



HACIA LA SEGURIDAD – IMPERIO DE LA LEY

## **FINAL REPORT**

(October 2002 – December 2004)

US AID CA No. 518-A-00-02-00160-00

Submitted To:

**USAID**

Submitted by:

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March, 2005

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Even though the U.S. Congress supported the *Hacia la Seguridad-Imperio de la Ley (HLS)* project for five years, as presented by our “sister” organization, Friends of Rule of Law in Ecuador, Inc. (FROLE) of Washington, D.C., through a “Congressional soft earmark”, US AID’s LAC Bureau decided to disregard and ignore the intent of the U.S. Congress and redirect much needed funds- with no legal justification on file according to US AID regulations, giving only a small start-up portion of the five year comprehensive reform initiative.

Rule of Law reform requires a sustained, comprehensive approach in any country, particularly in Ecuador. The *Hacia la Seguridad* project has measurably increased education and public awareness in support of long term corrective reforms, garnered support from a cross section of Ecuadorian governmental, business and civil society, prepared transparent reviews of judicial and legislative acts and rulings, and has completed for elimination by authorities thousands of irregular or outmoded laws and regulations.

The core reform goals: to consolidating reforms and strengthening functional democratic governance remain inchoate as the Republic systematically stumbles although *Hacia la Seguridad* continues to be committed to democratic reforms with diminished capacity. HLS has formally requested numerous meetings with US AID, only to be blocked by a pretextual bar, noted in numerous formal letters from US AID that incorrectly cites that HLS is suing the US government, although not one shred of evidence exists to support this specious claim. HLS continues to seek appropriate discourse with all US governmental entities which encourage democracy enhancing structural rule of law reforms, as noted by President Bush and Secretary Rice.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **The Need for Rule of Law Reform in Ecuador**

Ecuador’s democratic, economic, and social instability cannot be effectively remedied without fundamental structural rule of law reform. At the heart of the problem are thousands of administrative laws and hundreds of statutes which—although technically superseded or facially unconstitutional—remain on the books and render Ecuador’s legal system thoroughly opaque. This legal clutter facilitates corruption, diminishes accountability in both the bureaucracy and judiciary, undermines law enforcement, and thwarts access to justice.

Further detracting from transparency are Ecuador’s antiquated legal codes which, after a century of modification by collateral statutes and regulations, no longer reflect the current state of the law and give no guidance as to where the controlling law can be found on a particular subject. Fundamentally, Ecuadorians need to know what—and where—the law is.

Bearing in mind that “sunlight is the best disinfectant,” Ecuador’s legal system needs to incorporate fundamental transparency-based reforms before more substantive legal reforms can take hold. The *Hacia la Seguridad* project offers a unique and creative strategy for delivering such transparency-based reforms to Ecuadorian society.

### **Long Term Goals**

The mission of the *Hacia la Seguridad* project, as designed by HLS and FROLE, is to establish transparency at all levels of Ecuador’s legal system and, where necessary, modernize Ecuador’s legal codes in order to promote:

- bureaucratic and judicial accountability;
- effective governance and law enforcement; and
- improved access to justice.

In order to accomplish these objectives, the *Hacia la Seguridad* project:

- promotes public education and support for transparency and rule of law reform;
- reviews and analyze Ecuador’s laws and identify invalid administrative laws and statutes;
- presents legal reform packages to Ecuador’s President or Congress (as applicable) to eliminate such invalid laws;
- monitors, analyzes, and reports on bureaucratic and judicial decision-making;

### **A Formula for Success**

In order to succeed, a rule of law project needs:<sup>1</sup>

1. expert leadership and administration;
2. strong constituencies outside of government and among civil society groups;
3. a government that is willing to implement reform proposals; and
4. clearly defined goals;

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<sup>1</sup> See generally Statement of Rep. Christopher Shays (May 16, 2001); Statement of Jess T. Ford, Director, International Affairs and Trade, GAO (May 17, 2001); Statement of Viviann Gary, Director, Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID (May 17, 2001).

We believe that the *Hacia la Seguridad* project more than meets these standards for success:

1. **Expert Leadership and Administration.** The project is being operated under the direction of the most prominent private-sector attorneys in Ecuador.
2. **Strong Private Sector Support.** Ecuador has a growing public constituency for rule of law reform. The project is actively supported by many of Ecuador's most respected business and community leaders, as well as the Quito Chamber of Commerce, the Academy of Lawyers, Ecuadorian Law Schools<sup>2</sup>, newspaper, magazines, radio and TV stations.

