

"ONCE YOU LEARN TO SPEAK, YOU DON'T WANT TO BE QUIET ANYMORE."

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY RADIO ACTIVIST

In 2006, Oaxaca, Mexico came alive with a broad and diverse movement that captivated the nation and inspired communities organizing for social justice around the world. Fueled by long ignored social contradictions, what began as a teachers' strike demanding more resources for education quickly turned into a massive movement that demanded direct, participatory democracy.

Hundreds of thousands of Oaxacans raised their voices against the abuses of the state government. They participated in marches of up to 800,000 people, planned strategy at the barricades, occupied government buildings, took over radio stations, held sit-ins, and reclaimed spaces for public art and altars for assassinated activists. In the now legendary March of Pots and Pans, two thousand women peacefully took over and operated the state

television channel for three weeks.

All this despite the fierce repression that the movement faced—with hundreds arbitrarily detained, tortured, forced into hiding, or murdered by government forces and paramilitary death squads. And the Oaxacan people are still determined to make their voices heard.

Accompanied by photography and political art, *Teaching Rebellion* is a compilation of testimonies from longtime organizers, teachers, students, housewives, religious leaders, union members, schoolchildren, indigenous community activists, artists and journalists—and many others who participated in what became the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca. This is a chance to listen directly to those living and driving one of the most important social uprisings of the 21st century.

Stories from the Grassroots Mobilization in Oaxaca

TEACHING REBELLION

DIANA DENHAM & C.A.S.A. COLLECTIVE

"Teaching Rebellion presents an inspiring tapestry of voices from the recent popular uprisings in Oaxaca. The reader is embraced with the cries of anguish and triumph, indignation and overwhelming joy, from the heart of this living rebellion."

PETER GELDERLOOS, AUTHOR OF *HOW NONVIOLENCE PROTECTS THE STATE*

"These remarkable people tell us of the historic teachers' struggle for justice in Oaxaca, Mexico, and of the larger, hemispheric battle of all Indigenous people to end five hundred years of racism and repression."

JENNIFER HARBURY, AUTHOR OF *TRUTH, TORTURE AND THE AMERICAN WAY*

"During their marches and protests, whenever the Oaxaca rebels sighted a reporter, they would chant: 'Press, if you have any dignity, the people of Oaxaca demand that you tell the truth.' Teaching Rebellion answers that demand, with ample dignity, providing excellent context to understand the 2006 uprising and extensive and eloquent interviews with the participants themselves; an amazing read and an important contribution to the literature of contemporary rebellion."

JOHN GIBLER, AUTHOR OF *MEXICO UNCONQUERED: CHRONICLES OF POWER AND REVOLT*



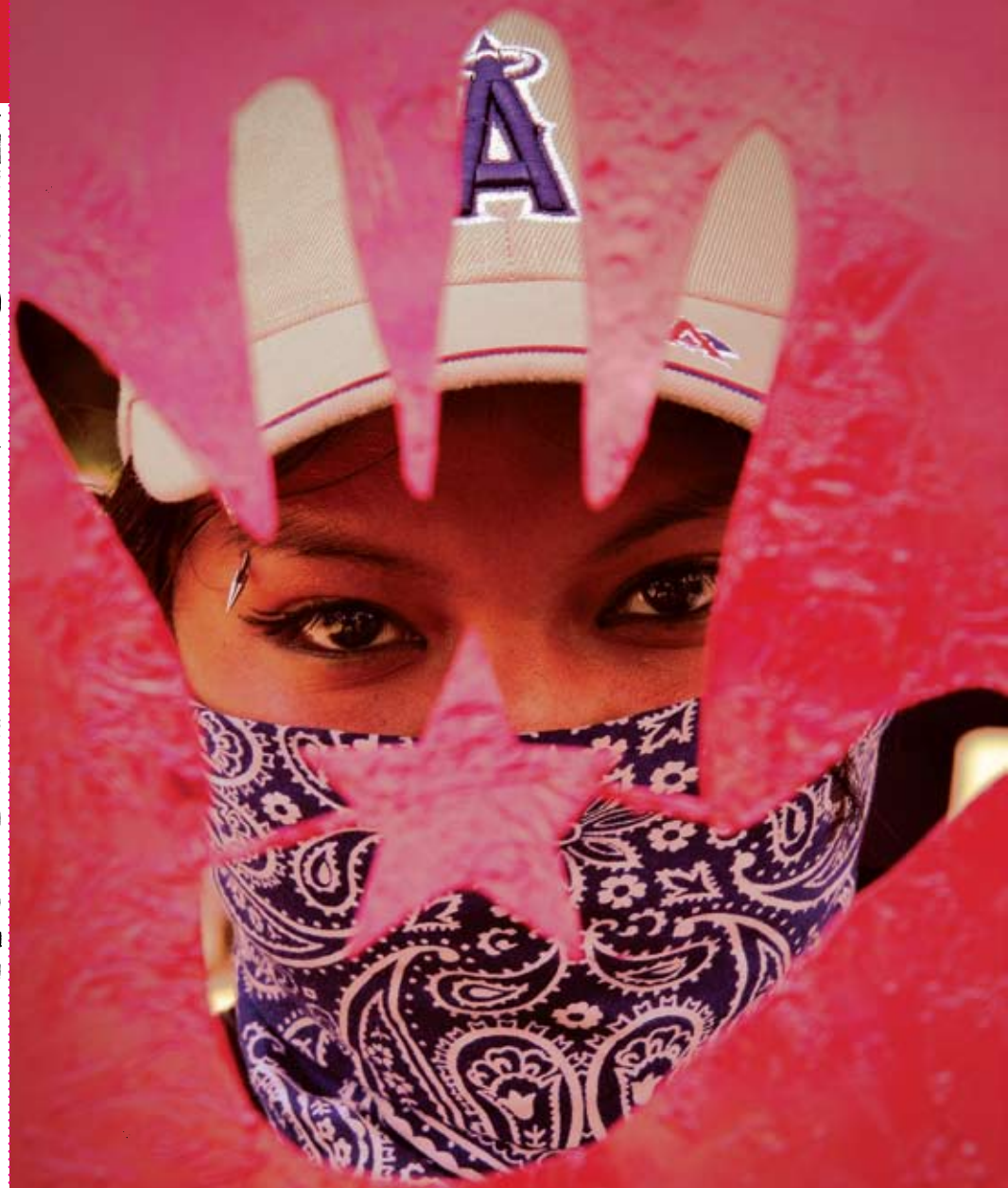
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