

Radio For Peace International – www.rfpi.org

Vista On-Line: February 2004 Edition

Dear friends and listeners,

Another month has gone by and there are many ongoing developments at Radio For Peace International. It is an exciting time for the station, since many new opportunities are opening up and there is great potential for what we can do, with your continued support, to re-launch the shortwave station in the upcoming months.

RFPI Streaming Audio on the Web Once Again!!

After a brief absence, Radio For Peace International has returned to the Web, broadcasting streaming audio 24 hours a day. After a short period of testing the broadcast capabilities from our new donated studio and office in San José, Costa Rica, we began broadcasting in real time on Wednesday, 4 February 2004. Within the next week, with the installation of a new T1 Internet hookup, we will be able to broadcast in real time to up to 6,000 connections simultaneously. Check on our web site www.rfpi.org in the coming days for updates on how to access this audio stream.

We are returning to broadcasting many of our listener favorites, including Democracy Now!, Free Speech Radio News and Progressive Radio. In the near future we will be including more original RFPI programming on regional issues in Central America, including many pressing and underreported stories. Our goal is to end up broadcasting more than 50 percent of our own in-house programming.

New Story on UPaz Censorship of RFPI!!

Gar Smith of the environmental publication *The Earth Island Journal* and author for *The Edge Online* recently posted a new, lengthy story about the aggressive actions used by the University for Peace to censor and silence Radio for Peace International. It begins like this: “*Last November, the United Nations stood idly by while a band of armed men shut down Costa Rica’s Radio For Peace International...*” The full text of the article is available on Earth Island’s web site, at the following URL:
<http://www.earthisland.org/project/newsPage2.cfm?newsID=539&pageID=177&subSiteID=44>

Update on ICADS/RFPI Partnership

As we reported in the January VISTA newsletter, RFPI is excited to be able to partner with two new organizations in San José – the CEPPA Foundation for Peace Education, with which RFPI shares an office, and the Institute for Central American Development

Studies (ICADS), one of Central America's leading language and social studies institutes. RFPI will soon be offering a combined month-long course in Peace Journalism and Spanish language offered in conjunction with ICADS. More information to follow soon on www.icadscr.com.

We would like to request from any of our supporters that know of organizations or university departments that may be interested in sending applicants to this new combined program, to please send on contact information to info@rfpi.org or Radio For Peace International, PO Box 75, Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica.

RFPI Receives International Delegation from Emerald Isle

During the first week of February, RFPI received a delegation of 10 postgraduate students from the Irish Peace Society (www.peace.ie), a non-profit organization set up by students of the University of Limerick in southwestern Ireland. The IPS students visited RFPI as part of a 10-day delegation to investigate social problems and organizations supporting the peace movement in both Costa Rica and Nicaragua. RFPI manager James Latham spoke to the group about the history of RFPI within the context of global media in general and shortwave radio more specifically, and the events that led to the station's closure and relocation in November, 2003.

Ongoing Legal Battle

RFPI is still meeting weekly with lawyers in Costa Rica to sustain its case against the actions of the University for Peace administration that closed down the station. In recent weeks there is renewed enthusiasm about the possibility of positive action being taken.

The Myth of Solstice

We are now offering, via mail, a compilation of RFPI programming to our listeners in Mp3 format on a new CD entitled "The Myth of Solstice – Winter 2003." The disk includes more than 20 hours of programming from the final days of RFPI transmission from its studios in Ciudad Colón, including some of the most underreported, ignored and censored stories of 2003.

"The Myth of Solstice" is compiled and produced by Panama-based RFPI reporters Allison Thompson and Scott Fratcher.

The more than 60 tracks of programming, labeled "tales of hope and peace by inspired activists," include music and interview with folk artist Jim Page, a report from Panama's conflict-ridden Darien Region, an interview with tree-sitters and their fight against corporate takeovers of natural reserves and the "UPaz Land Swindle," a story which has been nominated for both Sonoma State Censored Stories and SPIKE!

“The Myth of Solstice” is available for a limited time only from Radio For Peace International and can be purchased by emailing info@rfpi.org or writing to Radio For Peace International, Apartado 75, Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica. We suggest a donation of \$25 for the CD, which still equates to a great deal at around a dollar an hour for prime programming that is not available anywhere else. All proceeds not used in producing the CDs go directly to support RFPI and its reconstruction.

All other donations may be sent securely and immediately by clicking on the Pay Pal icon on our web site on <http://www.rfpi.org>, or you may send a check or postal order to

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Yours in Peace,

The RFPI Staff.