



FOR THE MEXICAN PEOPLE! AGAINST THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT!

DECEMBER, 2004—Ulises Ruiz Ortiz takes office as governor of Oaxaca after widespread claims of election fraud. He is a member of the PRI, the party that has maintained a stranglehold on the Mexican government for most of the past century.

MAY 22, 2006—Teachers in Oaxaca go on strike demanding more schools and more resources for students, especially in impoverished rural and indigenous communities. According to human rights organizations, nearly 80% of Oaxaqueños live in extreme poverty. The teachers set up camp in the main square of the state capital, occupy public buildings, and organize several massive marches.

JUNE 14—3000 state police attack the teacher's encampment, killing at least eight people, "disappearing" others, and injuring hundreds. Within hours, teachers and other Oaxaqueños fight off the police and regain control of the city square.

JUNE 16—400,000 people march in support of the teachers. The teachers occupy seven city halls throughout the state of Oaxaca, and students at the Benito Juarez Autonomous University of Oaxaca take over their campus radio station in support of the teachers. Teachers and others form the **POPULAR ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLE OF OAXACA (APPO)**, a consensus-based network of over two hundred groups, to coordinate resistance and take care of the needs of their communities. They call for Ulises to resign.

AUGUST 1—Women take over the broadcasting station of TV Channel 9. They broadcast footage of the bloody events of June 14, which the government-controlled media had refused to air.

AUGUST 10—Paramilitary groups—composed of out of uniform Oaxacan police and politicians from the PRI—open fire on a march, killing teacher Jose Jimenez.

AUGUST 22—Paramilitaries attack the broadcasting station. In response, residents set up barricades throughout Oaxaca and take over private radio stations.

OCTOBER 18—Teacher and APPO participant Pánfilo Hernández is murdered by paramilitaries. Many others have also been killed or "disappeared."

OCTOBER 27—Paramilitaries armed with pistols and rifles attack the barricades, and residents drive them back with sticks and rocks. The paramilitaries shoot several people and kill three, including US independent media journalist Brad Will. His killers, who are caught on camera, are a police chief and two officials from the PRI.

OCTOBER 28—Dupliciously exploiting Brad's murder, Mexican President Vicente Fox sends 4000 federal police to Oaxaca to "restore order." In full body armor, the police surround and invade the city, firing tear gas indiscriminately into unarmed crowds and residential neighborhoods. Countless Oaxaqueños are beaten, shot, and "disappeared."

NOVEMBER 2—Thousands of police in helicopters and armored vehicles attempt to storm the university to shut down the last radio station controlled by the people of Oaxaca. In a seven-hour pitched battle during which tremendous quantities of tear gas are dropped into the university, locals equipped only with rocks and molotov cocktails succeed in fighting them off.

NOVEMBER 5—Paramilitaries continue firing upon the radio station, shooting one young man in the chest. Tens of thousands of Oaxaqueños march in defiance of the police occupation.

THE END OF THIS STORY IS UP TO US. The Mexican government will only spare the lives of the freedom fighters of Oaxaca if we make it clear that we are watching and will make them answer for their actions.