

MSD Quarterly Report October 1 – December 31, 2007

Introduction

The successful progress of USAID/Mexico's Rule of Law Project continues as it supports the criminal justice reforms which have now been legislated in five states and at the federal level as of December 13, 2007. With the technical assistance of Proderecho, the states of Chihuahua and Oaxaca continue to practice comprehensive justice reforms as they implement the new criminal justice system and hold oral trials. Zacatecas and Morelos have passed comprehensive reforms and are slated to begin implementation the reforms in 2008 while Baja California has also passed a comprehensive reform package with plans for implementation in 2009. Durango and Sonora are receiving technical assistance from Proderecho in their efforts to draft the legislative changes for the reform package while Tamaulipas, Jalisco, Aguascalientes, and Coahuila are states which have worked on their comprehensive reform packages and are receiving assistance from Proderecho as well. Other Mexican states including Nuevo Leon, Puebla, Veracruz, and Estado de Mexico are receiving information and assistance in the new system of justice as they see the progress being made by those states already integrated.

International collaboration continues to be a key factor in promoting criminal justice reforms in Mexico. A Memorandum of Understanding entered into between the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) of the United States and Proderecho contributed to transforming Mexico's criminal justice system from a written inquisitorial to an oral adversarial system by providing technical assistance to diverse state governments in Mexico. NITA's established infrastructure has been of major assistance in providing technical assistance in the areas of trial advocacy training, court administration and management.

In addition, the United States/Mexico Bar Association Board (USMBA) and Proderecho are cleared to proceed with the drafting and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of standardizing and centralizing the training for operators of the new criminal justice system.

Another cooperative international activity was an observation tour was taken by public officials of Baja California to Santiago de Chile from October 10 -14 for the purpose of observing the function of the system of justice in Chile. Two former representatives of political parties PAN (Gilberto Gonzalez Solis) and PRI (Carlos Jimenez), attended, as did a magistrate from the Court of Criminal Judicial Power of the state (Jorge Ignacio Perez), a Civil Servant from the State Attorney General's Office (Daniel de la Rosa), and a representative of Public Security of the state (Gustavo Ley).

In the area of civil society, the National Network (RED) of civil society organizations and governmental institutions had previously drafted and presented to Congress a constitutional initiative aimed at transforming the criminal justice system from a written inquisitorial to an oral adversarial system. The proposed amendments would force both the federal government and the states to implement oral trials and due process in their

criminal justice system. In addition, it called for the establishment of a Federal Commission to assist the states with implementation and training; the creation and adoption of a National Due Process Law that will help the homogenization of state legislation without violating their sovereignty; it gives states and the federal government a maximum of five years to draft, adopt and begin implementing criminal justice reforms and; it calls for Congress to provide enough resources for a successful implementation.

The initiative was well received by all political parties in both houses. It was adopted by legislators of main political parties (PRI, PAN, PRD, PVEM and PANAL) who officially presented the initiative to the House of Representatives for discussion and approval. Shortly after, and concerned about the rising executions and crime rates (particularly crimes related to organized crime) in the country, President Felipe Calderon presented to the Senate a constitutional initiative that provides extraordinary discretionary powers to the police and the Office of the Attorney General.

The RED and the legislative and executive branches have since been reviewing both initiatives in an effort to comply with both mandates: the implementation of comprehensive criminal justice reforms while responding efficiently to organized crime and public security concerns.

The sections that follow describe in specific details the activities of the Quarter from October 1 to December 30, 2007 in the areas of legislation and justice reform, international and interstate events, juvenile justice, training and education, alternative justice training, civil society, and evaluation and diagnostics of programs and processes. Each of these topics below describes the achievements and efforts in the states that have made successful and concentrated efforts to participate in the USAID/Mexico Rule of Law Program.

