

Solidarity with Honduras

Public Meeting:
Friends Meeting House, Mount St., Manchester
Wednesday 23 Sept, 7.30

Eyewitness Speakers: Calvin and Noah Tucker who have covered Honduras for the Morning Star

Honduras Resists **HONDURAS RESISTE**



On 28 June a military coup removed elected Honduran President Manuel Zelaya. Since then a large scale movement of protest has paralysed the country. This has received little coverage in the media here and most of what there is has been misleading.

Zelaya came from a traditional background but allied his country with the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (including Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and some smaller island states) as a response to the poverty of his people. He also proposed an assembly to review the constitution and doubled the minimum wage.

This was used by the right wing elite as a pretext to remove Zelaya and re-take control. The coup has been universally condemned internationally and Honduras has been excluded from the Organisation of American States. An unprecedented popular mobilisation has since built up based on workers,

peasants and students. They have blockaded main highways and demonstrated in the cities. Their efforts have been met with violence including at least 100 murders and many more beatings. The Honduran army has been on a 'rape spree' and brutally beaten women activists. More than 3,600 arbitrary arrests have been made.

While the USA has verbally called for the restoration of President Zelaya, its ongoing provision of financial and military support is helping to sustain the coup government in power. The US government has refused to call it a "coup", which would legally require it to suspend all financial support. Preferential economic trade arrangement also remains – which are important to Honduras as the US is its chief trade partner. US firms Chiquita and Dole have been implicated in supporting the coup.

The Honduran popular movements need our solidarity and support as they begin the third month of mobilisation. The blockade of media silence needs breaking as this coup follows the typical pattern for the removal of progressive governments in the region. The coup is a threat to progressive governments in the region including Cuba, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia through picking off the weakest link in the ALBA alliance. That's why the mass media are ignoring it.

More background information:

<http://hondurassolidarity.wordpress.com/>

http://www.rightsaction.org/Honduras_alerts.htm

<http://mrzine.monthlyreview.org/ahmed130809.html>

<http://21stcenturysocialism.com/>

<http://therealnews.com/>

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