

FOREWORD

Method

This brief paper is based on interviews and a limited literature review of issues relating to the situation of civil society in contemporary Mexico and more generally in Latin America. The author undertook more than 40 interviews (see Appendix III) during visits to Mexico City, and the states of Morelos, Oaxaca, Tabasco and Veracruz, and during participation at the Latin American Regional Consultation of CIVICUS, in Cartagena, Colombia. Interviews with individuals from Guanajuato, Guerrerro, the State of Mexico, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas were undertaken in Mexico City and Cartagena.

Through the kind invitation of members of the governing council of El Barzon, the author took part in community meetings of members of the organization in *ejidos* at La Gloria in northern Oaxaca and in the regions of Minatitlan and Hidalgotitalan in Eastern Veracruz. The author also had the opportunity to participate in a Cuernavaca workshop presented by the authors of the new book *Ni Paz Ni Justicia*, Marina Patricia Jimenez, Fr. Julian and Fr. Juan Sainz O.P., of the Centro de Derechos Humanos "Fray Bartolome de Las Casas", Chiapas, and in an NGO seminar on the first years of the NAFTA held at the Convento el Carmen in Mexico City.

The author was a participant in the Latin American Regional Consultation of CIVICUS, Cartagena, Colombia, an organization dedicated to strengthening civil society. The meeting provided an opportunity to participate in current Latin America-wide discussions regarding civil society, to hear comparative presentations and to discuss the role of multilateral organizations in reinforcing civil society.

A note on notes

To aid in brevity and readability footnotes are bracketed in abbreviated form at the point of reference. A bibliography with full titles listed in alphabetical order by author is found in Appendix II. The paper is informed in many aspects by the interviews and site visits undertaken by the author. Where direct or near-direct quotation is involved the source is indicated by number (Interview X), and a numbered list of interviewees is found in Appendix III.

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