Legislation and Justice Reform

Most significant is the passing of the criminal code of procedure for the new system of justice at the **Federal** level on December 13, 2007. Of the total 500 votes cast for the Constitutional Reform for Criminal Justice, 366 were in favor. The Legislature of the Mexican Republic approved with modifications the reforms for Public Security and Criminal Justice, and supported the creation of an accusatorial oral trial system to promote transparency. There were six articles in total that were reversed, awaiting further debate and modification, and one article was reversed outright. Article 16, was debated and it was agreed that specific sections would be amended in the next Congressional session initiating in February. Proderecho consultants Dr. Carlos Rios and Dr. Daniel Gonzalez and Director Lucy Tacher were instrumental in supporting legislators with technical assistance during the debates. A Proderecho Consultant for Criminal Reform will continue to assist with the modifications proposed by the Senate.

Proderecho Coordinators met with a number of officials from the three powers of government and from a variety of states to continue technical support toward legislation and implementation of the new justice reforms. Following are some of the significant meetings with outcomes which exemplify Proderecho's efforts toward supporting states and individuals who are committed to the new justice reform package.

A meeting was held with Attorney Rafael Vazquez, Secretary of the Agenda for the Government for the purpose of reviewing the work Proderecho is doing relative to the new system of criminal justice reform in **Mexico City**. An outcome of this work was to schedule a future meeting with high government officials such as the Secretary of the Government and the State Attorney General in December.

Proderecho assisted in the preparation of a document which captured the proposed constitutional reforms from diverse Congressional political parties in order to assist in generating consensus of the Legal Reforms.

On October 12, representatives from the three areas of power for the state of **Sonora** signed an inter-institutional agreement to solidify state support for the criminal reform process. The agreement documented the grand quantity of forums, events, and courses which have previously been presented with the objective of sensitizing and socializing the society of Sonora relative to the justice reforms. Proderecho was acknowledged as an organization which participated in the forums providing support for the conferences and trainings of the new system of justice.

The President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca, Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud met with Proderecho Oaxaca Coordinator and other dignitaries who serve as trainers at the Superior Court for Justice in **Oaxaca** to continue the collaborative networking that exists within the state. The 3 hour meeting was a positive reunion keeping all parties updated on the progress of the justice reforms.

On November 13 the Congress of the State of **Morelos** approved the New Code of Criminal Procedure and has committed to do the work necessary in order to meet the October 1, 2008 date in which the reforms will go into effect and move toward implementation on October 30 of 2008. Proderecho Coordinators were present for the historic event. The following day, Proderecho Coordinators worked with Magistrate Ana Virginia and with the Coordinator of Advisors to the Secretary of the Government on the review and editing of the Organic Law of the Court of Justice for Adolescents

On November 21 in the Legislative Salon of the building of the Congress of the State of **Chihuahua**, a course was held to sensitize representatives and consultants on the new legislative principles and theories of the new system of criminal justice. The course was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators who addressed the pending themes to adequately implement the reform in the state of Chihuahua. At the end of the course, the representatives who participated expressed a positive reaction to the informative course, and pledged to work to support an efficient implementation of the reform throughout the state. There were 25 participants.

On the same date, in the Salon of Governors of the Secretary General of the Government a meeting of the Board of Implementation of the Reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the State of **Chihuahua** was held with the participation of the President of the Supreme Court for Justice and representatives of the new Legislature. The principal results of the meeting were:

As a Congressional representation of pending issues in the state of Chihuahua, the board designated the judges for justice for adolescents in Chihuahua and throughout the state.

The Secretary General of the Government requested Proderecho continue providing support to the state government through training and monitoring the Justice Reform process in order to disperse the criticism posed by some operators of the system, particularly judges who protect civil liberties.

A reunion was held with the State Attorney General of **Morelos** to discuss the low number of prosecutors involved in the courses for adolescent justice, and the implications of such a low number of trained operators of the system. Another meeting took place on December 13 with the Magistrate of the Court of the Adolescent Unit for Justice, the Secretary of the Government, and two state representatives, to review the results of their observation visit to Oaxaca. The Morelos Proderecho Coordinator advised the Magistrate of the profiles most suitable as personnel to assist in the planning of a convocation for judges of the adolescent system; the necessary reforms of the system of laws for adolescent justice; and to postpone the implementation of the new system of adolescent justice, as there are no judges selected to sit for cases involving adolescent justice.