The project is also developing a broad base of popular support across Ecuadorian civil society. Since August 2001, the project has broadcasted a weekly television program—*Justicia para Todos*—that profiles how Ecuador's opaque and convoluted legal system impacts individual citizens and businesses. The program is one of Ecuador's most highly-rated programs and is helping to stimulate widespread enthusiasm for rule of law reform in Ecuador.

3. **Government Support.** Ecuadorian authorities have supported the project. The former President of Ecuador's Congress—Guillermo Landázuri—has expressed his “full support” for the project, as well as his predecessor – José Cordero Acosta- who stated that “[t]his is the project and the time is now.” Even Ecuador's President Gutiérrez communicated his support for this project to the U.S. Ambassador to Ecuador.
4. **Clear Objectives.** The *Hacia la Seguridad* project objectives are clearly defined. As discussed in greater detail below, the project includes seven categories of specific initiatives to be implemented within a space of five years. However, the current US-AID Award only included the first four of those seven categories.

This is a stand-alone project which, upon completion (five years), will provide the foundation for other privately-funded democratic reform initiatives in Ecuador.

- **Promote Public Education and Awareness**

In order to promote public education and get support for rule of law reforms:

- A weekly television program in the “60 Minutes” format that explores how Ecuador's opaque and convoluted legal system impacts individual citizens and businesses has been broadcasted. The program—entitled *Justicia para Todos*—educates the public and stimulates popular support for rule of law reform, including the specific reforms being developed as part of this project. The program also functions as a high-profile “watchdog,” exposing

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<sup>2</sup> *Universidad de las Américas, Universidad del Azuay, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Universidad Espiritu Santo, Universidad Católica Santiago de Guayaquil, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador.*

instances of corruption and illegality in Ecuador's judiciary and government agencies.

- HLS honors outstanding citizens from the public and private sectors who have exhibited demonstrable reform leadership, through a public recognition ceremony.
- A Radio Show *El Ciudadano y la Ley* to educate the public on why following constitutional mandates and laws is important has been broadcasted.
- HLS's web site ([www.hls.org.ec](http://www.hls.org.ec)), delivers open public access to useful, relevant non-political information about Ecuador's government the project, its achievements, as well as the databases containing critical judicial rulings from the Tax and Administrative District Courts that are not published in the official registry, attorneys' reports on judicial rulings as well as new statutes and administrative laws.
- **Eliminate "Legal Trash"**  
Ecuador's legal system contains over 39,000 administrative laws and more than 5,000 statutes<sup>3</sup> that are either technically superseded or facially unconstitutional, but which nonetheless remain on the books. This body of invalid laws renders Ecuador's legal system thoroughly opaque and facilitates arbitrary decision making by bureaucrats and judges.

Legal trash removal is a first step of three toward delivering sustainable democracy for Ecuador. Our justice system cannot act with surety when our statutes remain littered with archaic and conflicting 'trash laws.' Their removal will speed decision making process and further achieve uniform codes. There cannot be rule of law while so many laws and regulations exist, which in many cases are unconstitutional or facially superseded. Stopping the manufacturing through ongoing transparency, oversight and review procedures, of more of those regulations takes more than two years. Qualitative results can only be measured over a longer period of time.

With respect to statutes, lawyers work on reviewing laws on each sector in order to get specific proposals for elimination or changes needed so that they are not technically superseded or facially unconstitutional.

Drafts are reviewed by a group of Ecuadorian attorneys with broader experience, as well as American attorneys: It is very important to have an international point of view.

Between Ecuadorian and American attorneys, a thorough comparative law review is developed, including a third country or EEU regulations as well. In order to maximize

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<sup>3</sup> The number of laws and regulations mentioned on this paragraph is a reference number.

support and work delivery from American attorneys, we work with a coordinator in the U.S., who is in charge of searching for experts in each field, reaching them and getting their commitment to work in support of this project.

Depending on each case, translations have to be developed, and working trips occur: American attorneys coming to Ecuador, and Ecuadorian attorneys going to the U.S. to work with the partner on each field. The local as well as the overseas coordinator also travel as appropriate.

