

powers for the Armed Forces bringing forth the possibility of a new authoritarianism.<sup>9</sup>

In this regard, development assistance, while critically examining military expenditures, must also be deal with both the crisis in policing and the question of crime and impunity. While stripping the military of internal security functions is essential, it must be accompanied by policies and resources designed to make the other institutions charged with law enforcement function more effectively and more democratically in dealing with inner city and rural violence.<sup>10</sup>

How then to promote a vision and practice of peace as part of human development and human security? An immediate task is to secure or restore public confidence and involvement in policing while reducing its reliance on force. The arbitrary power of the army cannot be replaced by the arbitrary power of the police. The development debate must also take account of the need to prevent the rise of vigilantes and privatized security by promoting democratic control of the police force, extending support for the learning and application of doctrines for the use of minimum force, improve management and training as well as support for programs in community self policing.

As long as democratic institutions do not appear to function for ordinary citizens, it will be non-democratic authoritarian forces that will develop facile militaristic solutions. Civil society, government and development agencies must urgently articulate concrete proposals to deal with the growing problem of crime in many countries of the South and the real despair it occasions for ordinary people, also taking into account that violence may also be a logical reaction by people driven by oppressive socio-economic circumstances.

Presuming the existence of democratic institutions and spaces for popular participation, increased resources for such potentially useful means would contribute to citizen security, yet

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<sup>9</sup>Miguel Hurzo Mixco, "El fin del ejército de la sociedad agraria," *Tendencias* (San Salvador), No. 55, julio, 1996.

<sup>10</sup>"Injustice for All: Crime and Impunity in Latin America," *NACLA, Report on the Americas* (Sept/Oct 1996).