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#### Pledge of Resistance

### **“The Pledge of Resistance: A Growing, Nonviolent Movement for Peace in Central America” (1986)**

The Pledge of Resistance was a national network of individuals and organizations committed to opposing US intervention in Central America through nonviolent direct action, including civil disobedience. It formed in late 1983 in response to the US invasion of Grenada, and by fall 1984 had established a growing national organization.

#### **What Is the Pledge of Resistance?**

The Pledge of Resistance is a commitment to join with others in nonviolent opposition to the US war in Central America. All across the United States, people of conscience, including people of faith, have signaled their dissent from this policy by publicly taking this pledge of action.

The Pledge community includes the more than eighty thousand people who have taken this bold step. As the war has widened, many have honored their commitment by participating in nonviolent direct action in their city or town—and by preparing to respond if necessary to a US invasion or other major escalations.

#### **What Are the Pledge’s Goals?**

The Pledge of Resistance seeks to promote genuine peace with justice in Central America. We work to prevent or halt direct US intervention or other major escalations in Central America; end all support for the war in El Salvador; end all funding for the contras, halt the destabilization of Nicaragua, and lift the trade embargo against Nicaragua; end US intervention in Guatemala and Honduras; and promote a peaceful solution to the conflicts in the region.

#### **How Does the Pledge Resist?**

The Pledge opposes the US war in Central America by mobilizing nonviolent grassroots resistance to this conflict. Nationally, the pledge has responded to every major escalation of the war since 1984. Nonviolent direct action takes many forms in over three hundred local pledge groups across the United States. Pledge actions include vigils, leafletting, interfaith services, and demonstrations. In addition, over eighty-five hundred people have been led by conscience to engage in nonviolent civil disobedience.

By publicly protesting this policy, the Pledge has played an important role in stopping military aid to the contras and preventing an outright US invasion. Now, the Pledge is facing the new challenge of halting an ongoing war which puts tens of thousands of people at risk.

### **The Pledge: Nonviolent Direct Action**

Historically, the principles of nonviolent direct action have been used in key American struggles for social change: the women's suffrage movement, the civil rights movement, and the anti-Vietnam War movement. In following this tradition, all who sign this pledge are asked to abide by the following guidelines of nonviolence:

- Our attitude will be one of openness, friendliness, and respect toward all whom we encounter as we engage in our witness against the US war in Central America.
- We will use no violence, verbal or physical, toward any person.
- We will not damage property.
- We will not bring or use any drugs or alcohol other than for medicinal purposes.
- We will not run—it creates panic.
- We will carry no weapons.

Sign the pledge—and help stop the war!

### **The Pledge of Resistance**

I pledge to resist the ongoing US war in Central America! This intervention takes many forms, including:

- financing and directing a costly and bloody war in El Salvador, ranging from aerial bombing of civilians to death-squad killings,
- contra terrorism and political and economic destabilization in Nicaragua,
- support for repression in Guatemala,
- war maneuvers by US Army and National Guard troops throughout Central America,
- the expanding US military presence in Honduras,
- and the persistent, real threat of direct US invasion.

*Nonviolent Civil Disobedience Pledge:* I pledge to resist this ongoing war by joining with others in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience as conscience leads me!

*Nonviolent Legal Protest Pledge:* I pledge to resist this ongoing war by joining with others in acts of legal protest as conscience leads me—and by demonstrating my support for those engaging in nonviolent civil disobedience!