

About Pietro Ameglio



Pietro Ameglio is a key organizer in the **Mexican Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity (MPJD)** that emerged in 2011 in response to the spiraling toll of dead and disappeared in the so-called “war on drugs”. The MPJD has made visible the victims of violence and granted dignity to the family members struggling for justice. The MPJD also highlighted the astonishing scale of the violence, which has now passed 100,000 dead and 32,000 disappeared. Its struggle has been radical. It includes courageous lobbying of politicians and security forces (many of whom are themselves involved in some way in organized crime), legal pressure, and nonviolent direct action. The past four years provide rich experience for reflection on the movement’s strategies, especially its use of nonviolent action, and lessons for the future.

Pietro Ameglio is one of the most important teachers and practitioners of active nonviolence in Latin America today. Ameglio strategized with the *MPJD* to organize the “Silent Walk,” a march from Cuernavaca to Mexico City that concluded with more than 200,000 people hearing the testimony of survivors and victims whose suffering has largely been ignored. Ameglio worked with others from the MPJD to create the “Caravan of Consolation” and the “Caravan to the South,” which traveled through the areas of México hardest hit by the violence and provided a platform for victims’ families to become active in the struggle for victims’ rights. All of these activities have tapped into what Ameglio refers to as “the moral reserve” of the Mexican people, the positive values and moral sensibilities that characterize Mexican culture

Pietro Ameglio co-founded the Mexican Peace and Justice Service (SERPAJ, 1987); Thinking Out Loud (*Pensar en Voz Alta*, 1995), a Gandhian-inspired nonviolent action collective to analyze and publicize statistical information on the nature of social conflict in Mexico and promote nonviolent direct actions; and the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity (*MPJD*, 2011), along with poet Javier Sicilia and the families of dead and missing persons. He authored the book, *Gandhi and Civil Disobedience: Mexico Today* (2002). Pietro received the *El Hibri* Peace Education Prize in 2014.

Born in Uruguay but educated in México, Ameglio is an historian with a Master’s degree in Contemporary History. For 18 years he served as Chair of the Humanities Department at La Salle University in Cuernavaca. Combining theoretical knowledge of peace education with practical experience, he has created innovative learning opportunities for students, such as peace camps in Chiapas. Working with *SERPAJ* and *Pensar en Voz Alta*, Ameglio has helped develop curricula used by the autonomous education system in Chiapas. He holds two Special Chairs in Peace Culture and Nonviolent Civil Resistance within the School of Philosophy and Literature at the National Autonomous University in Mexico City.