Once the codification is ready, it is presented to the Legislative Commission of Congress for their review and submittal to Congress for approval. It is also necessary to make information sessions with Congressmen, in order to get their support for approval.

With respect to “regulatory trash,” the project analyzes over 10,000 administrative laws. After defining which of those must be eliminated, a proposal for elimination is sent to the Legal Advisor to the President of Ecuador, as well as to the Legislation Commission of Congress for review and approval for elimination.

- **Maintain Transparency**

At the same time that the project is purging Ecuador’s legal system of all “legal trash,” its attorneys regularly monitor new administrative and statutory lawmaking to preserve systemic transparency and ensure that the system is not again littered with invalid laws. The analyses are published on the web site.

- **Monitor Judiciary**

In order to promote judicial transparency, we work with five Ecuadorian law schools which provide law students that make a summary of judicial rulings and fill in a database containing them. Some of the rulings are sent for analysis to attorneys. Those reports, as well as the respective ruling and the summaries are available through the web site.

The database includes significant statistical information.

A bi-annual publication of those reports of the rulings, as well as the most important legal reviews, is published. This publication is distributed to Law Schools, attorneys, Judges and other authorities.

- **Public Interest Litigation (not included in the current US AID funded plan)**

In an effort to promote governmental accountability and public access to justice, *Hacia la Seguridad* plans to litigate approximately ten court cases per year, targeting instances of unconstitutional state action.

- **Develop Model Codes (not included in the current US AID funded plan)**

Ecuador’s legal codes have been modified through hundreds of collateral statutes and regulations over the course of a century to the point where they no longer reflect

the current state of the law and give no guidance as to where the controlling law can be found. *Hacia la Seguridad* does not seek to rewrite the substance of the laws. Rather, HLS plans to convene legal experts in Ecuador and the United States to develop a modern, transparent architecture for codes in each of the following areas: (1) commercial law; (2) taxation; (3) administrative law; (4) procedural law; (5) criminal law; and (6) labor law (including social security). Once drafted, HLS will present these model codes to Ecuador's Legislative Commission for "fast track" approval by the Congress.

- **Constitutional Reform (not included in the current US AID funded plan)**

*Hacia la Seguridad* will work with legal experts in Ecuador and the United States to develop constitutional reform proposals that enhance the structural integrity of Ecuador's legal system and promote individual and investor rights. We will, for example, support the creation of a judicial police with the constitutional authority to enforce court orders free from executive interference. We are also considering proposals to provide a more effective constitutional remedy for violations of criminal procedural rights (including the abuse of "preventative arrest warrants," and arbitrary seizures of property by criminal prosecutors).

## **BACKGROUND**

The *Hacia la Seguridad* reform project started its concept drafting in 1995 under Mrs. Margaret L. Petito and then Ecuadorian Ambassador to the U.S. Edgar Terán Terán, facing a clear need of contract enforcement and modernization of the legal system in Ecuador.

The project obtained overwhelming support from the U.S. Congress for funding through US AID: Senators Thompson, McConnell, Coleman, Faircloth, and Congressman Gilman. However, US AID bureaucrats preferred to redirect the needed funds toward for their own preferred contractors, with no legal justification to proceed.

Instead of following the Congressional directives through a soft earmark, US AID decided to fund a small amount of funds for a short period of time. In other words, HLS was given a small crumb from the whole package which neither satisfies intent nor comprehensive reform work.

When the project commenced, Ecuador had ostensibly elected a new President: Former coup leader Col. Lucio Gutierrez who came into power supported by the far left, the U.S. Embassy in Quito, and politically motivated indigenous groups, promising them a change, very similar to Venezuela. After being elected, for around a year and a half, he seemed to be a more pro-U.S. than pro-Chavez.

Now, however, Ecuador suffers under what can only be described as a dysfunctional administration, politely called in the media as a 'populist dictatorship.'

The Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador announced yesterday an agreement with the Venezuelan electoral tribunal to instill a "Venezuelan vision" of electoral democracy.

Anyone who is aware of the electoral fraud perpetrated in August, 2004 by Hugo Chavez of Venezuela comprehends the destruction of free and fair elections should this democracy destroying electoral scheme proceed.

