



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

**QUARTERLY REPORT  
JULY-SEPTEMBER 2008**

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

**I. GENERAL FRAMEWORK**

The substantive activities implemented during the reporting period (July-September 2008) were related to the preparation and implementation of training activities, the continuous systematization of information and the uploading of new training materials and tools to the project's Web page, and the preparation of project publications (*Capacitaciones nacionales y subregionales*, containing the results of the training processes carried out during the project, and the joint IIHR-CEJIL final publication). The staff also continued to systematize the contributions for the manual on the psycho-legal methodology and to distribute the publications already available.

The joint final publication with CEJIL was due to be sent to the printer's in August 2008. However, the project decided to include a chapter containing testimonies of victims who have benefited from the support provided under the project. As shown in the schedule of activities, the final version was reprogrammed for December 2008. The project took advantage of the visit to Venezuela (for the national workshop) to contract the services of the COFAVIC organization, which has litigated three torture cases before the IACHR Court, to gather testimonies that will form part of the publication, in accordance with IIHR guidelines.

As mentioned in the report for April-June 2008, Project Counselling Service (PCS), an international cooperation agency that is implementing projects in Peru, Guatemala and Colombia, invited the IIHR to hold an *International seminar on comprehensive support for victims of serious human rights violations* from 12-15 July in Lima, with the PCS covering all the costs. The seminar replicated the national workshops that the IIHR has carried out in 10 countries in the hemisphere with financial support from USAID. The impact of those training processes and the psycho-legal methodology that the IIHR has been disseminating since 2006 prompted the PCS to invite the IIHR to hold the seminar. Around 54 people took part, including justices, judges and prosecutors from Colombia, Guatemala and Peru, and representatives of Peru's Ombudsman Office, mainly from the regions most affected by violence. The justice operators who took part in the activity rated it very highly (over 90% rated it as either excellent or very good). The project took advantage of the opportunity to make a public presentation of the book *Atención integral a víctimas de tortura en procesos de litigio. Aportes psicosociales*, which was attended by around 80 representatives of civil society organizations, state institutions, victims' organizations and academia.

With regard to the support provided during 2007 for the implementation of a psycho-legal strategy in providing follow-up to the case of La Cantuta v. Peru, a document was presented in Lima on 17 July describing the process involved in developing the psycho-legal strategy. Entitled *Podrán matar las flores pero nunca las cantutas. Los familiares del caso La Cantuta: actores en el proceso de búsqueda de verdad y justicia*, the document describes the family members' experience and the support they received from the psycho-legal team of the APRODEH and REFINFA organizations, with support from the IIHR.

With respect to the implementation of the psycho-legal strategy in three cases during 2008, the project had difficulty identifying a case involving the counterpart organizations in the Andean region that met the criteria for inclusion. As a result, the funds will instead be used for the presentation of publications in Washington D.C., since nearly all the resources allocated for the activity were used to ship and cover the customs clearance costs of the copies of the *Aportes psicosociales* book, for the presentations in 21 countries and cities. Strong demand for the book meant that the coverage was greater than originally planned. Implementation of the psycho-legal strategy also got under way in the case of Setimo Garibaldi v. Brazil, and the project and the Myrna Mack Foundation decided to sign a contract to plan a psycho-legal strategy in the case of El Diario Militar v. Guatemala.

The subregional workshop to promote psycho-legal strategies in the litigation of cases involving serious human rights violations, which will bring together psycho-legal teams from Venezuela and Ecuador, was programmed for the month of December 2008, in Quito. The project has begun to coordinate the preparations with the respective counterparts in each country, including academic aspects, particularly the selection of the teams that will take part, and the logistical arrangements with the counterpart in Ecuador, where the activity will be held.

#### **NON-FLEXIBLE USAID INDICATORS:**

##### **1. Number of people benefiting from USG-supported social services (if possible, state # men & # women)**

**Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06–Sep '07): 50**

**Target for FY-2008 (Oct '07–Sep '08): 15**

In financial year 2008, the project plans to work with three cases, using the psycho-legal methodology. The projected number of beneficiaries is at least 15 (five people per case, including victims and family members).

