

An aerial photograph of a coastal landscape. The top portion shows a deep blue ocean. Below it is a wide, light-colored sandy beach. Further inland, there is a prominent reddish-brown area, possibly a wetland or a specific type of vegetation. The bottom right corner shows a grid-like pattern, likely a road or a field layout. The text is overlaid on the image.

A Photo Diary of the  
Witness for Peace Women's  
Delegation to Columbia

Oct. 31 – Nov. 11, 2004

*Victoria Marie, O.S.F.*

# November 2, 2002

- We arrived in Bogotá



# November 3, 2004

- We attended the CUT Women's Labor Congress and spoke to women from various labour sectors.



# Banana Workers

- Spoke of gender inequity and health risks involved in the Banana industry



# Health Care Professionals

- Spoke of hospital closures and growing privatization of health care.  
(Health care professional with yellow badge)



# November 4, 2004

Lunch at the Casa de Mujeres [Women's House].



The Women's House is a resource center for women. Their services include: income generating projects; workshops and capacity building; work to change policies; and, working to unionize the informal sector.

# November 5, 2004

- We visit Soacha, the equivalent of a refugee camp for displaced Afro-Colombian.



# The Women of AFRODES

- **Want jobs – Many are heads of households**



# The Women of AFRODES

- **Want schooling for their children**



# The Women of AFRODES

- Want an end to violence and an end to living in fear.



# The Women of AFRODES

- **Want to live in peace and be able to plan for a future for themselves and their children.**



# Organización Femenina Popular

- “Las mujeres no parimos ni forjamos hijos e hijas para la guerra” [“We women did not give birth nor raise sons and daughters for the war”].



# The OFP

- The OFP started in 1972 out of Catholic Base Communities



# The Women of the OFP

- are struggling against political and economic violence and have helped 373 families.



# Preparation for Cauca Trip



# Preparation for Cauca Trip



# November 6, 2004

Committee for the Integration of the Colombian Macizo<sup>1</sup>-CIMA

**One of the primary goals of CIMA is to make known the plight of the civilian non-combatants— the vast majority of the inhabitants of the Macizo—who for years have been caught in the crossfire.**

1. [Macizo is a region in the Department of Cauca]

# CIMA: Timbió

*“But in the midst of this devastation, our struggles and our pain, we work to effect change. We work with other groups and the women are working on nutrition issues and ways to help ourselves. Now in communities women are starting gardens. This is a form of resistance. Women, men come forward and tell them what we are doing!”*

**Human Rights Coordinator- Women’s Programs-CIMA**

# Porvenir: A Beautiful Landscape



# CIMA: Porvenir

A small farmer shows the plans that he and his neighbours have drafted for improvements for their education, farming and organizational needs.



# CIMA: Porvenir

A proud display of the community electric mill for grinding grains as well as organic material to use as fertilizer.



# November 7, 2004

Meeting with ASFADDES-Association for the families of the detained and disappeared



# ASFADDES

Association for the families of the detained and disappeared

ASFADDES was born in 1982 and came out of the disappearance of 13 students. People went to the government to try and find out about their family members to no avail. ASFADDES was founded to find out information about family members and to work for peace, justice and human rights.



# ASFADDES

Association for the families of the detained and disappeared

*22 years ago, we began our struggle and 4 years ago, a law was put in place that forced disappearance is a crime against humanity. Until then the government of Colombia did not have disappearance as a crime. Kidnapping was a crime because it mainly happened to the rich but disappearance was a crime against the poor. One day after Law 589 was passed, our colleague was killed.*

# November 7, 2004

## Movimiento Campesino de Cajibío (MCC) Small Farmers Movement of Cajibío

**MCC is an organization of mestizo small farmers from the municipality of Cajibío, just north of Popayán.**

**After a very intense morning with the women of ASFADDES, the delegation had the opportunity to socialize with the people from the member villages of the MCC.**

# Children of El Cedro, Cajibío



# Children of El Cedro, Cajibío



# Young Traditional Dancers



# Generations



# Village Transportation?



# Young Musicians



# Youth

The youth of Cajibío are active in the community. For example, they operate a radio station and raise rabbits.



# Angie:

## Artistic Exchange at El Cedro



# November 8, 2004

We met with the Regional Indigenous Council of Cauca (CRIC), founded in 1981 to regain the right of the indigenous people to their traditional lands, territories and concomitant rights.



# Dinner with Coordinators of MCC

[Movimiento Campesino de Cajibío (Small Farmers Movement of Cajibío)]



# November 9, 2004

- **Return to Bogota**
- **Free time**
- **Processing experiences to date**
- **Preparation for next meetings.**

# November 10, 2004

- **Embassy Meeting**
- **Action Planning**
- **Final reflection and closing ceremony**

**November 11, 2004 – Return home**