

World Focus – November 5, 2017

Father Roy Bourgeois

Friend, I'm very honored today to have Father Roy Bourgeois on World Focus. He's received so many awards for his work. He received the Gandhi Peace Award; the Pax Christi Teacher of Peace Award; the Thomas Merton Award; and been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the School of the Americas's Watch. In view of the fact that no good deed goes unpunished, he was canonically dismissed 40 years after his ordination from the Maryknoll fathers and, according to the church, considered as working for an invalid ordination of a woman (Oh my God, a woman!) in a *simulated* mass in Lexington, Kentucky.

So I just want to review a little bit of Father Roy Bourgeois' background. Father Roy founded the SOA Watch in 1990 after witnessing the killings of thousands in Central America in the 1980's, but his conscious awakening and calling to priesthood happened immediately after his experience serving in Vietnam. He joined the Maryknoll Society, an American Catholic organization, and traveled to La Paz, Bolivia, where he was ordered to leave the country after speaking out against the oppressive government of General Hugo Banzer Suarez, which arrested, tortured and killed many dissidents. From there he went to El Salvador. After witnessing numerous human rights abuses that the Salvadoran government, with the financial support and military tactical aid of the United States government, committed against its own population and fellow members of foreign religious organizations, Bourgeois focused on where these soldiers were receiving their training: the School of the Americas.

The SOA Watch grew from a handful of protesters to hundreds, and eventually into thousands today - with international recognition. Bourgeois and SOA Watch were nominated as a candidate for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. The School of the Americas, feeling national and international pressure, changed its name in 2001 to the Western Hemispheric Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). Graduates of the school include former Bolivian dictator Hugo Banzer Suarez, and Honduran General Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, who was a vital player in the recent coup there that ousted President Manuel Zelaya in June 2009. The coup not only brought an end to a democratic government, but it has also turned Honduras into a nightmare, with the highest homicide rate in the world. Political repression is among the worst in the hemisphere: journalists, opposition activists, and LGBT activists have been murdered with impunity. Graduates of the SOA, who head state security forces under the illegitimate post-coup regime of Porfirio Lobo, work in complicity with private security forces to repress small farmers and cooperatives from

defending the lands that provide their sustenance. Repression by SOA graduates also continues today in Colombia, Mexico, and throughout the Americas.

Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) introduced the The Latin American Military Training Review Act." The bill seeks immediate suspension and investigation of the school. Efforts to move the Obama administration to close the school by executive order are underway as well.

In 2012, Father Roy traveled to Ecuador and Nicaragua, where he met with President Correa and President Ortega, who announced during their respective meetings that Ecuador and Nicaragua will no longer send soldiers or police to be trained at the School of the Americas/ WHINSEC. Ecuador and Nicaragua join Argentina, Bolivia, Uruguay and Venezuela, who are also no longer sending troops to the SOA/WHINSEC. Father Roy is also an outspoken proponent of women's ordination since "There will never be justice in the Catholic Church unless women are allowed to be ordained." "Who are we to say that a woman's call [to priesthood] isn't valid?" said Father Roy. "God initiates the call to priesthood, and like racism, sexism is a sin", he added.

So many wonderful things. We support Roy tremendously. This is only part of his work, and this week he's going to be part of the School of Americas Watch - the group that he initiated and founded - and in his statement here he says "as a young man I joined Maryknoll because of its work for justice and equality in the world. Congratulations, Father Roy Bourgeois.

**Roy:** Thank you, Blase.

**Blase:** Well, it's my pleasure, Roy. You're a history maker, and it seems that every history maker has been condemned. The works of Thomas Aquinas were on the index of forbidden books for a hundred years, so you're in good company. Sometimes it takes a while for people to catch on. What do you have planned this week down at the Mexican border?

**Roy:** Well, like you, Blase, and the Office of the Americas, SOA Watch has been poking the beehive for many years. As you know, I've been on your program before and many of your listeners know about the Army School of the Americas. It started many years ago in Panama. In 1984, it was moved to Fort Benning, Georgia. The School of the Americas is well known as the School of the Assassins. It's trained over 70,000 soldiers from 20 countries. Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, many others. And this school has caused untold suffering and death among the poor of South America, and it was all about protecting US economic interests. We gathered at the main gate at Fort Benning for 25 years. You and

so many others have joined us. 20,000 would come for the vigil. And 400 of us have been arrested for crossing the line.

