



capa

Comité de Apoyo Pro-ANDES
Educators in Support of ANDES

"An illiterate person is easily misguided and exploited. But when a person learns to read and write it becomes easy for him to understand why there is so much poverty and why the government doesn't do anything to improve living conditions."

—Salvadoran educator now in exile

"When it becomes impossible to write history with a pen, then you must write it with a gun."

*—Farabundo Martí,
Salvadoran leader killed by
the government in the
massacre of 1932.*

"Many teachers have been murdered in front of their families by gangs called ORDEN or by members of the army in civilian clothes. Many students have been murdered in their own classrooms. In some cases their heads have been hung in the schoolhouse."

*—Salvadoran educator now a
refugee living in Costa Rica*

"Sometimes during class, machine gun fire is heard. Right away the students and teacher drop to the ground and crawl to a shelter. Only when the gunfire stops can they return to their classroom."

*—ANDES teacher, responsible
for the literacy campaign in
Chalatenango province, a
zone under control of rebel
troops*

"If you make peaceful change impossible, you make violent change inevitable."

*—U.S. President
John F. Kennedy*

For the majority of people in El Salvador and throughout Latin America, illiteracy is as much a part of life as hunger or inadequate health care. For the repressive Salvadoran government, education for the working poor is not only unnecessary; it is subversive. Illiteracy is an important device for social control. It keeps the poor from developing a critical insight into the causes of their poverty and prevents their initiating change in their own lives.

As the war in El Salvador has escalated, it has become increasingly dangerous to be a teacher. Teachers, along with doctors and nurses, priests and nuns, or anyone who works regularly with the poor, have been victims of the genocide inflicted by the Salvadoran military and the right-wing death squads. Since 1979, 362 teachers have been murdered, 19 are held in clandestine prisons and 28 in public prisons; 4,500 teachers have been forced to become refugees in Central America and Mexico. As of October 1981, more than 1,000 schools have been closed, and others, including the University of El Salvador and the Teacher Training School have been occupied by the military. Periodic bombings have destroyed hundreds of village schools throughout the country.

Even as the war continues, a literacy campaign is underway in Salvadoran refugee communities in Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, and in the areas of El Salvador controlled by opposition forces. This campaign embodies the hope and commitment of the Salvadoran people to build a just and free society. The campaign, which has reached more than 3,000 people outside El Salvador, and 23,000 in the controlled zones, is organized and promoted by ANDES 21 DE JUNIO - the National Association of Salvadoran Educators. ANDES, the only union representing the teaching profession, includes more than 90% of all Salvadoran teachers. It has made a commitment to the people: to end illiteracy and make it possible for them to "read about their own reality in order to write their own history." The ANDES teachers are developing materials and methodologies based on the actual experiences of each group of refugees in their own situation. The literacy campaign is an integral part of the struggle for liberation.

CAPA was formed in 1982 by a group of people of various nationalities living in Nicaragua. Its purpose is to inform others about ANDES and to raise funds and collect educational materials for the literacy campaign. Boston CAPA is one of several workteams based in Sweden, West Germany, France and the United States.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

1. Meet specific needs of the Literacy Campaign -
 - **Cash contributions** (make checks payable to CAPA). ANDES needs money to pay for training workshops for their volunteer literacy teachers, as well as for basic educational tools: literacy primers
blackboards and chalk
paper, pencils, rulers, etc.
 - **Materials** - there are many items not easily available under the existing conditions in Central America, such as:
 - office supplies - including manual typewriters and ribbons, mimeo stencils and ink, magic markers and colored pencils.
 - photographic supplies - film, paper, chemicals.
2. Join the millions of people who oppose U.S. policy in Central America.
 - Write to your representatives in Congress and urge them to vote against all military intervention in the Central American region, and to support initiatives for negotiated settlements.
 - Be knowledgeable about the situation in Central America through your local Central America group such as CASA - the Central America Solidarity Association; and join in the events and demonstrations in your town or city.
 - Organize a meeting in your school, church, union or community group. CAPA can provide a slide show (with speaker), educational materials about Central America and more information on the ANDES literacy campaign.

