Afterword: Peace and Justice Without Borders

Rally 29 January 2011, Anapra Fence El Paso Ciudad Juárez: Remarks by Monsignor Arturo Bañuelas

We are here today because we believe in justice and in the power of our united convictions to make a difference in our border area. We want a new Juarez and a new El Paso, cities that are the best places for our families to live in peace and harmony. Today, we demand no less than this.

We are here because we refuse to lay down in defeat before all the violence, killings, extortions, kidnappings, and beheadings that bloody our streets each day.

We are here because we are not afraid to stand up and speak up for what we believe. We will not be quiet any longer.

We are here to stand in solidarity with the victims of violence, with the families still crying for their lost loved ones, with the wounded, the scared, the disappeared, and the refugees.

We are here to denounce those in authority who pretend to protect us but instead lie, and participate in corruption, and in human rights violations.

We are here because we have a better non-violent solution to the problems that are destroying our lives along our border.

Right now we are living one of the worst crisis in our border history. Juarez and El Paso are two lungs of the same body that was once a thriving cultural, social, and economic community; but now both our communities’ futures are at stake. Hundreds of thousands of our hurting brothers and sisters are fleeing Juarez with trauma and unbearable desperation to a nation unwilling to legally welcome them. America this is not worthy of our country.

Over 3,000 murders on our border is just too much blood running in our streets leaving unbearable scars of pain that will last a life time for fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and friends. We are disgusted and feel angry about our women so savagely tortured and our friends so viciously executed and mutilated. Fear and violence have become a way of life that for some has no end in sight. Recently, I had a funeral of a young man who was beheaded and his body was riddled with over 60 bullets. You can imagine the pain of his father who had to go identify the body of
his dead son. At the funeral some of his friends pledged revenge for those who did this to their friend. I can understand their anger, but this is not the solution.

We know the causes of violence on our border: poverty, hunger, the growing gap between rich and poor, NAFTA policies that ignore the plight of the poor, racism, unjust immigration laws, bailing out Wall Street but not the poor who are losing their homes, illegal trafficking of guns going south, our US lethal addiction for drugs that fund the cartel’s terrorism of our border community, the militarization of our border which has already shown its deathly face, and the profiteering of selling violence to children in the media. The list is long and dreadful. These failed policies and laws serve only to bring dark results: people die, violence flows in our streets. But we can say very clearly today, no law, policy, or profit of violence has ever succeeded. Also it is time to say it clearly: when we buy and use drugs, even recreationally, we are paying for bullets that kill others; and we bring unbearable suffering to families.

We have a solution. Today we bring an alternative to all of this violence and death in our midst. It comes from our solidarity for peace. There is nothing stronger in this world than our united convictions in solidarity for peace. There is always a greater power at work in our solidarity for peace even in the midst of the forces of darkness that surround us. God put in every human heart this desire for peace.

However, the most significant reason for violence comes from our disconnection with each other. This distance translates into bloodshed, hate, carnage, and brutal hostility. Peace is born from our efforts to connect with each other and to value each other as sacred. We are all linked as one human family. We stand together or we fall together. We are each other, and we need to help each other. If I diminish you I diminish myself. If I promote the good in you, I promote the goodness in me and also in everyone else at the same time. The road to peace is in our walking hand in hand with each other as one.

When we connect with one another, we live from our better side; and in us grows a profound desire to do good, not bad. We desire more life not death. We want to walk in our beauty not our blood.

Our creator God made us good not criminals, narcos, terrorists, or murderers. This is why I still believe that there are more good people in the world than bad, and there is really more good in the world than bad, that we have an unbelievable capacity for goodness; and today we are here to celebrate the coming victory of our oneness over the violence of our divisions.

As long as there is violence toward each other we all remain incomplete as human beings. At this time of such chaos and violence, when human life seems so dirt cheap, we much proclaim that each person matters, that they matter enormously to us, for we are each other. When we do this we are renewed as a people, the world turns toward peace as a better solution, and peace reigns. Violence is not the way to solve violence. We can break this vicious cycle of violence with our solidarity for peace.

I have been with many families who have lost loved ones to the violence in Juarez. Yet in my heart I feel hopeful for a new Juarez and a new El Paso because I can see in you a desire to live in solidarity for peace. I see before me a giant that is waking up and ready to roar. Today we can believe that in the end of all our human struggles, we will see that it is our oneness that will prevail over all violence. Victory comes in our togetherness. United for peace we win, not the narcos.
So today we have something important to say, and we want to say it loudly. It may look like Juarez is dying, that the narcos are taking over, and that there is no end in sight. But we are here in solidarity we believe that we will rise again.