After 25 years of calling for the closure of the School of Assassins, as we still do, we made a big decision, Blase, after much discernment, to go to the US / Mexico border and really express our love, support and solidarity with our migrant sisters and brothers who have been forced to flee for years now. I want to make this very clear. There is a casual relationship here: the School of the Americas and all of the violence its graduates have caused in countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, created the conditions that cause thousands of families to flee their homes with their children. They had no choice. If they stayed, they would be killed. They did what we would do. They wanted to live, they wanted for their children to have a future and they left, they fled. And they came to the United States to try to discover some life and hope. And we are going to be there at the wall in Nogales, that wall that separates us. We'll be there, 2000 of us to express our solidarity and also to call attention to the injustice of our immigration policies. We will express our love again in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters and many in our movement who are DACA members, the Dreamers who came to our country when they were children. There's a person on our staff who came from Colombia when she was four years old. This is her country. She does not know Colombia. And there's a real chance that she and 80,000 DACA members like her may have to leave this country, which would be so cruel and unjust.

**Blase:** People can go to SOAWatch.org. It's all laid out. You have the veterans for peace there. They know very well the relationship between this kind of behavior and unnecessary wars. And you have a most interested group which is called Deported Veterans Advocacy Project. What's this about deported veterans?

**Roy:** Incredible. They served in the US military as I and so many of us in Veterans for Peace has served. And then, while living here as veterans who had served on active duty in Vietnam, they were deported. They were deported. For various reasons. But what we have here is a grave injustice. So we will be gathering in Tucson with a number of workshops to explore the injustices these veterans and other immigrants are experiencing. Then we're going to go out to a large detention center where hundreds of migrants are being held. Then after that we'll have a concert, and the next day we'll gather to Nogales for the march to the 20 foot wall that really is rooted in racism and militarism and US economic policies. We'll meet at the wall, a few thousand of us, and start the march from our hotel in Nogales and march to the wall. We'll have speakers. It will be a big gathering of kindred spirits, young and old, many coming in from parts of Mexico. We'll have friends joining us from Chile. Then we'll head back for more

workshops on the Nogales side of the wall, the Mexican side, and on this side, the US side. There will be music, puppets, and joyous expression of solidarity.

**Blase:** Well, I think it's awesome. You know, a few years ago China built a wall, one of the great wonders of the world. Maybe it was twenty years ago or a few thousand years ago, and it took a lot of live, cost a lot of money, and never kept the Mongols out of China. There used to be a wall in Berlin. We've had a lot of walls, and most of them are saying come over, join us, and they will find a way. This is an act of superb historic stupidity and a waste of money. The amount of money wasted is so overwhelming that we now see that the US military is the largest employer in the world. It's an unbelievable situation. There is no larger employer than the US military. And here we have a president and a government that is attempting to approve a useless wall. Maybe it will be keeping some of us *in*, if the situation deteriorates further under the current leadership. So we are extremely proud of what you're doing, and we have to realize that you were there in El Salvador. I was there in El Salvador. People were fleeing because they were being bombed. People came to San Francisco and LA by the hundreds of thousands, they were bombed on their way up here and came for refuge - which they *have a right to do*. Whatever names we tried to call them over the years, they are refugees who are leaving a place of suffering and persecution; they have a right to leave. International law is extremely important, but we have a complete ignoring of it and a lot of putting refugees down. We want their services in the fields; already, growers are complaining they can't get enough help. The work, farm labor, is highly skilled labor that requires the strength of a professional athlete. Most people can't do it physically, and they don't know how to do it mentally. And here we treat them like dirt and throw them out, and now some of the lesser minds in congress are coming up with a new Bracero program which is basically a slave-type program that brings people here in quasi-military fashion. We had the program before, and it was horrible. Families were broken up by these miserable prisons they're going to visit, and they went home with almost no money. And now some of the glorious members of our US congress want to review this rotten program known as the Guest Worker Program. I think it was one of Henry Kissinger's favorite things. This is what we must fight, and you have been fighting for years with great demonstrations.

People on the other side will be awful happy to see you, won't they?