##### **2. Number of service providers trained who serve vulnerable persons (if possible, state # men & # women)**

**Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06–Sep '07): 198 (127 women & 71 men)**

**Target for FY-2008 (Oct '07–Sep '08): 84**

National workshops: Ecuador and Venezuela (2008): 50 people (approximately 40 organizations)

Subregional workshops: southern region (November 2007): 34 people (22 women, 12 men, 24 organizations)

##### **3. Number of USG assisted organizations and/or service delivery systems strengthened who serve vulnerable persons.**

**Achieved in FY-2007 (Oct '06–Sep '07): 112**

**Target for FY-2008 (Oct '07–Sep '08): 70**

Approximately 64 organizations participating in the training activities

Approximately 6 NGOs supported by the IIHR using the psycho-legal methodology

## II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

**Final Goal:** To promote a process of comprehensive support for torture victims by means of timely and effective psycho-legal support during litigation processes

**Performance Indicator:** With US\$282,101.00 of the budget approved for the period 01-01-08 through 30-09-09, the IIHR will promote training processes for at least 50 psychology and law professionals from both state-run institutions and civil society organizations (CSO) in two Latin American countries, with a view to expanding and strengthening the scope of the comprehensive support provided to torture victims who seek legal redress through national justice systems and the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System.

<b>Annual Goal 2: To implement institution building actions and promote national networks for providing comprehensive support to torture victims</b>		
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>IMPACT INDICATORS</b>
<p><b>National training workshops</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> To train civil society and public organizations that provide psychosocial support, medical care and legal assistance in the use of the psycho-legal methodology for supporting torture victims, to promote the victims' recovery and reintegration into society</p>	<p>The <i>Specialized workshop on comprehensive support for victims of serious human rights violations involved in the litigation of cases</i> was held 22-24 September in <b>Venezuela</b>. Thirty people took part, drawn from academia, civil society organizations and state institutions. The participants from the public sector included four officials from the Public Prosecutor's Office and three from the Directorate of Forensic Mental Evaluation and Diagnosis from the Scientific, Police and Criminal Research Service (CICPC). Law and psychology professionals from eight civil society organizations took part, along with professionals from university-level institutions.</p> <p>The academic and logistical preparations were also made for the national workshop in <b>Ecuador</b>, programmed for 1-3 October this year. The national counterpart is the Ecumenical Human Rights Commission (CEDHU).</p>	<p><b>“Organizations better equipped to provide comprehensive support to torture victims involved in litigation, using an interdisciplinary approach”</b></p> <p>The national workshop in Venezuela helped enhance the capacity of the professionals taking part to provide comprehensive support to torture victims involved in litigation, using 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 said that the training had provided them with useful tools for performing their work. Given the current polarization in Venezuelan society, it was no mean achievement for the IIHR to bring together professionals from both the public sector and civil society and involve them in a process of dialogue and exchange.</p> <p><b>Means of verification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-National workshop programs for Ecuador and Venezuela</li> <li>-Venezuela workshop participant list</li> <li>-Invitations to participants</li> <li>-CDs with specialized documents and information submitted during workshops</li> <li>-External consultant contracts who participate in the workshops as national or international presenters</li> </ul>