– Today we can feel confident that violence will not win in our El Paso-Juarez border as long as we stand together because we believe that: we will rise again. If you believe it with me, say it out loud what you believe today: we believe that “we will rise again.”

– You may fill our streets with blood, our bodies with bullets, our souls with fear, but you will never take away our hope because we believe that we will rise again.

– It may look like the dark forces of violence have the upper hand, that we are outgunned, ill-equipped, and unprepared. But we are not backing down, and we will not be silent anymore because we believe that: we will rise again.

– You can stomp on our work and try to break our lives with your murders, corruption, and terror, but we feel confident that your days are numbered because we have on our side a superior force that comes from our passion for peace. That’s why we believe that we will rise again.

– We may feel wounded; our spirits may be down, our hearts disillusioned, our lives threatened, shaken in our beliefs in our capacity to overcome fear, but we are ready for the struggle and the victory because we believe that we will rise again.

– We are not afraid of the narcos, the threats, and your AK-47’s, because from the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Juarez and El Paso will emerge a stronger, more courageous border people because we believe that: “We will rise again.”

Today is about our hope not our fears. We are ready, and we will not give up in our quest for peace. In our solidarity peace is coming. And we tell the narcos: the future does not belong to you. It belongs to the fearless, courageous peacemakers who live in solidarity for peace. The future belongs to us, and we are ready to anticipate its joy, excitement, and peace.

This is a historic moment for us on the border. Let us commit ourselves to one another today. Embrace each other and see our future exploding in our midst. Do not live in fear. Be ready to show your resolve. Justice will triumph over hate, love will conquer violence, and our compassion will overcome our divisions.

Today we reach out to all the youth. Join us not the narcos. Let us build together a new Juarez and El Paso. It is not too late.

I still believe in the dream of a better Juarez and El Paso. That is why we will not surrender to your bullets of fear. Hope runs through our veins and the cause of peace endures in our hearts. Justice is coming. Peace is at hand. We can feel confident today because God is on the side of peace. Let us become more passionately determined in our convictions for solidarity and its victory in our lives.

Ya Basta! Too many people have worked too hard, sacrificed too much; too much blood has been spilled for us to be bystanders in the emerging new border. Together we will prevail in the face of death. Amigos, Amigas, we will rise again!

Msgr, Arturo J. Bañuelas, STD
A girl at *Las Hormigas* (a community-based organization in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico) poses for the camera during a class. *Las Hormigas* offers specialist education to children who require alternative teaching methods. Their teaching helps students to move at their own pace and uses interactive activities that students can relate to (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))

A girl at *Las Hormigas* does a puzzle during a class (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))
The border between Cuidad Juárez, Chihuahua (Mexico), and El Paso, Texas (USA). Strict security monitors activity entering the United States to prevent illegal migration, drug trafficking, and importing of goods (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))

A billboard displays missing students from the Universidad Autónoma de Cuidad Juárez. Kidnapping and murder of women continue to escalate in the city (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))
Nurses walk up stairs made out of tires to reach the home of a person affected by tuberculosis who lives on the outskirts of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))

Pink crosses are found all over Ciudad Juárez (often on a black background) to represent the place where the body of a murdered woman was found. This form of activism is a painful reminder of the loss of girls and women and the close proximity to everyday life in which it happens (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project Project (PCI, ABC))
A boy watches a border patrol helicopter as it flies over the fence uniting (or dividing) El Paso, Texas, from Cuidad Juárez. The drug war continues all over the US-Mexico border (and beyond), and its impacts are slowly starting to move across the border to the United States (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))

A family relaxes in their home made of scrap wood, on the border of Tijuana and San Diego. Communities made entirely of such materials are developing fast along the perimeters of Tijuana, Baja California (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))
Traffic and advertising on entering Tijuana, Mexico (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))

A family sits outside their home on the outskirts of Cuidad Juárez, Mexico. Resources in these areas are very scarce, with many homes being made out of scrap wood and other discarded materials. Many homes do not have running water and rely on long drop ablution facilities (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project Project (PCI, ABC))
Remembering the faces of murdered girls and murder, as seen through the border fence in Anapra, New Mexico, at a binational solidarity rally for peace and justice, January 29, 2011 (Photograph by Kathleen Staudt)
ASARCO: A century of copper smelting and pollution at the El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, border (Photograph by Ana Matos)
A man receives his daily TB treatment, through an IV drip in a clinic in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Lacking facilities, the man uses a teddy bear to rest his arm. The teddy bear was donated to the clinic (Photograph by Damien Schumann. Courtesy of Nuestra Casa Project (PCI, ABC))
# Index