Proderecho Coordinators were present during a session of Congress in **Morelos** to serve as informational consultants to the Congress about the adolescent system of justice. In the event that the adolescent laws go into effect on January, 2008, Proderecho was there as technical consultants. The Congress approved the transition into the Criminal Code of Procedure take place prior to October 30, 2008 and that the law for adolescents be applied as a supplementary law.

On December 3, a meeting was held with the Secretary General of the State Government of **Morelos**. In attendance were two congressional representatives, the Chief Magistrate of the United Tribunal for Justice for Adolescents, the Director of the Defense, the Coordinator of Advisors of the Secretary of the Government, and individuals from the Open Society at the Palace of the Governor. The meeting was held for the purpose of establishing collaboration of each of the government agencies with the Open Society and ensuring the assistance of each agency in the training and technical assistance to be given the following year as part of the implementation of the reform of the criminal justice system that will come into effect in January, 2008. An additional meeting with the Attorney General of the state of Morelos was held to discuss the same issues. A similar meeting was held on December 4 with the President of the Superior Court for Justice.

Baja California approved amendments September 30, 2007 but gave itself a more extensive time to work in the drafting of secondary legislation to better prepare for implementation because of the change in administration of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government which occurred in October and November of 2007.

Zacatecas approved reforms to its code of criminal procedure in mid July but has been more conservative in terms of the time to implement the reforms. During the first two quarters Proderecho disseminated and socialized a wider public on the reforms through seminars, general training of key actors, observation tours of public officials to observe Chihuahua's criminal justice system, and discussions with experts on the criminal justice system from Chihuahua and Oaxaca.

The work of Proderecho in supporting the continued movement toward legislation of the justice reforms for Mexico is evident. The support for states like Chihuahua and Oaxaca which are implementing the new system continues with vigor, and support for states like Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California which are committed to move toward implementation make it necessary to prioritize their needs for the upcoming Quarters. As ever, Proderecho continues to provide training and technical support to those states that express an interest, with priority given to those states implementing, legislating, or drafting the reforms.

The legislative events which have previously been described are examples of the achievements in the USAID/Mexico ROL project at the legislative level during the quarter from October 1-December 31, 2007

International and Interstate Events

The effort to establish international and interstate linkages and make the best use of resources while sustaining progress toward justice reform is a necessary and key focus of USAID/Mexico. The following international and interstate events occurred during the Quarter and are examples of the collaborative efforts that justice reforms are creating.

The observation tour by public officials of **Baja California to Santiago, de Chile** October 10-14 provided a wealth of information for the 5 officials involved in justice reform. Mr. Gonzalez Solis, a leader in promoting the legislative process of the Criminal Reform was charged with the follow-up of the implementation of the Reform process. Mr. Jimenez also supported the legislative process of the Criminal Reform and was the head of negotiations with legislators of his party to approve unanimously the New Criminal Code of Procedures. He took charge of sensitizing the new representatives of his party to continue legislative support in the implementation process and execution of the new justice system. Magistrate Perez linked the written commission of the new codes and the reform process with the Chief Magistrate of the Judicial Court of Baja California. Mr. de la Rosa was the designated person of the Attorney General for Justice to respond to the processes following the implementation of the new system, with particular consideration to the management and administration of personnel. Mr. Ley was the integral member in the transition team of the newly elected Governor of Baja California.

These individuals participated in a variety of events during their visit to Santiago de Chile. On October 10 there was a welcoming reception with the Chief Justice of the Criminal Court for Oral Trials, Antonio Ulloa Marquez and Chief Administrator Cesar Moya who commented on the differences between the systems of Chile and the criminal realities in Baja California. The Mexican delegation observed a variety of hearings among which they witnessed Control of Detention, Suspension of the Process and Proof, and a Preliminary Hearing. The observers were surprised at the speed of the process and the technical ability of the judges.

