“The Truth Up-Front”

Mexican Journalism: Silence or Death

June 16, 2012
Participants:

Hector Salazar: Salazar is among a minority of Mexicans in the United States who have been granted political asylum. On Sept. 21, 2011, Denver immigration judge Mimi Tsankov ruled in favor of granting political asylum to Salazar.

Luis Horacio Nájera: Nájera is a veteran journalist who reported for Reforma media group in Ciudad Juarez and other hotspot areas along the Mexican-US border. He is the recipient of the 2010 International Press Freedom Awards by the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and the 2011/2012 Journalism Fellowship. Luis is living in Canada as a journalist in exile.

Jorge Luis Aguirre: Aguirre, editor of the Mexico news site “La Polaka.com” through his work, he is opening the door for other reporters covering the war. Aguirre fled to El Paso after receiving death threats in 2008 and has lived there ever since. He has been granted asylum in the US in a case believed to be the first of its kind since the country’s bloody drug war began.

Ricardo Chavez Aldana: Radio Reporter, Aldana, a native of Ciudad Juarez, attacked the drug cartels on his radio show until his nephews were killed outside their home. He, along with his wife, his mother and son received repeated death threats until they crossed the border in 2009 into El Paso, Texas. Ricardo received the 2011 President’s Award from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Emilio Gutiérrez Soto: A Mexican journalist, Emilio has sought political asylum in the United States since June 2008, when he and his teenage son fled the small town of Ascensión, Chihuahua, and arrived at the Antelope Wells, N.M., border crossing. He is the recipient of several awards and recognitions for his work bringing the truth up-front. Emilio is the recipient of the Cultural Freedom Award in 2009 by the Lannan Foundation; in 2010 he received the International Press Freedom Award by the Canadian Journalists for Free Expression; in 2011 received The Voice of the Voiceless Award by the Annunciation House, the President’s Award from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and was nominated as the “Ruben Salazar— Exposing Truth Journalism Award” by the Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project. Recently, he was recognized as the Media Person of the Year for 2012, by the National Association of Social Workers.

Michele Salcedo: Michele Salcedo is an editor at The Associated Press. She works in the AP’s Washington Bureau on the national general news desk and the broadcast wire desk. In June 2010 she was elected president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists by its 1,500 members.

Katie Anita Hudak: She is the Executive Director in Las Americas, Immigrant Advocacy Center, which is providing legal counsel for the Emilio Gutierrez Soto Case.
Topics for discussion:
• Impunity and Corruption
• Summary of the process for seeking political asylum
• Legal Aspects
• International Solidarity
• Impact of leaving your country

PROGRAM

6:00—6:30PM Welcome and Introductions
  - By the Alianza Members and
  - Dr Neil Harvey, Professor and Government Department Head at NMSU

6:30—6:40 Héctor Salazar
  - Special Guest presentation

6:40—6:50 Luis Horacio Nájera (Via Skype)

6:50—7:35 Panelists:
  - Jorge Luis Aguirre
  - Ricardo Chávez Aldana
  - Emilio Gutiérrez Soto
  - Michele Salcedo (Via Skype)
  - Katie Anita Hudak

7:35—7:50 Q&A

7:50—8:00 Reflections, Closing and Remarks
  - By Emilio Gutiérrez Soto