**Roy:** Yes, and to see people on the other side of that wall, I mean there's such an injustice here. That wall is but a symbol of our racism. Our militarism. Our economic foreign policies that devastate other countries through militarized repression. Blase, I cannot help but think, and I've been doing a lot of reflecting lately, our greatest enemy in this country - and others have come to this - our greatest enemy

is ignorance. There is so much people don't know about our foreign policy. I discovered it first in Bolivia, or when I was in Vietnam, realizing we knew so little about the Vietnamese, who they were, their history, their religion - we were very ignorant. And the same applies to our sisters and brothers in countries in Central America. Going to El Salvador as you did, or to Bolivia or other countries, the people there became our teachers. They really taught us about US foreign policy. They taught us that all-important word, *solidarity*, to really make their struggle our struggle. And we tried to be, you know, really live that out by using our voices and actions, and for many of us that led to prison. I went to prison for four years, and whenever I went to prison and I always thought it was an act of solidarity, and I had no regrets, and again the people of these countries are calling on us to walk in solidarity with them. I encourage people, especially students when I speak at universities, to get a passport and to go to these countries and to listen to these people. Just listen to them and learn what we can do in solidarity, to walk with them in their struggle. Once again, the message, as you say so well, is that we don't need walls, we need bridges, we need hope not despair, we need equality, not discrimination.

**Blase:** Well, you know, you spent four years in federal prison, and you have been a witness to all of this criminality. As you mentioned earlier, the level of ignorance is so overwhelming that to listen to our head of state and members of congress - I don't know that they're at the first or second grade levels in any understanding of history, politics, internationalism, the way empires fall apart, as our is falling apart at this time when we have troops in over a hundred countries right now. The military is the largest employer in the world, it's putting its money into things that are useless for any practical purpose - and it's wasted trillions of dollars. The value of anything like a house goes up ten times, fifteen times what it's worth. It's destroying our economy and our people, and here we are in the midst of it, and so many still remain quite silent. This is not a time for silence.

**Roy:** Yes, the president's unfit, his ignorance, are stunning, I've been so angry, but what I'm beginning to see now is how this very inept, ignorant president, his cruelty and lack of compassion, his ignorance of US foreign policy - putting America first, and racism and sexism and homophobia - he gave the green light to the racists, to the sexists, to the homophobes. I'm with you. But here's the situation. Many people have come to something very clear and simple. When there is an injustice, silence is complicity. And I have to say this - I'm beginning to feel more hope, Blase, because this very inept, very uneducated, ignorant and cruel president of our is bringing more people into the movement. I discovered this when I went to the women's march in DC. There were so many young people there, Blase. And older people, too! And for so many it was the very first time they had demonstrated, the very

first time they broke their silence about an injustice. And that's where the hope lies. With our young people and older people who are breaking their silence for the very first time, knowing that when there is an injustice, my silence is complicity.

**Blase:** Well, we find the same thing out here taking place, a great awakening, a great spiritual awakening. One little nation with four percent of the people on the globe are not going to run the rest with full spectrum dominance. We've seen one empire after another go down. They fall apart at the center by a lack of education. No healthcare. They fall apart at the center because of propaganda and the creation of a Nazi-like cult that says we're supposed to agree with every bit of ridiculousness that the head of state spouts. We're supposed to wave the flag because someone who is very poorly educated and has a high degree of malice, is telling us what to do. Well, this country wasn't set up that way. He must leave power - I have a dream of him getting on a helicopter and giving us the Nixon-like wave as he departs somewhere to do something else.

**Roy:** I want to thank you Blase, I know our time is getting short. But really, once again, KPFK, you, the good folks and longtime friends at Office of the Americas, I keep looking for hope, and really you give us hope in this struggle for peace, justice and equality. Once again you've come through for us.

**Blase:** Thanks so much for being with us today, Roy.

**Roy:** Always a joy to be with you. Let's continue to move forward.

Here are some words from another prophet, Bob Dylan.

### **Masters Of War**

Come you masters of war

You that build all the guns

You that build the death planes

You that build the big bombs

You that hide behind walls

You that hide behind desks

I just want you to know

I can see through your masks

Let me ask you one question

Is your money that good  
Will it buy you forgiveness  
Do you think that it could  
I think you will find  
When your death takes its toll  
All the money you made  
Will never buy back your soul

That was the great Bob Dylan. Well, Matthew Hoh has been with us many times now. We're so impressed with him as a marine company commander taking such a strong position in the peace movement. He sent me a post today which is called, *The War Economy is Killing Our Nation's Spirit*. I would go further than that and say that our war culture and our society's militarism is killing our nation spirit just as its killing people, the environment, and the future at home in the United States, and across the planet. And he talks about the wonderful things they're doing in Raleigh, North Carolina and how they will be meeting tonight, and how the Reverend William Barber and Johnathan Wilson Hargrove will be there with them to repair the breach. The Poor People's Campaign.

