1,000-2,000 of us attended. Liturgical song leaders helped lead a Spirit-filled celebration.



Angelina and Maria's bags being searched as we went to the rally Saturday afternoon; there was heavy security both days. Maria and Cecilia enjoyed Spanish song that stilts walkers were playing.



Catholic Worker Hospitality House offered respite and a place to connect with others.



Protest participants checked out available resources in booths on one side of the street.



Story telling on the street — very engaging art.

Amazingly, as thousands walked by, none of us seemed to accidentally walk on any of it (in 3-4 different spots).



Puppetista Puppet Pageant: part of Saturday afternoon rally



Two boys carefully studied this powerful exhibit depicting 1,500 children who starve to death every hour. A couple had made this: the husband making the exhibit and his wife hand-making 2,000 dolls.



As they move toward Fort Benning fence, thousands of protesters raised crosses each time the name of a murdered victim was read.



Thousands of individuals and hundreds of groups, such as Fellowship of Reconciliation, participated.



There were many ways to participate in the funeral procession for those killed by SOA graduates.



Another view of the funeral procession.

Angelina, Cecilia, and Maria raising their crosses and saying "Presente" as names were read. It was one hour of standing before our part of the procession began to move.

Names were read for 3-4 hours.





Servites were among the many religious communities that were represented. The Franciscan sister, second from left, is Gwen Hennessey. She and her sister crossed the line in '99 (ages 68 and 88 at the time) and received 6-month jail sentences.



Sisters of Christian Charity and Franciscan Friars attended. Cecilia and Mary Pat participated with Sister Janice, on the left, in the 2001 SOA Watch protest.



IHM peacemakers (second from right, Barbara Beesley a former coworker of Mary Pat's) and Presentation Sisters carried banners that caught one's eye.



Sisters Online - a collaborative effort of several religious communities (www.sistersonline.org) - was represented. Young people, mostly from colleges and high schools, were predominant!



Crosses -- each one representing someone killed by SOA graduates. The youngest victim that I heard named was 3 days old.



The atrocities committed in Central and South America by SOA graduates were reenacted in front of the gates of Fort Benning.



Rest in peace

Reenactment of atrocities
being documented by groups
such as Witness for Peace.





Young people sobbing at the fence at the horror of thousands of killings.



At Fort Benning fence: young people leaving mementoes; a mother explaining to her young son; an older woman reflecting.



Through fence onto Fort Benning; soldiers, police waited to arrest protesters who crossed the line.