## A
- Academic disciplines, 4, 5
- Action research, 189–190, 262
- Appalachia, 4, 28, 254, 258, 259
- Arizona, 9, 12, 13, 17, 28, 32, 132, 209, 231–245, 254, 263, 265
- Asylum, 15, 72. *See also Refugees*

## B
- Bilingual education. *See Education; Language*
- Black belt, 4, 29
- Border collaboration, 135, 161–174, 188, 191, 193. *See also Tuberculosis; U.S. Mexico Border Health Commission*
- Border, construction, 41–45, 98, 111, 133, 138, 139, 141, 150 crossings, 23, 24, 48, 81, 102, 131 defined, 203 enforcement, 116 (*see also* Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE); Inspections; US Department of Homeland Security) population, 22–23
- Border Network for Human Rights, 5, 55, 86, 263
- Border Patrol, 43, 45, 114, 234. *See also Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE); US Department of Homeland Security*
- Border Security Industrial Complex, 16, 32, 251
- Bracero Program, 113, 204
- Brick kilns, 144–145, 190–191

## C
- California, 64, 136, 138, 182, 265
- Center-periphery relations. *See Space*
- Centers for Disease control (CDC), 135, 168, 193
- Citizenship, 61–76. *See also Immigration*
- Ciudad Juárez. *See Juárez, Ciudad*
- Civic education, 89, 266
- Civil society activism, 79, 262. *See also Non-government organizations (NGOs)*
- Colonialism, 3, 7, 8, 232, 251
- Community development, 111, 112, 119–120, 122–123
- Community organizations, 7, 86, 186, 189, 236–245. *See also Civil society activism, Non-government organizations (NGOs)*
- Constitution. *See Law, rule of*
- Counter development, 13–14
- Credit, 122
- Culture, 152
cultural competence, 151, 166 *See also Mexican Americans*

## D
- Drugs, abuse, 165, 170
- trafficking, 4, 5, 14, 18, 25, 43, 46, 51, 73, 135, 137
- war on drugs, 13, 17, 18, 21, 252, 254–255, 260

Economic development, 33, 257–259
Economic human, 69–71
 privilege, 72–73
Education, 25, 32, 44, 162, 217–227, 231–245
El Paso, 9, 25, 73, 81, 84, 85, 88, 92, 97,
  110, 112–114, 116, 133, 152, 181, 186,
  187, 202. See also Ysleta Independent
  School District (YISD)
Environmental justice, defined, 177–180
 framing, 191, 192
Environmental problems, 22, 24, 27–29; 128,
  161, 179–194
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 123,
  177–180, 189, 193
Equal rights, 6, 66–67. See also Law, rule of
  Europe, 5, 95, 102, 248, 252, 254
E-visas, 72–73
Faith-based organizations, 7, 30, 93–104,
  263–264. See also Religion
Familism, 149
Fatalism, 149
Femicide/feminicidio. See Violence against
women
Feminist, 55. See also Non-government
 organizations (NGOs); Violence against
women
Four Corners, 4, 29–30
Gender lens, 79–90, 174
Geography, 180. See also Space
Giffords, Representative Gabrielle, 242–243
Global economy, 4–5, 44, 50, 61, 76, 111
 movements, 192
 risk-transfer, 181–183
Grijalva, Representative Raúl, 243
Guns, 49, 51, 243, 251
Health, 31, 115, 121, 127–142, 161–174,
  186–188
 mental, 145–159. See also Environmental
 justice; Environmental problems
Hispanics, 26, 145–146, 169, 187, 191, 222,
  233–234. See also Mexican Americans
HIV, 16, 166–168, 173
Housing, 109–123, 183
Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 123
Human rights, 6, 18, 55, 115, 141, 256, 263,
  265
Human security, 266
ICE. See Immigration & Customs Enforcement
(ICE)
Ideology, 232. See also Political economy
Immigration, 6, 10–12, 15–18, 20, 30, 31, 33,
  46, 48, 51, 61–76, 111, 114, 128, 163,
 in Biblical stories, 99–103
 deaths, 92
 visas for privileged, 72, 114. See also
 Refugees; U.S. Department of
 Homeland Security
Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE),
  16, 107, 232, 248. See also U.S.
 Department of Homeland Security
Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), 7, 86, 203,
  264
Inequalities, 24–25, 115, 123, 126, 137, 145,
  163, 183, 188, 191, 222. See also
 Poverty
Infectious diseases, 136–137, 142
Inspections, 48–49
Juárez, Ciudad, 5–6, 23, 72, 79, 81–89, 92,
  114, 132, 145, 170, 181–184, 186, 189,
  199–211, 223, 260
Justice. See Social justice
Korematsu decision, 15
Language, 45, 151, 155, 166, 215–220,
  224, 226. See also Culture, cultural
  competence; Health
Latin American theology, 96–97
Latino (Hispanic) theology, 97–99
Law enforcement, 4, 65, 79–90
Law, rule of, 6, 15, 62, 65, 67, 79, 248
 international, 67, 188, 240
M
- Manifest Destiny, 7–8, 11, 113
- Manufacturing, 46, 111
- Maquiladoras, 24, 44, 50–51, 112, 181–184, 205
- Markets, 6. See also Global economy
- Masculinities, 79, 150
- Media, 80–83, 86–88, 208, 209
- Medical tourism, 129, 139
- Mérida. See Plan Mérida
- Mexicali, 182
- Mexican Americans, 14–50, 54, 115, 231–245
- Mexico, 7, 8, 13, 14, 21, 24, 33, 51, 80–90, 111, 128, 141, 169, 223, 234, 250, 251, 260, 265
  health insurance, 129–130, 132, 133, 137–139
  lax environmental policy, 182
  migrants within 170, 182, 199–211. See also Immigration; Refugees
- Militarism, 6, 10–15, 17, 19, 21, 43–44, 231–253, 255–256, 266
- Modernization theory, 10
- Moral panic, 4–17