WHAT CAPA CAN PROVIDE FOR YOU

- Slide/Tape Show: "Education for Freedom: The Story of the Salvadoran Refugees' Literacy Campaign." 23 mins. The slide show includes background on the struggle in El Salvador and focuses on the work of ANDES teaching literacy among refugees. It also gives a first person account of one of the literacy teachers working in Nicaragua, a young Salvadoran woman.
- Literature from ANDES including a copy of ANDES' Literacy Primer (in Spanish; \$5.00)
- ANDES newspapers
- Post cards with photographs from the controlled zones of El Salvador (\$.50)
- Silk-screened T-shirts with ANDES logo (\$7.00)
- Handicrafts made by Salvadoran refugees living in Nicaragua (shirts; painted seed necklaces; keychains, pins; embroidered bags, and other items).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you'd like further information or would like to volunteer, collect educational materials, or set up a meeting, please contact the Boston CAPA workteam, by calling (617) 876-4545 or write to:

CAPA
1151 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

To be included on our mailing list, please send to CAPA:

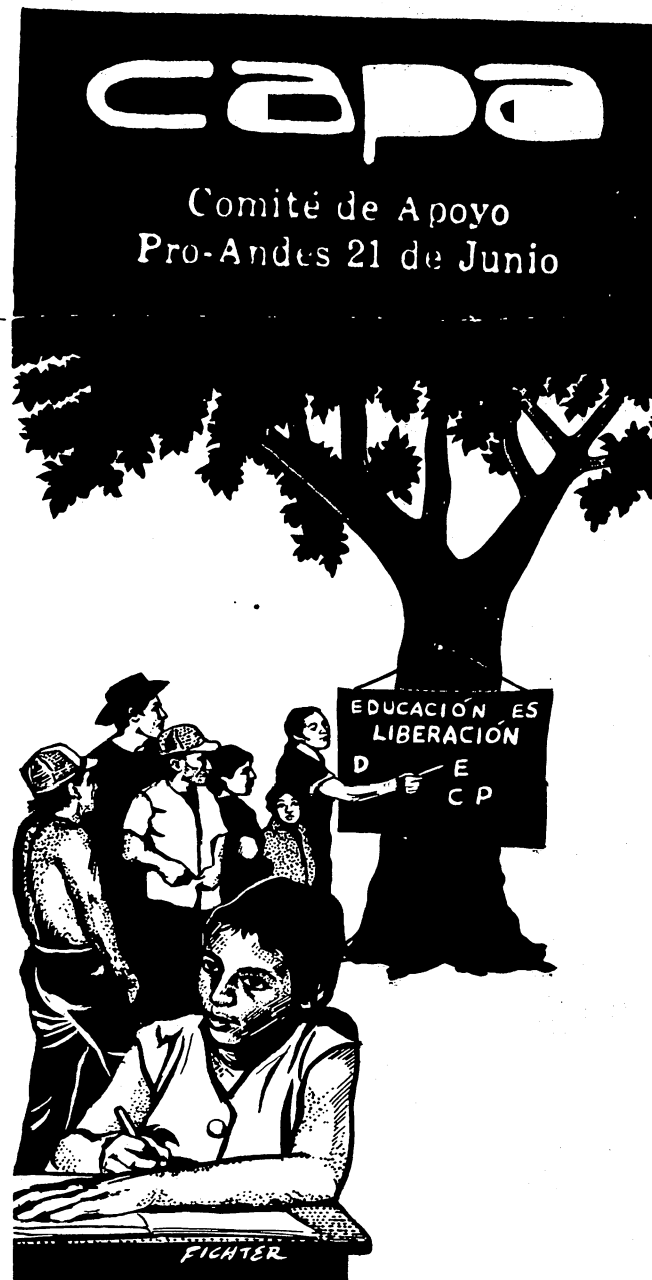
Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

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"We lack everything. Why doesn't the United States send us pencils instead of bombs?"

ANDES teacher in El Salvador, director of a school in one of the zones controlled by the opposition forces.



COMITE DE APOYO PRO-ANDES
Educators in Support of ANDES
1151 MASS AVE., CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138
(617) 876-4545



April 2, 1985

City Council of Cambridge
City Hall
795 Mass. Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

We, here at CAPA, would like to declare our
aggreement and support of your resolution proclaiming
Central America Week in Cambridge. We also feel that
increasing knowledge and understanding of our neighbors
in Central America is a major factor in bringing
peace and true justice to this part of the world.
Thank you for your diligence and caring.

for Peace in Central America,

ANDES: Asociación Nacional de Educadores Salvadoreños
National Association of Salvadoran Educators

S-255

Comm. from Rachel Wyon, Comité de Apoyo Pro Andes (Educators in Support of Andes) in support of resolutions adopted by the Council proclaiming Central America Week.

In City Council,

April 8, 1985

Placed on File -