Annual Goal 3: To produce and disseminate specialized information about the prevention of torture and comprehensive support for victims		
ACTIVITIES	RESULTS	IMPACT INDICATORS
<p><b>Dissemination of the project and specialized information</b></p> <p><b>Objective:</b> 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 achievements</p>	<p>The specialized section <i>Por una vida sin tortura</i> was updated continuously. It contains information related to truth, justice and reparation processes, the campaign to achieve ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, and comprehensive support for torture victims involved in litigation processes. It currently contains <b>452 news items, details of 163 organizations involved in the prevention of torture and providing support for victims, 242 digital documents and 466 documents on rights protection.</b> It also has a mailing list of <b>2493</b> people who receive the fortnightly e-bulletin <i>Por una vida sin tortura</i>. In July and August, the specialized section was visited <b>1900</b> times.</p> <p>The project continued to disseminate the publication <i>Atención integral a víctimas de tortura en procesos de litigio. Aportes psicosociales</i>. A total of <b>521</b> copies were distributed during the quarter under review (July-September 2008), in response to specific requests for donations of books. For example, the project donated 250 copies of the book <i>Atención integral a víctimas de tortura en procesos de litigio. Jurisprudencia en el Sistema Interamericano</i> and 100 copies of the publication <i>Atención integral a víctimas de tortura en procesos de litigio. Aportes psicosociales</i>, at the request of the State Strengthening Area of USAID's Human Rights Program, operated by MSD Colombia, for distribution among the prosecutors of the Human Rights and Justice and Peace units of the Attorney General's Office of Colombia, and the staff of the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ombudsman's Office and civil society organizations, who will be attending a course programmed for 18 September. Both books were distributed in the national workshops that the project held in Ecuador and Venezuela, and in the international seminar that took place in Lima. Hard copies and CDs of both publications were also distributed at the International Seminar Workshop "Building capabilities from the conceptual to the operational levels to eradicate torture and extrajudicial execution," held 25-26 September at the Central University of Venezuela, in Caracas. Colombia's Ombudsman's Office requested that as many copies as possible of the CDs of the publications be distributed among its staff.</p> <p>Furthermore, during the period under review (July-September 2008), the project received the reports from the national counterparts on the simultaneous launches of the book <i>Atención integral a víctimas de tortura en procesos de litigio. Aportes psicosociales</i>, which took place on 26 June, coinciding with International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The presentations were held in <b>Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El</b></p>	<p><b>"Increased dissemination of specialized information about the prevention of torture and support for victims"</b></p> <p>The constant dissemination of specialized information about torture prevention and support for victims via the specialized section of the Web page, <i>Por una vida sin tortura</i>, the distribution of publications, the implementation of lectures and online courses are helping to enhance the capabilities of different sectors of society involved in providing support to victims and equipping them with tools to improve the quality of the work carried out.</p> <p>The dissemination of publications is a conceptual and methodological contribution to which the organizations involved in providing support and defending victims of serious human rights violations have reacted very positively. The IIHR has received numerous requests for the <i>Aportes psicosociales</i> publication and communications remarking on its usefulness.</p> <p>The presentation throughout Latin America of the book "Atención integral a víctimas de tortura. Aportes psicosociales" provided a useful opportunity to promote the start of, and/or follow-up to, specific actions linked to the study, debate, discussion and specialization of issues related to this complex psychological and social process. For example, during several of the activities participants denounced the continued existence of new forms of torture in different national contexts. The presentations also provided a valuable opportunity to develop networks of civil society organizations that will create mechanisms for sharing experiences in human rights work and the psychosocial perspective.</p>

**Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela**, in some cases in more than one city. The activities were led by both law and psychology professionals, others from the social sciences and the mental health field, and representatives of civil society organizations that provide comprehensive support to victims during litigation processes. Some of the activities also benefited from the participation and testimonies of torture victims. The participants said that copies of the book should be available to students and professionals in national and university libraries, as it could make a very valuable contribution with regard to the experience of the Inter-American System, especially in countries that have recently begun to investigate human rights violations committed decades ago. It was suggested that the points addressed in the book could be very useful for psychologists and lawyers endeavoring to bring cases to court, as the publication was a tool for continual consultation by students and people working in the human rights field as well as specialists.

A **lecture** was given on 22 July at the IIHR's headquarters entitled "**Formal justice and symbolic justice in response to human rights violations in Argentina.**" The speaker was Ludmila da Silva Catela, an anthropologist, CONICET researcher, professor at the National University of Cordoba and Director of Cordoba's Provincial Memory Archive. The *Comprehensive support for victims of torture* project promoted the lecture to contribute to the dissemination and discussion of, and reflection on, issues related to the need for justice for the victims of serious human rights violations.