N
- National Affordable Housing Act (NAHA), 112
- National Association of Social Workers, 4
- Native Americas, 27, 29, 163
- New Mexico, 25, 28, 109–123, 132, 180, 190, 192, 254, 265
- Nogales, 281–283
- Non-government organizations (NGOs), 6, 7, 80, 86, 120, 140, 173, 189, 192, 207, 236, 262–266
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), 20, 24, 55, 76, 112, 134, 137, 180, 181, 188, 203, 252
- Nuevo Laredo, 189

O
- Obama, 244, 245
- Operations, 48–50

P
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), 134, 193
- Peace, 266
- Periphery. See Space
- Plan Colombia, 20–21
- Plan Mérida, 19–20, 250–252, 255–256
- Political economy, 41–55, 181
- Pollution, 27, 182, 185, 187, 188. See also
  - Brick kilns; Maquiladoras
- Poverty, 7, 25, 96, 106, 126, 165, 218, 222, 223, 258
  segregation by class, 224. See also Space
- Power, 15, 46, 120, 155
- Power relations, 41–42, 54–55, 181
- Prisons, 12, 255
- Public policy recommendations, 247–262

R
- Refugees, 15–19, 33, 70, 73, 88, 114, 155, 223, 259–262, 264
- Religion, 150. See also Faith-based organizations
- Repatriation, 199–211

S
- San Diego, 188–189
- Secure Border Initiative, 12, 74
- Security (national) paradigm, 6, 10, 19–20, 61–77, 232, 247
  as ideology, 32
- Seguro Popular. See Mexico, health insurance
- Service learning, 89, 225
- Sex tourism, 171
- Sex work, 170–171
- Social justice, 4, 5, 42, 121, 123, 264–266
- Social movements, 182. See also Civil society, Non-government organizations (NGOs)
- Southern Education Foundation, 223
- Space, 3, 4, 8–9, 22, 29, 46, 66–67, 111, 114, 120–122, 182–184, 233, 250
- Standardized testing, 218, 221–222
- Structural violence, 90, 111, 114, 116

T
- Tepeyac Institute, 98–99
- Tijuana, 170, 180, 188–189
- Theories, international development, 4
  modernization, 10
- Trade, 4, 24
- Tuberculosis, 135–136, 140, 166–168, 172
- 287g, 248–249
U
Unemployment, 25, 26, 115–116, 122, 165, 235–236
United Nations, 141, 248, 262
UNDP Human Development Report, 5, 23
United States. See Centers for Disease control (CDC); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Housing and Urban Development (HUD); Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE); Law enforcement; U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS); U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (US DEA); Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)
U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), 20, 33, 256
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 123
U.S. Department of Energy, 281
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), 12, 19, 47, 51, 68, 206, 232, 234, 249, 250, 266. See also Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)
U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (US DEA), 250
U.S.-Mexican relations, 42
U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association, 127, 134
U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission, 134–135
U.S.-Mexico War, 7

V
Violence against women, 30, 79–90, 264
Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), 86, 88
Voting, 9, 74, 80, 90, 233–234, 241, 245

W
Wages, 5, 26, 50, 92, 144, 251–252, 259
wage theft, 264
Water, 27, 115–117, 121, 128, 180, 181, 186–187, 189
Whiteness, 74–76, 188, 224, 235, 241
Women, 26
migrants, 85–86
movements, 80, 88–89, 265

Y
Youth, 257
Ysleta Independent School District (YISD), 218

X
Xenophobia, 231–233