

Speaker describes persecution of indigenous peoples

Suzanne Marta
Oregon Daily Emerald

In Guatemala, the military doesn't waste bullets on children. Rather, they pick children up by their feet and bash their heads on rocks.

This is just one example of the atrocities committed by the Guatemalan army against the indigenous peoples of their nation of ten million people. Despite severe living conditions, these people have organized themselves into civilian communities called Communities of Population in Resistance (CPR). These CPRs served as the topic of an educational forum organized by the Committee in Solidarity with the Central American People (CISCAP).

Vicente Ramirez Calmo, a national representative of the CPR, who has lived secretly in the jungles of the Ixcán, in

northwestern Guatemala near the Mexican border, shared his personal experiences and described the severe living conditions of his people at the forum.



Calmo

These indigenous people fled to the mountains for safety where their co-operative communities were organized.

"It was very difficult," Ramirez said. "We were not prepared for the harsh conditions in the mountains. We didn't have

shelter, food or health services."

The severe living conditions, however, were only one obstacle.

"It was also a kind of psychological torture," Ramirez said. "We were constantly being persecuted by the military."

After ten years of living in these conditions, the CPRs decided that it was time to come out into the open and tell people that they existed.

"We wanted people to know that we're civilians, not armed guerrillas," Ramirez said.

Bearing a platform of their collectively determined issues, the CPRs sent a commission into Guatemala City to open a dialogue with the government and to inform the public.

National and international groups were sent to visit the CPRs and have given the impetus for international support of the

communities and the beginnings of peace negotiations.

Ramirez emphasized that the current Guatemalan government is controlled by the military and is not, as officially recognized, a democracy.

The current president, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, although known as a human rights advocate, has done little to protect the human rights of the indigenous people, who comprise 70 percent of the Guatemalan population.

"Carpio may be interested in human rights of certain people," Ramirez said, "but he's certainly not interested in our human rights."

CISCAP, which organized the educational forum will present a forum on the writings of Peruvian revolutionary, Jose Carlos Mariategui on Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Central Presbyterian Church.

ROBERTS

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sions on low-income housing have severe conflicts of interest," Ford said. "The decision to tear down low-income housing should be made by someone who doesn't stand to make a profit."

A banquet and awards ceremony at the Hilton Hotel tonight will honor Governor Barbara Roberts with the Ruth McBride Powers Award for Excellence in the Field with a special award for recognition. Noted historian Terrence O'Donnell will be the feature speaker for the evening.

According to Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Saturday's Governor's Conference will examine characteristics of historic communities which define livable, sustainable places.

The Governor's Conference will begin at 9 a.m. in Lawrence Hall with Peter Brink, Vice-President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, addressing the issue of livable and sustain-

able communities. Former architect Laurence Qamar is scheduled to speak on traditional town planning.

A tour of three of Oregon's historic landmark buildings, Deady Hall, Villard Hall and the Knight Library, will begin at 1:30 p.m. Historic preservationists will be present to look at the buildings and comment on the restoration.

Evaluating and restoring Deady Hall, a national historic landmark constructed in 1876, and Villard Hall, built in 1886, will be the topic of a session moderated by Donald Peting, director of the University's historic preservation master's program beginning at 10:45 a.m.

"Few buildings in Oregon have been recognized as national landmarks and the UO is privileged to have two such buildings on campus," Peting said.

A \$25 registration fee is required for Saturday's events. Friday's workshops will be open to the public free of charge.

For more information, call the University Historic Preservation Program at 346-0726.

Students aid rural communities

Robbie Reeves
Oregon Daily Emerald

Nine University students are assisting local communities and paying for college by participating in Learn and Serve America, a part of President Bill Clinton's Americorps national service program.

The Learn and Serve Program, a branch of the Corporation for National and Community Service, aims to place University students in situations where they can assist rural Oregon communities, according to David Povey, director of the Learn and Serve America program and a professor at the University.

Students in the program receive college credit and financial support in the form of a salary and assistance paying off student loans. Participants are expected to work 1,700 hours in the communities in which they are placed.

Six more students are being placed in the program, and will serve in Oregon communities including Oakridge, Florence, Blue River, Umatilla and La Grande, according to Povey. Twenty more students will be placed in communities in March.

Students are working on projects for the RARE program, including creating a map of the Blue

River watershed and supervising the development of the YMCA in Oakridge.

Students in the program receive a year of instruction in public planning and policy information before they are placed in communities. Following the year of service, students are expected to return to the University and write a thesis describing their work in the rural communities.

"The program gives University-trained students the opportunity to help rural areas and learn at the same time," Povey said. "A University ought to help the state that it's located in."

Communities that sponsor a student from the RARE program pay \$12,000 for the year of service, which pays for the student's salary, support services and computer equipment for the program.

Approximately 25 students are interesting in joining the RARE program. The experience would be "applicable to a variety of different situations," said Jed Truett. Truett, a graduate of the University, said the program would "create a place for a person in a variety of different job markets."

RARE program participants and interested students met Thursday to evaluate progress with the program. Participants have worked on their projects for one month.

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