I remember the first Poor People's Campaign after the passing of Martin Luther King. We marched in Washington DC. It was pretty rainy, and ultimately we were thrown off the mall by CS gas, which is much stronger than tear gas. They wanted no Poor People's March because we don't have poor people here. Our streets are paved with gold. We just have the highest number of homeless in the nation right here in California, and they're all through the country, millions of people who can't afford housing because we have the largest employer in the world - the US military, and it takes a lot of money.

Thanks Matthew Hoh, for your post this morning and for the work you're doing - supporting television ads against drone attacks. This is really a brilliant idea, and to see the work they're doing to oppose drone attacks - Racism Rationalizes Murder - they have a special website called [knowdrones.com](http://knowdrones.com) and are raising money for TV ads against drone strikes all around the USA.

So here we have the Justice Initiative telling us about Jimmy Carter's bid to make peace between Trump and North Korea. We've talked about the great work of President Carter and how on his watch there were far fewer bombs dropped. You see, we kill civilians without bombs - most of our bombs fall on

children, women, the disabled, and generally people of color because of crass racism together with militarism. Here Trump arrives for a twelve-day trip to Asia, including stops in South Korea and China. And we're worried that his advisors might not muzzle him enough, and there's reason to worry because his rhetoric risks escalation into a deadly war with North Korea. Former President Jimmy Carter has stepped up to potentially work toward a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. He personally told National Security Advisor HR McMaster that he's prepared to go to North Korea to initiate peace talks which could eventually lead to a peace treaty. Peace, that's the objective here, to attain peace. Trump should take Carter up on it. Here from Miles Mogulescu:

“Donald Trump leaves this weekend for a 12-day trip to Asia, including stops in South Korea and China. Unless advisors keep a tight muzzle on him, there’s reason to worry that aggressive rhetoric could increase the risks of escalating into a deadly war with a nuclear-armed North Korea.

But former President Jimmy Carter has stepped up to point a direction to potentially achieving a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula.

Carter personally told National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster that Carter is prepared to go to North Korea to initiate peace talks, which could eventually lead to an agreement consummated by a trip by Trump to Pyongyang, similar to President Nixon’s world-changing peace trip to communist China in 1973.

Trump should take Carter up on it.

Trump in Pyonyang

Let’s call it the “Trump in Pyonyang” deal, a throwback to Richard Nixon’s 1971 trip to open relations with Mao Zedong’s communist China, which followed over two decades of hot and cold wars between two nuclear-armed nations.

If President Trump made a remarkable turnaround and actually initiated negotiations for a permanent peace treaty with North Korea—something that has evaded every President since Harry Truman—he could show that The Art of Deal is something more than a P.R. stunt.

Could the hope of joining only 4 other American Presidents who won the Nobel Peace Prize— [Teddy] Roosevelt, Wilson, Carter, and Obama—tempt Trump’s ego to at least give it a try?

It could save the planet from World War III.

To follow ex-President Carter's suggestion would mean thinking outside the box and going big to attempt achieving a permanent Korean peace that has eluded every President of both parties since the Korean War ended in a stalemate in 1953.

It would mean thinking as big as Nixon, who despite extending the Vietnam War and resigning over the Watergate scandal, is best remembered for his 1972 China trip and his opening of relations with the nuclear-armed Chinese dictatorship in one of the most history-changing diplomatic achievements of modern history.

#### The Range of Options

Indeed, after reading and analyzing the full range of policy suggestions from experts across the political spectrum, Carter's proposal is the very first to provide a flicker of hope that a more or less permanent peace could be achieved with the nuclear armed Korean dictatorship.

There simply is no viable military option. A preventive U.S. military strike on North Korea would likely lead to a North Korean attack on South Korea that could kill as many as a million people within days, including tens of thousands of American civilians and soldiers living in South Korea. A preventive strike on North Korea's nuclear facility could even result in nuclear retaliation. Such an option is, or should be, unthinkable.

Economic sanctions, no matter how severe, never have and never will convince the North Korean regime to give up its nuclear program, which it considers essential to keeping itself in power. And the preservation of its power is the number one priority of the North Korean regime. A regime that tolerated over a million of its citizens dying from famine obviously puts the economic well-being of its own people a distant second to its own survival.

But diplomacy currently appears to be at a standstill—The U.S. insists that it will not negotiate until North Korea destroys its nuclear weapons and long-range missiles in advance, and the North Koreans are determined to keep their nuclear deterrent to protect the regime from the fate of Ghaddafi in Libya and Sadaam Hussein in Iraq who were deposed with U.S. military assistance after acceding to U.S. pressure to give up their nuclear programs.