Outreach and sensitization activities were carried out in Paraguay and Uruguay for the **film forums**. The audiovisual materials were shipped to El Salvador and will be sent to Mexico and Chile in the last quarter of the year.

On 8 July, the project issued a call for applications for the **first edition of the Tutored Course** on "The protection of the right to personal integrity and the prohibition of torture in the inter-American and universal human rights protection systems." A total of 129 applications were received from citizens of 19 nations and USAID Colombia offered to finance the participation of five participants from Colombian civil society. The aim in selecting the 19 participants was to include not only people whose work involves torture-related issues (e.g., prison system officials, prosecutors and workers of organizations dedicated to the prevention of torture or the treatment of victims) but also the staff of international agencies, judges or other members of the judicial branch, foreign ministry officials, members of the executive and legislative branches, educators and workers of civil society organizations whose work involves groups potentially vulnerable to torture, such as migrants, children, members of indigenous communities and women.

**Means of verification:**

- Web access to the specialized sección *Por una vida sin tortura* [www.iidh.ed.cr/no.impunidad/](http://www.iidh.ed.cr/no.impunidad/)
- Electronic bulletin *Por una vida sin tortura* and the mailing list
- On-line access to the two tutored courses on the IIHR website: "The protection of the right to personal integrity and the prohibition of torture in the inter-American and universal human rights protection systems."
- Reports of the launch of the book "*Atención integral a víctimas de tortura en procesos de litigio. Aportes psicosociales*"
- Written requests for book donations
- Reports of the film forums *Por una vida sin tortura*
- Bi-weekly bulletin *IIDH en las Americas*

Furthermore, in light of the large number of applications received from public officials, the Department of Civil Society Entities, working with the IIHR's Ombudsman Program, decided to organize another tutored course entitled *The protection of the right to personal integrity and the prohibition of torture in the inter-American and universal human rights protection systems. The contributions that public institutions can make*. Twenty-four participants were selected for this course, all of whom are public officials. Both courses will run from 25 August through 13 October.

**Information** about the project's activities was disseminated through the fortnightly bulletin of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights entitled "IIHR in the Americas" and, primarily, via the project's Web page (*Por una vida sin tortura*).

**PROJECT: SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE (AMENDMENT)**  
**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR JANUARY - DECEMBER 2008. UPDATED IN SEPTEMBER 2008**

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Application of psycho-legal methodology for providing support to victims and expert testimony</b>												
Contact with NGOs representing victims and identification of cases												
Application of psycho-legal strategy in three torture cases												
<b>National training workshops</b>												
Dissemination of proposal and identification of NGOs to take part in national workshops in Ecuador and Venezuela												
Issuing of invitations to NGOs to take part in national workshops in Ecuador and Venezuela												
Logistical and academic preparations for national workshops in Ecuador and Venezuela												
National workshops in <b>Ecuador and Venezuela</b>												
<b>Subregional workshop on comprehensive support for torture victims during the litigation of cases</b>												
Contact and coordination with logistical counterpart and academic counterparts for the sub-regional workshop												
Selection of the psycho-legal teams to take part in the sub-regional workshop												
Subregional workshop in Ecuador												
<b>Dissemination of publications and specialized information</b>												
Research and uploading of specialized materials to the section of the website												
Preparation of the <i>Capacitaciones nacionales y subregionales</i> publication												
Final work on the IIHR-CEJIL joint publication												
Systematization of contributions for the book <i>Propuesta psicojurídica</i> (manual)												

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
Dissemination of publications												
Presentation of the <i>Aportes psicosociales</i> book to the Inter-American Court												
Simultaneous launch of publications during International Day of Support for Victims of Torture												
Presentation of publications to the Inter-American Commission												
Preparation of film forums												
Film forums												
Call for applications, selection of participants and academic and logistical preparations for the online tutored course "The protection of the right to personal integrity and the prohibition of torture in the inter-American and universal human rights protection systems"												
Online tutored course "The protection of the right to personal integrity and the prohibition of torture in the inter-American and universal human rights protection systems"												