Recently, President Gutierrez’s political party received about 7% of the votes in the October regional elections. Some opposition parties claimed that he used government assets and government funds to campaign for his party candidates for those elections and they were planning to impeach him for that in Congress. Commencing in November, 2004, Gutierrez, in coalition with two other populist leaders, ignored Ecuador’s Constitution, ousted first the (upper courts) Constitutional Court judges and the Electoral Tribunal, and replaced them with his pro-Bucaram allies, with no accurate analysis available for these acts.

To further consolidate presidential powers, on December 8, 2004, Gutierrez took control of the Presidency of Congress which immediately ousted all remaining upper court/ Supreme Court Judges. Again a constitutional violation.

Actual success numbers for apprehended FARC intrusion in Ecuador shows scant to zero counternarcoterrorist activities by the Gutierrez administration, despite recent successes by the Uribe government of Colombia inside Ecuador.

Gutierrez continues to move closer to the Chavez administration with additional Venezuelan and Cuban “advisors” illegally littered across his administration. Sound analysis would indicate that Gutierrez is linked closely with Latin America’s Castroite communism and Chavez’s fiery demands.

Gutierrez’s government has repeatedly threatens U.S. and Canadian foreign investors with petroleum contract review or contract cancellation based on phony grounds. If one can assume that the Chavez advisors are effective in steering Gutierrez toward a common oil block called Petrosur.

Secretary of State, Condoleeza Rice was very clear during her confirmation hearing before the U.S. Congress stating that some democratically elected presidents might forget democracy. HLS is alone in complying with U.S. P.L. 106-309 directing US AID in specifics of rule of law reform efforts. Mainstream media has noted that instead of funding what the U.S. Congress wants: “Structural Rule of Law Reform, US AID funds a questionable so called anti-corruption \$5.5 million, 2 year, project in Ecuador, through one of their IQC holders, MSI, which in its local web page has more misleading news clips than anti-corruption ones. MSI papers its web with any news that mentions the word corruption.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### **1. Archaic or “Legal Trash” Removal**

<b>Expected results by the end of 2004</b>	<b>Actual results</b>
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Approval of statutes <b>(100)</b> to be sent to Congress for elimination by the Legislation Commission of Congress.	<b>2,919</b> statutes were approved by the Commission and sent to Congress for elimination.
Codification of statutes (100) approved by the Legislation Commission of Congress	These are still under review (see 1.5 above)
Approval of administrative laws <b>(5,000)</b> to be sent to the President for elimination by the President's Legal Team	<p><u>Various executive orders</u> (between November 2002 and January 2003) removing <b>500</b> archaic norms.</p> <p><u>Executive Order No. 1665</u>, removing <b>235</b> archaic norms was published in the <u>Official Registry No. 341</u> of May 25, 2004.</p> <p><b>4,910</b> archaic norms are still under review by the President's legal advisor, expected for approval at the beginning of 2005</p>
	<b>2,466</b> regulations from Social Security analyzed, to be repealed, and the reminding codified (see 1.2 below)
	Agreement with the 'Superintendencia de Compañías' (see 1.3 below)
Approach to Congressmen to brief them about the statutes to be eliminated	Full support from the Constitutional Commission of Congress was obtained, who asked the President of Congress to give the projects fast track approval

### 1.1 Projects in Congress

As was already stated, the Civil and Criminal Commission of Congress, after an evaluation of the projects, gave a suggestion to the President of Congress to give the projects special treatment, as established in Article 158 of the Constitution.

Due to the special treatment, the project returns to the Legislation Commission where members of Congress have 30 days to send comments. After 30 days, the project goes back to Congress and waits until it is on the Congressional Agenda. Once discussed in session, it is approved with the need of only one session, not two as the normal procedure is. That is the special treatment.

HLS anticipated approval of around 100 statutes to be sent to Congress for elimination by the Legislation Commission of Congress on its Work Plan for year 2.

The three projects presented to Congress include:

- No. 25-225 - archaic laws to be eliminated (104 laws)
- No. 25-315 - laws to be eliminated (619 laws)
- No. 25-448 – laws to be eliminated (2,196 laws)

They have already passed the requisite 30 day comment period and are ready to be approved in one session, as soon as they are on the agenda.

