

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT EDG-A-00-02-00030-00**

**QUARTERLY REPORT
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2007**

**PROJECT: SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
(AMENDMENT)**

I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK

The substantive activities implemented during the **reporting period (July-September 2007)** focused on the training processes and the dissemination of specialized information about the prevention of torture and comprehensive support for torture victims.

Project staff also began coordinating the arrangements for the **Subregional Workshop for South America**, due to take place **27-29 November 2007** in **Montevideo, Uruguay**, in which psycho-legal teams from **Guatemala, Brazil, Venezuela, Uruguay and Paraguay** will be taking part. The teams that will be participating in this last training activity under the project have already been selected and the logistical and academic preparations are under way.

The 23 documentaries for the **cinema forum** have been chosen and a user's manual is being prepared that will be enriched with the contributions of a group of psychologists who are participating in the IIHR-led training in the provision of psychological support to victims of serious human rights violations during litigation processes.

Two of the five **publications** due to be produced under the project (psychosocial contributions, targeted at the Inter-American System, jurisprudence of the Inter-American System, training processes, the manual on psychological support and the joint IIHR-CEJIL final publication) are already at press and will be launched in **October and November 2007**. The other three publications will be completed by the time the project ends. It should be noted that the final publication (by the IIHR and CEJIL), which was scheduled for completion in **September 2007**, will be print ready in **December 2007**, as some adjustments were made to the chapters proposed initially, so that the publication better reflects the impact of the first phase of the project.

Project staff have also continued implementing the psycho-legal strategy in the **cases of Joe Castillo v. Venezuela, with the Human Rights Vicariate of Venezuela, and La Cantuta v. Peru**, as mentioned in the January-June 2007 report.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Annual Goal 1: To promote psychological support actions and the coordination of psychological contributions with the legal strategy of cases involving torture victims brought before the Inter-American System		
ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Training in the provision of psychological support to victims of torture</p> <p>Objective: To provide psychological support to torture victims who testify before the Inter-American Court</p>	<p>A heterogeneous group of 35 psychology professionals was set up and is receiving training from the IIHR once a month, to support torture victims involved in litigation processes, in San Jose, Costa Rica.</p> <p>The first three training activities were held on psychological support for victims of serious human rights violations involved in litigation processes, on the following dates:</p> <p>27 - 28 July 2007 24 - 25 August 2007 28 - 29 September 2007</p>	<p>“Increased capacity to provide psychological support to torture victims and family members who appear before the Inter-American Court”</p> <p>Once the training is completed, in December 2007, the 35 psychology professionals will be better equipped to provide psychological support to torture victims and family members who appear before the Inter-American Court, and in judicial proceedings at the national level.</p> <p>In their evaluations, the participants have rated all the training activities as either excellent or very good.</p>

Annual Goal 2: To implement institution building actions and promote national networks for providing comprehensive support to torture victims

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>National training workshops</p> <p>Objective: To train civil society and public organizations that provide psychosocial support, medical assistance and legal aid in the use of the methodology for providing psycho-legal support to torture victims, to promote the victims' recovery and reintegration into society</p>	<p>Specialized workshop on comprehensive support for torture victims involved in litigation processes, held 29-31 August 2007 in Uruguay, with the participation of 30 people (15 women and 15 men)</p> <p>30 people, 11 from NGOs and 19 from government agencies in Uruguay, trained in the psycho-legal methodology for providing support to torture victims proposed by the project</p> <p>Specialized workshop on comprehensive support for torture victims involved in litigation processes, held 3-5 August 2007 in Paraguay, with the participation of 37 people (25 women and 12 men)</p> <p>37 people, 15 from NGOs, 8 from the Truth and Justice Commission and 14 from government agencies in Paraguay, trained in the psycho-legal methodology for providing support to torture victims proposed by the project</p>	<p>“Organizations better equipped to provide comprehensive support to torture victims involved in litigation processes, adopting an interdisciplinary approach”</p> <p>The training provided by the IIHR to representatives of public institutions and civil society organizations in Paraguay and Uruguay enhanced the capacity of the professionals concerned to give comprehensive support to torture victims involved in litigation processes, adopting an interdisciplinary approach.</p> <p>The people who took part in the workshop were very interested in the proposed psycho-legal methodology presented by the IIHR, and in the application of the jurisprudence and doctrine of international human rights law at the domestic level in each country</p> <p>Having learned about the jurisprudence of the Inter-American System that deals with reparations, the participants are equipped to provide follow-up to public policies on this issue.</p>

Annual Goal 3: To implement actions to sensitize the general public and civil society and state sectors involved with torture victims, to prevent a repetition of acts of torture and raise awareness of the plight of survivors

