



TV

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UN IN ACTION

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GUATEMALA: YOUTH TAKING BACK CONTROL

VIDEO

HELICOPTER.
ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF
DRUG RAID

WS. – TILT DOWN TO CITY OF
ALTA VERAPAZ

JUAN WALKING ON THE STREET
(HIS BACK ON CAMERA)

AUDIO

NARRATION

It's a country under siege – Guatemala.
2.5
Widespread violence and drug trafficking have
paralyzed large parts of the country – threatening
the safety of its citizens. 7.5

In Alta Verapaz, in northern Guatemala, the
nation's Army was also deployed for the first time
since the country's nearly four decade long civil
war ended fifteen years ago. 10.5

NARRATION:

This young man whom we will call Juan is 19
years old. He asked us not to use his real name
to protect his identity.
Like most Guatemalans, Juan grew up in a poor
family. When he was just 14 years old, his
alcoholic father kicked him out of the house. 17

JUAN (SPANISH) M

JUAN TALKS ON CAMERA

“The street was my home. In the street I'd smoke with my friends, “Hey...what's up? How you been? That's when I was introduced to [sniffs] substances ...cocaine ...and I smoked way too much marijuana. We hung out and were supposedly friends, but I didn't know they were using me.” 28

JUAN AND A FRIEND SITTING ON A CURB (BACKS ON CAMERA)

NARRATION

Those “friends” are part of an international drug trade, moving roughly 250-350 tons of cocaine yearly through Central America enroute to North America and Europe. With their enormous resources, the Los Zeta [LOS ZETT-A] cartel has had little difficulty recruiting local youth like Juan, desperate to make a living. 21.5

CACHE OF CONFISCATED DRUGS ON THE STREET

JUAN WALKING (BACK ON CAMERA)

He became foot soldier in the army of drug smugglers that roamed openly throughout the region. 5.5

STILL PHOTO: GUATEMALA PRESIDENT DURING A DRUG RAID

The government has managed to gain back some control in Alta Verapaz, But many believe that the current calm won't last ...

7.5

MAGAZINES OF AMMUNITION ON THE GROUND

And those who would be most affected by the violence are often the most vulnerable fears

INTRO TO MARIANO GONZALEZ

Mariano Gonzalez, a researcher at the Archbishop's Office on Human Rights in Guatemala City. 10.5

MARIANO GONZALEZ (SPANISH) M

MARIANO GONZALEZ ON
CAMERA

“Most of those killed are youth. And a majority of the aggressors are also youth. So what we have are youth at the root of the problem of violence, both as victims and perpetrators. And this is causing tragic phenomena.” 16.5

NARRATION

BARREL OF A RIFLE – CROWD OF
PEOPLE AT BACKGROUND

Fifteen to twenty homicides are committed daily in Guatemala – a statistic that rivals the daily death counts during the civil war that killed more than 200,000 people. Of the current homicides – an alarming percentage of the victims are under 25 years old. 17

FOOTAGE OF CIVIL WAR

VAR. SHOTS OF WORKSHOP
INSIDE A CLASSROOM

One way to deal with the violence is through knowledge. And that’s why this group, The Association of Friends of Development and Peace, ADP, – was created. It’s an innovative education program that trains and certifies young leaders in development and democracy studies. It’s an initiative made possible by the United Nations Democracy Fund, UNDEF, which finances and oversees the project. 26

ROBERTO ALVARADO LECTURES

*(Sound up: Roberto Alvarado (in Spanish)
“What do we understand by “democracy?
Participation ... We are a society, made, directed
and, educated to obey, not think”)*
10.5

NARRATION

ROBERT ALVARADO IN A
CLASSROOM

Roberto Alvarado is ADP’s Director. He believes that empowering the youth to have a voice in their

own future is a crucial weapon in the war against violence. 10.5

ROBERTO ALVARADO TALKS ON CAMERA

ROBERTO (S[PANISH] M
“We train future political leaders.// We can not allow the youth to just vote without analyzing the reason why they cast that vote.// They’re not just preparing for exams but for real life.” 15.5

WORKSHOP
WOMAN SPEAKS ON A MICROPHONE

NARRATION
With UNDEF’s support, the ADP program trains more than 500 young people to be local community leaders, offering them year-long scholarships to learn development and life skills. Once they graduate, they return to their communities to help educate others on their rights, the nation’s laws, and how to participate in the democratic process. 22

JUAN PARTICIPATES IN A CLASSROOM

After four years on the streets, Juan’s siblings intervened and convinced him to go back to school.... and apply to ADP. 8

INTRO TO NATALI PACAY

ADP trainer Nataly Pacay. 3

NATALI PACAY (SPANISH) F
“He loves to participate. He’s very mature, expresses his points of view and likes to communicate. He can get the group going, which shows leadership.” 8.5

JUAN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN A WORKSHOP

NARRATION
Juan quickly learned that he could affect change and his value was much more than being a soldier

in a drug cartel. 7

SOT: JUAN VOICE OVER THE
WORKSHOP

JUAN: (SPANISH)

*"We're beginning to apply what we know about
democracy and peace, and we are making a
change."* 5

UN LOGO CLOSING

NARRATION

This report was produced by Austin Haeberle for
the United Nations. 5