

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 873

To close the United States Army School of the Americas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 1999

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. WELLSTONE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To close the United States Army School of the Americas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The United States Army operates a military
6 education and training facility known as the United
7 States Army School of the Americas, which is cur-
8 rently located at Fort Benning, Georgia, and is used
9 to train military personnel of Latin American armed
10 forces.

1 (2) The United States Army School of the
2 Americas has a history of having had graduates who
3 were abusive of human rights, and the continued op-
4 eration of the school stands as a barrier to United
5 States efforts to establish a new and constructive re-
6 lationship with Latin American armed forces after
7 the Cold War.

8 (3) Closing the United States Army School of
9 the Americas would not prevent the United States
10 from providing appropriate training for military per-
11 sonnel of Latin American armed forces.

12 (4) The United States Army School of the
13 Americas is only part of the United States' extensive
14 training relationship with Latin American armed
15 forces, which includes—

16 (A) the Center for Hemispheric Defense
17 Studies, the United States Air Force's Inter-
18 American Air Forces Academy, and the United
19 States Navy's Small Craft Instruction and
20 Technical Training School;

21 (B) courses taken by Latin American mili-
22 tary personnel with members of the United
23 States Armed Forces at numerous institutions
24 in the United States; and

1 (C) training with some of the more than
2 50,000 members of the United States Armed
3 Forces who serve on active duty in Latin Amer-
4 ica each year.

5 (5) Graduates of the United States Army
6 School of the Americas include some of the worst
7 human rights abusers in the western hemisphere,
8 including—

9 (A) 19 Salvadoran soldiers linked to the
10 1989 murder of six Jesuit priests and their
11 housekeeper and her daughter;

12 (B) two of the three officers prosecuted by
13 Guatemala for being intellectual authors of the
14 killing of anthropologist Myrna Mack in 1992,
15 as well as several leaders of the notorious Gua-
16 temalan military intelligence unit D-2;

17 (C) one-half of the 247 Colombian army
18 officers cited in the definitive work on Colom-
19 bian human rights abuses, *El Terrorismo de*
20 *Estado en Colombia*, 1992;

21 (D) El Salvador death squad leader Ro-
22 berto D'Aubuisson;

23 (E) Panamanian dictator and drug dealer
24 Manuel Noriega;

1 (F) Argentinian dictator Leopoldo Galtieri,
2 a leader of the so-called “dirty war”, during
3 which some 30,000 civilians were killed or dis-
4 appeared;

5 (G) Haitian Colonel Gambetta Hyppolite,
6 who ordered his soldiers to fire on a provincial
7 electoral bureau in 1987;

8 (H) two of the three killers of Archbishop
9 Oscar Romero of El Salvador;

10 (I) 10 of the 12 officers responsible for the
11 murder of 900 civilians in the El Salvadoran
12 village El Mozote; and

13 (J) three of the five officers involved in the
14 1980 rape and murder of four United States
15 churchwomen in El Salvador.

16 (6) Despite sustained congressional and public
17 pressure, the United States Army School of the
18 Americas has implemented only limited reforms of
19 its curriculum.

20 (7) The continued operation of the United
21 States Army School of the Americas continues to as-
22 sociate the United States with the abuses of its
23 graduates.

1 **SEC. 2. CLOSURE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SCHOOL OF**
2 **THE AMERICAS.**

3 (a) CLOSURE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
5 of the Army shall close the military education and training
6 facility known as the United States Army School of the
7 Americas located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

8 (b) REPEAL OF STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—(1) Sec-
9 tion 4415 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

10 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter
11 407 of such title is amended by striking out the item relat-
12 ing to such section.

13 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ALL OTHER**
14 **TRAINING OF FOREIGN MILITARY PER-**
15 **SONNEL BY THE UNITED STATES.**

16 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that, in each training activity undertaken by the
18 United States with foreign security forces, the Secretary
19 of Defense (or any other executive branch official who may
20 be overseeing the training activity) should—

21 (1) substantially increase emphasis upon re-
22 spect for human rights, the proper role of a military
23 within a democratic society, and accountable and
24 transparent management of defense and security
25 policy; and

1 (2) vigorously implement Department of De-
2 fense regulations regarding the screening of foreign
3 candidates for inclusion in the training activity to
4 ensure that the United States does not train individ-
5 uals implicated in human rights abuses, illegal drug
6 trafficking, or corruption.

7 (b) TRAINING ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In subsection
8 (a), the term “training activity” means any activity in
9 which the United States provides military education and
10 training for foreign security forces, whether conducted in
11 the United States or abroad, including international mili-
12 tary education and training under chapter 5 of part II
13 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347
14 et seq.), international narcotics control under chapter 8
15 of part I of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2291 et seq.), activities
16 under section 1004 of the National Defense Authorization
17 Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (10 U.S.C. 374 note), and activi-
18 ties under the major force program for special operations
19 forces of the United States.

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