



*"...When those who are concerned in the government of a country, make it their study to sow discord, and cultivate prejudices between nations, it becomes the more unpardonable."—Thomas Paine*

*"The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them."—Patrick Henry*

*"The life of a nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous"—Frederick Douglas*

### **WE DEMAND THAT THE US GOVERNMENT...**

- **CLOSE THE MIS-NAMED NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND STOP MEDDLING IN ELECTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES!**
- **ADVANCE REAL DEMOCRACY AT HOME BY INSURING OUR VOTES ARE VERIFIABLE AND REMOVING THE CORRUPTING INFLUENCE OF CORPORATIONS**

Through taxpayer funded institutions like the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US government has repeatedly tried to manipulate elections around the world, using means that are illegal in the US. When these tactics haven't worked, the NED and USAID have supported efforts to overthrow governments that do not subordinate themselves to US/corporate interests.

### **IMAGINE THIS:**

WHAT IF... the Democrats and Republicans were receiving funding from a foreign government in their bids for the presidency?

WHAT IF...a foreign government aided and abetted the groups behind an attempt to overthrow the US government?

WHAT IF...US citizens conspired with a foreign government to sabotage the US economy?

The US people would be outraged and those conspiring with foreign governments to commit these crimes would go to jail. Governments undertaking these actions would be considered guilty of direct aggressions and would suffer serious consequences. ***But these are exactly the kinds of activities in which the US is involved in other countries around the world.***

### **The NED and/or USAID has...**

- ...spent more than \$20 per voter in Nicaragua in 1990 to get a right wing candidate elected President. This was more per voter than had been spent by both candidates in the 1988 US Presidential election!
- ...funded and set up meetings between organizations involved in the 2002 attempts to overthrow the elected government of Venezuela and to cripple its economy.

- ...funds far right parties in Eastern Europe with close ties to fascists. An example is the role played by convicted Nazi collaborator, László Pazstör, working for the NED funded Free Congress Foundation, who recommended candidates for NED funding in Hungary in 1990.
- ...advised the successful 2006 campaign of Felipe Calderon for President of Mexico in what is widely seen to have been a rigged election.
- ...funded, created, and trained most of the groups involved in the overthrow of Haiti's elected government in 2004. This led to the bloodiest year in Haiti in modern history.
- ...spends almost half its budget in support of the occupation of Iraq, making sure the Iraqi government is compliant with the interests of Big Oil.

*NO WONDER THAT NED CO-FOUNDER, Alan Weinstein, boasted that, "A lot of what we do today was done covertly 25 years ago by the CIA."*

*THE BASIC PROBLEM:*

Whenever and wherever people say "no" to corporate privatization of natural resources and public services, whenever and wherever people demand fair wages and economic opportunities versus mega-profits for the few, the US government steps in to try and manipulate the electoral process. Whether by funding campaigns, buying votes, making threats, or even sponsoring coup d'etats, the goal is the same: where there's a conflict, make sure corporate greed trumps human need.

Attacks against democratic rights elsewhere parallel attacks on democratic rights at home. Often when we vote electronically there is no "paper trail", increasing the likelihood of fraud. Repeatedly, people of color, workers, and elderly persons are finding their names erroneously "purged" from voter roles. We have a political system that favors those with corporate rather than community backing—where it takes so much of a fortune to run for office that candidates must either be rich or utterly beholden to the rich.

It is unacceptable to us that our own government should threaten democratic rights either outside or within our borders. Our vision, our hope, for our own nation is that government should be run from the bottom up, not from the top down. We want real, participatory democracy! We are moved by a vision best enunciated by Abraham Lincoln "...that this nation...shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

*THE RESPECT FOR DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGN-A STEP TOWARD REAL DEMOCRACY:*

WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION! Join us in this important struggle! We are holding campaign rallies around the country and will be presenting petitions with these demands to Congress as a part of our campaign.

Can you contribute time and/or money to the campaign? Would you like to be a Campaign Manager for your town or state? Real democracy must be won by real people. Will you join us? If so, get in touch! We're waiting to hear from YOU!

*The RESPECT for DEMOCRACY Campaign is a project of the ALLIANCE FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE. For more information: respect4democracy@AFGJ.org Phone: 202-544-9355 Website: www.respect4democracy.org*