

# Indians Are Dying And More Deaths Are Planned

Brothers and Sisters,  
I have to write this poem  
because  
of the pain  
in my heart  
for the deaths of thousands  
upon thousands  
of Indian people  
in Guatemala  
in El Salvador  
in Honduras  
at the hands  
of murderers  
(don't we know them well)  
trained  
armed  
supported  
and directly aided  
by the United States government!

And now, the Reagan/CIA/Pentagon  
is planning  
the invasion  
and destruction  
of Nicaragua  
using Somoza thugs  
rapists and torturers  
thrown out of the country  
to plunder once again!

I guess it's a test for us too,  
a moment of truth.  
Do we care?  
Do we care about  
Indians "south of the border"?

Each day hundreds of our  
brothers and sisters  
are murdered.  
Do we care?

Each day the Pentagon moves closer  
to the invasion  
to the assault  
upon Nicaragua.  
Do we care?

This poem requires an answer.  
What will you do?

Can you write letters to senators  
and representatives?  
Can you get a resolution  
from your tribal council?  
Can you get your tribe to  
protect its young men  
from the draft?  
Can you demonstrate?

These are Indians who are dying,  
Can't you hear their cries?  
Tens of thousands are  
refugees in Mexico.  
Can't you feel their sorrow?

This poem requires an answer.  
What will you do?

The Indian wars are not over.  
Reagan's "west"  
has just gone  
"south."

—Jack D. Forbes  
(Powhatan-Renape and Delaware-Lenape)

