



Annual Report
Andrea Caraballo, Co-Coordinator

2010 turned out to be an extremely violent year throughout Mexico, the Calderon's offensive and the Merida Initiative continue funding the so-called war against narcotrafficking with negative results. The militarization and paramilitarization has unjustifiably increased, especially in Oaxaca where violence and displacement in indigenous communities continues in order to maintain institutional, economic, and racial power as it historically has in these lands and in many other parts of the world.

At CASA Collective we have worked in different scales and in different places throughout Oaxaca. To start off the year, we harvested organic coffee with our friends from YU-VAN cooperative in the Sierra Norte of Oaxaca. We continued the month of February with the celebration of the release of Juan Manuel Martinez Moreno, as we worked hard alongside his family for 14 months fighting for justice and demanding his release for being falsely accused for the murder of Brad Will in 2006. CASA, along with other feminist, LGBTQ, and human rights groups, co-organize a series of presentations for the book "Mujeres de Arena" (Women of Sand) for International Women's Day, in Oaxaca City and in Guelatao. We participated in the "Misión Civil en Defensa del Agua" (Civil Mission in Defense of the Water) with Flor y Canto and Coordinadora de Pueblos en Defensa del Agua, comprised of 12 Zapotec and mestizo communities from the Central Valley region. We worked alongside community radios in the city and in various indigenous communities in collaboration with Pasa La Voz on sister radio projects. We also organized a delegation with a focus on health and immigration comprised of pre-medical university students from the U.S.

Our collective member-volunteers worked in the areas of: immigration, violence, gender, LGBTQ, and indigenous and campesino issues. They helped organize events against violence including working on issues of gender in the Sierra Norte, cooked for large groups, did community-based research, participated in Theater of the Oppressed, worked with community radios, did translations, co-organized the first drag queen show in Oaxaca, worked on silk screening projects, garden projects, and many more.

We also have been working for over a year now on our strategic efforts to rebuild CASA and challenge contradictions in international solidarity work based on privileges of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, etc, which has proven to be challenging work. We have begun to work alongside CACITA (Autonomous Center of the Intercultural Creation of Appropriate Technologies) on co-organizing a joint volunteer program for 2011 to invite specific grassroots groups and organizers from diverse backgrounds to work with both groups in Oaxaca.

On the topic of information and media, we have worked to diffuse information on the paramilitary attacks in the first Carabana Humanitaria a San Juan Copala in April, as well as supported and collaborated with participants and families affected by these attacks. We continue to work on the Spanish version of "Teaching Rebellion" ("Enseñando Rebeldía"), which will soon be released in print version. We continue to work on our monthly e-newsletters which contain pressing news in

English and Spanish, and is sent out to friends throughout Latin America, the U.S., Canada, and Europe. We also participated in the U.S. Social Forum, the Allied Media Conference, the “Festival de la Milpa” en Santa Gertrudis, the “De la Huerta a la Boca” (From the Garden to the Mouth) conference and workshops, and the Asamblea de Afectados Ambientales (Assembly of Environmental Affects).

We continue with our goal of being financially autonomous, without ties to foundations, governments, or universities. Our small budget and expenses were supported thanks to small donations from letter writing initiatives, and grassroots fundraising events through collaboration with allies, friends, alumni and the support of CASA members. We also have done translations, made t-shirts, and posters on recycled-paper to help raise funds.

We are hopeful that 2011 will bring us many more joyous and challenging moments, including moving to another space that will be more economical and smaller. Yet again, it will be a challenge to sustainably maintain the collective space and an enormous privilege to continue working alongside such beautiful, humble, dignified, and rebellious peoples of Oaxaca.