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Issues in Human Rights
 Working Papers from The Washington Office on Latin America
 Paper # 3

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***Human Rights Education and Training
 in U.S. Policy Toward Latin America***

Since 1989, the U.S. government has embarked on a series of new initiatives in training and education on human rights for Latin American militaries and for U.S. personnel serving in the Western Hemisphere. These programs go beyond any previous attempt to institutionalize human rights education in U.S. foreign policy making toward Latin America. Initiatives include: increased human rights instruction for U.S. personnel slated for postings in Latin America; a congressional initiative known as "expanded IMET" to include civilians in training on oversight and management of military budgets and administration; new policy memoranda on human rights issued by the U.S. Southern Command and the Special Forces Groups; and new human rights training, including practical exercises and expanded laws-of-war training at the U.S. Army School of the Americas.

Human rights organizations have welcomed increased efforts to incorporate human rights into U.S. foreign policy, but are concerned that these programs may be misused politically. In some cases, for example, the Defense Department may be using such programs to justify military aid to countries where Congress might otherwise oppose it due to the recipients' human rights record. In addition, these programs have not been evaluated and may not be effective.

This third paper in WOLA's series of working papers on Issues in Human Rights, was first prepared as the background paper for a seminar WOLA organized in Washington, D.C. on June 16, 1992. The seminar was attended by senior representatives of U.S.-based human rights organizations, of the Departments of State, Defense and Justice. The paper presents extensive research into these extremely diverse and decentralized initiatives, and examines current issues of debate surrounding human rights education and training. Research included extensive interviews with officials at the Departments of State, Defense and Justice, and at military installations in the United States where training is conducted.

To receive a copy of *Human Rights Education and Training in U.S. Policy Toward Latin America* (January 1993, 44pp), please submit this order form and enclose payment to "Washington Office on Latin America:" \$5.00 per report plus \$1.75 postage and handling. For orders of two or more reports, please add an extra \$.75 per copy (orders of 20 copies or more receive a twenty percent discount on the cover price).

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