What's left then is American acceptance of a nuclear-armed North Korea, and reliance on mutually assured deterrence – that is, the threat that if one party attacked the other with nuclear arms, the attacked party would respond by destroying the other with its owned nuclear arms.

There may be no choice but some level of American acquiescence to a nuclear-armed North Korea. But even if that's the case, it's in the U.S. interest to negotiate, in effect, to limit, and ring-fence the Korean nuclear arsenal, to ratchet down tensions that could lead to an accidental nuclear or conventional war, and to establish some semblance of peaceful relations with North Korea.

#### The Terms of the Deal

Here are some possible elements of a large-scale peace initiative with North Korea:

A permanent Peace Treaty officially ending the Korean War—Although hostilities ceased in 1953 with a temporary Armistice, a Peace Treaty was never signed. Technically, the U.S. and North Korea are still at war with each other. Over 65 years after the armed conflict ended, this is just plain silly.

Security guarantees for North Korea, backed up and enforced by the United States, China, Russia, South Korea, Japan, the United Nations, and other members of the international community. This is what the North Korean dictatorship wants more than anything—An enforceable agreement that it will not meet the fate of Sadaam Hussein in Iraq or Muhamar Ghadafi in Libya.

In exchange, North Korea would have to agree to strictly limit the number and type of its nuclear weapons and delivery systems, and submit to tough, verifiable inspections to prevent cheating.

As North Korea demonstrates its adherence to such limitations, economic sanctions would be lifted step by step.

Somewhere during this process, the United States and North Korea would reestablish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors.

Something along these lines would be a really big deal, far beyond what any American Presidents have contemplated before. And this is complicated stuff– there’s obviously much more to a comprehensive peace initiative between the U.S. and North Korea that would have to be negotiated over months and years of behind-the-scenes diplomacy.”

This proposal has been promoted by Miles Mogulescu, an entertainment attorney and business affairs executive. He's also a political activist and writer. In the meantime, the peace movement has come up with something deeper. Being alarmed by the threat of nuclear war between the US and North Korea - many concerned US peace groups, including the Office of the Americas:

“Alarmed by the threat of a nuclear war between the U.S. and North Korea, concerned U.S. peace groups have come together to send an open message to Washington and Pyongyang that we are strongly opposed to any resumption of the horrific Korean War. What we want is a peace treaty to finally end the lingering Korean War!

Inspired by the Vietnam-era People’s Peace Treaty, we have initiated a People’s Peace Treaty with North Korea, to raise awareness about the past U.S. policy toward North Korea, and to send a clear message that we, the people of the U.S., do not want another war with North Korea. This is not an actual treaty, but rather a declaration of peace from the people of the United States.

People’s Peace Treaty with North Korea

*A Message of Peace from the People of the United States*

*Deeply concerned* with the increasing danger of the current military tensions and threats between the Governments of the United States and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (the DPRK, North Korea), which may re-ignite the horrendous fighting in the Korean War by design, mistake or accident;

*Recalling* that the United States currently possesses about 6,800 nuclear weapons, and has threatened the use of nuclear weapons against North Korea in the past, including the most recent threat made by the U.S. President in his terrifying speech to the United Nations (“totally destroy North Korea”);

*Regretting* that the U.S. Government has so far refused to negotiate a peace treaty to replace the temporary Korean War Armistice Agreement of 1953, although such a peace treaty has been proposed by the DPRK many times from 1974 on;

*Convinced* that ending the Korean War officially is an urgent, essential step for the establishment of enduring peace and mutual respect between the U.S. and the DPRK, as well as for the North Korean people's full enjoyment of their basic human rights to life, peace and development – ending their long sufferings from the harsh economic sanctions imposed on them by the U.S. Government since 1950.

You can sign up at Roots Action. Here's what you'll be supporting:

*NOW, THEREFORE*, as a Concerned Person of the United States of America (*or on behalf of a civil society organization*), I hereby sign this People's Peace Treaty with North Korea, dated November 11, 2017, Armistice Day (also Veterans Day in the U.S.), and

1) *Declare* to the world that the Korean War is over as far as I am concerned, and that I will live in "permanent peace and friendship" with the North Korean people (as promised in the 1882 U.S.-Korea Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation that opened the diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Korea for the first time);

2) *Express* my deep apology to the North Korean people for the U.S. Government's long, cruel and unjust hostility against them, including the near total destruction of North Korea due to the heavy U.S. bombings during the Korean War;

3) *Urge* Washington and Pyongyang to immediately stop their preemptive (or preventive) conventional/nuclear attack threats against each other and to sign the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;

4) *Call upon* the U.S. Government to stop its large-scale, joint war drills with the armed forces of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Japan, and commence a gradual withdrawal of the U.S.

troops and weapons from South Korea;

5) *Call upon* the U.S. Government to officially end the lingering and costly Korean War by concluding a peace treaty with the DPRK without further delay, to lift all sanctions against the country, and to join the 164 nations that have normal diplomatic relations with the DPRK;

6) *Pledge* that I will do my best to end the Korean War, and to reach out to the North Korean people – in order to foster greater understanding, reconciliation and friendship.”