It was expected that Congress will discuss/approve the three projects together in the same session sometime before the end of 2004. Due to the last political issues, the projects have not been on the Agenda for Congress to approve. However, final approval should be forthcoming. Hacia la Seguridad and the Legislation Commission will continue working on this. Even though two members of the Commission have finished the period for which they were appointed, the remaining members continue working with HLS with the same enthusiasm, and it is expected the same for the new ones when they are appointed.

### **1.2 Social Security sector regulations**

HLS has finished the analysis of administrative norms from the Social Security sector. From this analysis, HLS has determined that:

Repealed	582
Obsolete	1,516
Included in the codification	368
Total analyzed	2,466

The final document was submitted to the IESS legal team for review. On the meantime, the HLS team continues to review the document for unconstitutionality and illegalities on the updated document.

### **1.3 'Superintendencia de Compañías' regulations**

The *Superintendencia de Compañías* and HLS signed an agreement on November 22, 2004, to start working on the analysis and codification of the administrative norms from that institution.

### **1.4 Projects in the presidency**

The legal team of the Presidency is still reviewing the 4,910 obsolete norms for removal that were submitted six months ago.

### **1.5 Law Sector Analysis**

15 lawyers worked in 13 different sector areas. The areas that are already in final revision are:

Telecommunications. Thanks to the invaluable contributions from Friends of Rule of Law in Ecuador, Inc., legal experts in telecommunications from the American firm McDermott Will & Emery performed a thorough comparative law review of this draft and gave very helpful, specific recommendations. Those recommendations are being reviewed by the local legal team. The draft will be ready to go to the authorities in a few weeks.

Public Administration. The first draft has had major suggestions for changes from the local legal team, and it is being rewritten almost completely.

Land – Agriculture, as well as Environmental are being reviewed by American attorneys right now.

Commercial, Electricity, Tax, Social Security, Labor and Health are still under review by the local team.

Criminal and Sectional drafts were finished during this quarter and will go to review by the local team.

Civil code reforms have been delivered to the Legislation Commission of Congress who has developed a new civil code.

In all international legal reviews, we extend full credit to Friends of Rule of Law in Ecuador, Inc. (FROLE) HLS's sister organization in Washington, D.C. who has performed an outstanding job on securing substantive non-political and prestigious American law firms and in some cases independent specialists/attorneys to review and provide opinion on these projects. As stated previously, FROLE (as also done by HLS) fully vets all counsel and advisors to remove even potential conflict of interest and assure no client sway or political influence peddling. Several firms/counsel are waiting for final versions to complete their reviews.

## 2. Judicial Monitoring Activities

Expected results by the end of 2004	Actual results
At least <b>2,000</b> summaries of the judicial rulings will be on line with the support of the different law schools working on the Project, involving the civil society in the judicial monitoring activities. At least 10% of those rulings will have a report done by attorneys	The database contains around <b>15,000</b> summaries of judicial rulings that were developed with the support of students of Universidad de Cuenca, Universidad del Azuay, Universidad Católica Santiago de Guayaquil, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Quito, Universidad de las Américas, Universidad San Francisco de Quito and Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo. There are over 200 reports done by attorneys available.
The judicial rulings from the Tax and Administrative District Courts since <b>2003</b> will be available on our web site	The judicial rulings from the Tax and Administrative District Courts since <b>2000</b> are on the database and available to the public as soon as the web site is working again
Three quarterly publications will be delivered to law schools, attorneys, judges, other public and private sector people. Those publications will have reports on judicial rulings as well as reports on new statutes / administrative laws recently Published on the Official Registry	It was planned to make a quarterly publication, however the HLS team realized that it was better to do a more complete one every six months instead. Then, two quarterly publications were delivered containing reports on judicial rulings and new statutes and administrative laws.

### 3. Transparency Maintenance

Expected results by the end of 2004	Actual results
At least 180 new administrative laws / statutes coming out on the Official Registry will have a report done by attorneys	There are more than 200 reports done by attorneys available
A closer relationship with the President's Legal Team will be in place, in order to prevent new administrative laws that are unconstitutional, illegal or technically superseded to be published so that the system does not continue being filled in with legal trash	An example is the so called 'ley de la competencia' or 'ley antimonopolio' that was more a pro state monopoly anti free business draft, and the legal team of the President asked support from our President to develop a new real anti trust law.
The reports will be available through the web site, as well as on the quarterly publications	The most interesting reports were published on the now bi annual publication, and will be on the web as soon as the web page that was destroyed is restored.

