

Brief Biography of Roy Bourgeois

Roy Bourgeois was born in Litcher, Louisiana in 1938. He graduated from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette with a degree in Geology, and then spent four years in the military. He received the Purple Heart in Vietnam.

From the military, Roy entered the Maryknoll Order and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1972. He worked with the poor in Bolivia for five years, where he was arrested for his work in human rights and forced to leave the country.

Back in the U.S. Roy became an outspoken critic of U.S. foreign policy in Latin America. In 1990 he founded the School of Americas (SOA) watch. Roy has spent over four years in federal prison for his nonviolent protests against the SOA.

In 1995, he produced a documentary film about the School of Americas called, "*School of Assassins*", which received an Academy Award nomination.

In 1997, he received the Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace Award.

In 2010, Roy was nominated for the Noble Peace Prize.

In 2012, after serving as a Roman Catholic Priest for 40 years, Roy was expelled from the priesthood because of his public support for ordination of women.

Roy continues his work for peace, justice and equality and travels extensively, giving talks at universities, churches and groups around the U.S. and abroad.

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