Oh there are many wonderful signatories to this. Medea Benjamin has signed on. Jackie Covato, Noam Chomsky, Veterans for Peace, Joe Gershin, Campaign for Peace and Disarmament, David Krieger, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Alice Slater of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, David Swanson, Word Beyond War, Colonel Anne Wright, Code Pink. These are the tools that are available, and this put together by the Beyond War team. The background for this, some of which I have given you on previous programs: Jimmy Carter's *What I Have Learned From North Korea's Leaders*. That was actually in the Washington Post on October 4, 2017. All are extremely important.

Why? Trump is killing record numbers of civilians around the world, and to understand this you might see a piece on TruthOut by the great attorney Marjorie Cohn. Here we have all the pundits on the TV every night, and they seem to forget to say that:

“During the 2016 presidential campaign, Donald Trump advocated killing innocent families of suspected terrorists. "When you get these terrorists, you have to take out their families," he declared. Besides the immorality of killing innocents, the targeting of civilians violates the Geneva Conventions.

The George W. Bush administration unlawfully detained and tortured suspected terrorists. Determined not to send more suspects to Guantánamo, Barack Obama's administration illegally assassinated them with drones and other methods, killing many civilians in the process.

Now the Trump administration is killing record numbers of civilians and weakening the already-flimsy targeted killing rules Obama put in place.”

So this is the situation we are in. I mentioned earlier that indentured servitude will be returned to the United States, and we call on all of you to call your representatives and speak out against this guest worker bill. We need to let you know that the guest worker bill passed the house judiciary committee by 17 -16 votes. The bill creates a modern day Bracero program and would undermine the wages and working conditions of all agricultural workers. These 17 senators seem to think our agricultural workers are paid too much. Try to do what they do for 15 minutes without passing out.

The legislation would allow employers to pay farm workers less than the minimum wage and to replace any farm worker not willing to work for 8.00 per hour or the state minimum wage. It will next move on to the full house. The bill moved forward despite passionate arguments by democrats who pointed out again and again how the new guestworker program would effectively pull down the wages of all American workers. Representative Hank Johnson, of Georgia: "This is setting up a permanent second class of persons in the United States." John Conyers: "Make no mistake, this is a bill that allows employers to bring in millions of "guest workers" - guest workers? - they are not guest workers, they are indentured servants - without real wage and labor protections or even the minimal protections found in other temporary worker programs. US workers would almost certainly be disadvantaged and displaced."

We ask you to oppose this indentured servitude act dressed up as a guest worker act.

We've been there! We had a guest worker program. It was literally horrible and not at all helpful.

So we have a general here who has been convicted because he stood up for his detainee at Guantanamo:

"The Guantanamo Bay military tribunals on Wednesday won their first conviction without a plea deal since 2008. Only it wasn't a terrorist who was convicted – it was a one-star Marine general sticking up for the rights of the accused to have a fair trial.

In defending the principle that attorneys ought to be able to defend their clients free from government surveillance, Brigadier General John Baker was ruled in contempt of court and sentenced to 21 days in confinement. He also must pay a \$1000 fine.

Baker is a senior officer within in the highly controversial military commissions process: the Chief of Defense Counsel. Maj. Ben Sakrisson, the Pentagon spokesman for detentions, confirmed that Baker is being confined in his quarters – at Guantanamo Bay.

“The military commissions are willing to put people in jail for defending the rule of law,” Jay Connell, who represents another Guantanamo detainee facing a military commission, told The Daily Beast.”

So we thank you, General John Baker, and hope you'll join your other marine officers like Matthew Hoh and become an outstanding voice for peace. You can do this, if you wish. In the meantime, because we haven't reached out to enough places, we're conducting secret missions all over Africa. Now Nick Turse has written on this on Tom Dispatch and Reader Supported News. I urge you to check out his extremely important research.

I'm afraid to say we're out of time. Thank you for tuning in to World Focus.



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