### 4. HLS publication on Judicial Rulings and Norms Reviews

The second publication was completed, as printed (attached) during the 4th Quarter, 2004, containing legal reviews of 18 Judicial Rulings: Constitutional Court, Supreme Court and District Courts, as well as legal reviews of 15 norms. The publication was given to Universities Libraries and Deans plus broad distribution to court leaders, judges and attorneys from the private and public sector.

### 5. Public Education Activities

In an effort to support education and outreach toward sustained structural legal reform, as part of the ongoing effort, HLS delivers radio, TV and media outreach.

Expected results by the end of 2004	Actual results
The Radio Program <i>El Ciudadano y la Ley</i> will be broadcasted in more than 30 radio stations all over the country.	The Radio Program <i>El Ciudadano y la Ley</i> is broadcast in more than 100 frequencies all over the country between Sonorama, HCJB and other local radio stations
The TV Show <i>Justicia para Todos</i> will continue increasing its audience and depth	The TV Show <i>Justicia para Todos</i> has increased its audience as the statistics of the TV station show. It is rebroadcasted by another TV station and a radio station too.
The project outreach in media will double	The project outreach in media has maintained through a weekly article in a

	newspaper, a monthly article in a magazine, and news clips in many other media. It is 344% more than what we had at the end of the first year (year 1: 36 news clips, year 2: 160 news clips).
The web site will contain judicial rulings, reports on those, as well as reports on the statutes / administrative laws	The web site –even though it is unavailable right now after suffering the fourth attack from hackers- contains judicial rulings from District Courts since 2000, and the reports.
The use of the web site as a resource of information for the public will grow	Lawyers and Students use the information as a reference

**5.1 TV Program *Justicia para Todos***

*Justicia para Todos*, broadcast on TC TV, Channel 10, Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., has been on air for almost 3 years now. It continues being rebroadcast on CN3 (Cable TV) every Saturday now at 11:30 a.m., and on *Radio Democracia* every Sunday.

**5.2 Radio Program *El Ciudadano y la Ley***

*El Ciudadano y La Ley* is being broadcast on *Sonorama*, *HCJB* and other four stations. As was already reported, *Sonorama* has 100 frequencies, so the show has more than doubled the number of frequencies in which it is being broadcast since it started. Being *Sonorama* and *HCJB* top radio stations the success of the show and its audience has been growing.

**HLS maintains numerous media and educational outreach efforts such as:**

***Ekos Magazine* routine monthly media columns**

***La Hora Judicial Newspaper* educational reform column: routine/consistent.**

These important activities educate the public on the importance/significance of structural rule of law reforms and how it makes a difference in day to day life; these efforts are bearing fruit/rendering ascertainable results.

**6. HLS’s project evaluation**

HLS received the “final report” from the US AID Ecuador as an ‘evaluation’ on July 31, 2004. This is actually an effort at a justification of funding report, as required by U.S. law, to redirect our needed funds toward the MSI/Si se Puede project. Although HLS has requested appropriate, on the record, meetings with US AID Ecuador and US AID DC officials regarding the specious and wholly inaccurate contents of the US AID funded 279 page “*July 2004 Report*,” response was incorrectly blocked. This evaluation cum justification report was written by direct competitors: MSI/Si Se Puede and CLD, all US AID Ecuador contractors. HLS strenuously objects to evaluation by obvious

competitors and has formally stated its request that U.S. FAR standards be applied, as relevant en toto, along with a full withdrawal/cancellation of this “July 2004 Report.”

HLS has sought legal protection from CLD and Valeria Merino to insure standard application of intellectual property protection. This effort has been used by USAID officers as a pretext to impede common discourse. As nothing that HLS (and FROLE) , in any of its acts, is in any way any 'legal action' against US AID in any format, thus HLS remains steadfast in its open request to meet with appropriate US AID officials.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Rule of Law reform is not a short term issue. The *Hacia la Seguridad* project was planned for five years, after profound research. The first two years have served to start public awareness of the importance of rule of law. However, the main tasks still remain. *Hacia la Seguridad* continues with the support of many good minds.