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Dissemination of the project and specialized information</p> <p>Objective: To use the IIHR's institutional mechanisms to disseminate specialized information about the prevention of torture and methodologies for providing support to victims, and information about the project and its accomplishments</p>	<p>The specialized section <i>Por una vida sin tortura</i> is updated continuously. It contains information related to truth, justice and reparation processes, the campaign for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, and psychological support for victims of torture. It currently contains: 210 news items, details of 90 organizations involved in the prevention of torture and support for victims, 149 digital documents and 384 documents on rights protection.</p>	<p>“More specialized information disseminated about torture prevention and support for victims”</p> <p>“Jurisprudence of the Inter-American System dealing with reparations for torture victims disseminated more widely”</p> <p>The specialized section of the website, <i>Por una vida sin tortura</i>, is disseminating more widely specialized information about torture prevention and support for victims</p> <p>610 people visited the specialized section during the month of September 2007.</p>

ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p>Research and documentation</p> <p>Objective: To help enhance the quality of the psychological support that torture victims receive by documenting experiences involving the provision of comprehensive support</p>	<p>Further work on the production of 21 documents on methodologies for providing psychological support to victims of torture and other serious human rights violations, which will be posted on the project's Web page. These documents include the opinions of victims who received support under each type of methodology. The experiences described come from organizations in 13 countries in the Americas.</p> <p>Project staff made further progress with the Manual on the process of providing psychological support in litigation processes involving torture victims. The final version will be prepared by the psychologists and lawyers who make up the project's team of specialists.</p> <p>The project also began systematizing the training processes carried out by the project, which will form the basis of the final publication.</p>	<p>“Greater possibilities of improving the quality of the comprehensive psychological support provided to torture victims, through the dissemination of useful experiences”</p> <p>The documents that the project will make available to the professionals who provide support to torture victims will help improve the quality of the comprehensive support they offer.</p>

**PROJECT: SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE (AMENDMENT)
 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY-DECEMBER 2007, UPDATED IN SEPTEMBER 2007**

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Application of psycho-legal methodology for providing support to victims and expert testimony												
Contact with NGOs representing victims and identification of cases												
Application of psycho-legal strategy in three torture cases												
Psychological support for torture victims												
Selection of members of support group												
Implementation of training for support group												
Subregional workshops on comprehensive support to torture victims during the litigation of cases												
Contact and coordination with logistical and academic counterparts for the subregional workshop for Mesoamerica												
Selection of the teams to take part in the subregional workshop for Mesoamerica												
Subregional workshop for Mesoamerica												
Contact and coordination with logistical and academic counterparts for the subregional workshop for South America												
Selection of the teams to take part in the subregional workshop for South America												
Subregional workshop for South America												
National training workshops												
Dissemination of proposal and identification of NGOs to take part in national workshop in El Salvador												
Issuing of invitations to NGOs to take part in national workshop in El Salvador												
Logistical and academic preparations for national workshop in El Salvador												
National workshop in El Salvador												

ACTIVITIES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Dissemination of proposal and identification of NGOs to take part in national workshops in Uruguay and Paraguay												
Issuing of invitations to NGOs to take part in national workshops in Uruguay and Paraguay												
Logistical and academic preparations for national workshops in Uruguay and Paraguay												
National workshops in Uruguay and Paraguay												
Strategy to sensitize civil society												
Follow-up to the preparation of the cinema forum package and the user's manual												
Contact with counterparts and experts who will take part in the cinema forums												
Implementation of cinema forums in 10 countries												
Dissemination of the project and specialized information												
Research and incorporation of specialized materials into the section of the website												
Incorporation of the self-taught course into the specialized section												
Research and documentation												
Selection of 20 proposals for the systematization of experiences of providing support to torture victims												
Preparation, review, editing and uploading to website of experiences of providing support to torture victims												
Presentation of publications during session of the Inter-American Commission												
Systematization of results of the project and preparation of the final publication under the amendment												
Printing of final publication												
Systematization of contributions for a manual on the process of providing												

ACTIVITIES	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C
psychological support and production of the manual												
Revision, editing and publication of jurisprudence of the Inter-American System (user-friendly version)												
Activities pending from Phase I of the project (2002-2006)												
Visit to Washington, D.C. (meetings with USAID, Inter-American Commission, CEJIL)												
Revision, editing and publication of book of specialized articles for the Inter-American System												
Revision, editing and printing of joint IHR-CEJIL final publication												
Preparation of expert testimony for the cases of Febem S.P. v. Brazil and Marcelino Gómez v. Paraguay												