Meetings were held with a representative of CEJA-Chile on the Position and Strategies of Implementation of the Criminal Reform Process. Dr. Mauricio Duce, the Academic Director of CEJA addressed the doubts and questions of Baja California visitors relative to the implementation of the new system of justice and the immediate steps necessary to continue supporting the new codes as it has been approved. There was a special emphasis in the planning of training; planning for a reasonable number of operators necessary to carry on the work; and a commentary on the importance of political support to carry forth the reform in a successful manner, while coping with the oppositional factions and the errors of any new process as it moves forward. The principal issue addressed was the importance of managing the new system well.

A meeting with Cesar Moya which covered the stages of the implementation process modeled after that of Santiago addressed the errors committed during the first stages of the reform in distinct regions of Chile. Mentioned were characteristics both technical and professional, which the implementation team needs to have during the process, and which are the paths that need to be taken for short, mid- and long-term success. This meeting was of particular importance, as it addressed the difficulties that can sink the reform process during the training and planning stages. The information provided can assist in avoiding the experiences shared by the Chileans.

On October 11 the delegation of Mexican visitors observed interviews of operators of the system of Criminal Justice in the Center for Justice in Santiago. During this period, a presentation was given on the management of the system by administrators who designate the division of work for judges, as well as the organization of assigned hearings, how records of preliminary hearings are kept, and how notification of the parties are handled. An exposition was presented on the opinion of judges relative to the Reform, before and after it occurred. The comment was made that in the beginning there was some opposition from judges, but at this stage of the process there are no judges who would prefer the previous system of justice.

Another meeting held with the Minister of Justice for Chile, Carlos Maldonado Curti and the United Justice Reforms group was held on the same day. The meeting was valuable as there was a discussion of the principal arguments for the Reform, such as the previous system of justice was obsolete, slow, and closed, and the principal reason was that there was little satisfaction from the citizenry. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of defending the Reform project at the cost of whichever opposition and difficulties the

implementation process brought along the way; and of having it clear that not one circumstance of the new system of justice could be worse than the inquisitive system that Chile had before. Minister Maldonado Corti clarified the rationale for justifying the gradual implementation by region, and the advantages of doing so. He also explained the new system under the focus of social reasoning.

The Study Tour for the executive officials of the governments of the states of **Baja California Norte** and **Morelos** was conducted from October 25 to 26 from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Proderecho Coordinators supported the 34 participants representing the Congress of the State of Morelos, the Government of the State of Baja California Norte, the Office of the Attorney General and the Supreme Court for Justice of the State of Chihuahua, as well as a number of persons who welcomed and accompanied the group during the tour. Visits were made to the Offices of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General for Human Rights and Attention to Victims of Crime, the Center for Alternative Justice, the Unit for Early Attention to Victims of Crime, the Unit for Specialized Investigation of Auto Theft, and the Unit for Sex Crimes and Violence against Families. In addition, a tour to the Forensic Laboratory was conducted.

Continuing collaborations between Attorneys General from the states of **New Mexico**, USA and **Chihuahua**, Mexico support international exchanges which involve training in forensic science investigation, training for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement personnel, and civil organizations in oral trials. In addition, law enforcement agencies are sharing information on criminal investigations and captured offenders. Preparations for a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the Attorney General for Justice of New Mexico, Bruce King and the Attorney General for Justice of Chihuahua, Patricia Gonzalez relative to Trafficking in Persons was worked on by Proderecho Director and Consulting Staff. The Memorandum is to be signed early in 2008 in Santa Fe, the state capitol of New Mexico.

Furthermore, Proderecho continues to promote the signing and enforcement of Memoranda of Understanding between Mexican and US law enforcement agencies. Presently they are pursuing an exchange with the Homer Garrison Jr. Memorial Law Enforcement Training Academy of the **Texas** Department of Public Safety to open training spaces for Mexican law enforcement officials.

Proderecho continues to seek to collaborate with the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA). IACA not only offers best practices on court administration across the globe, it is also a resourceful organization with access to law enforcement agencies throughout the world. Proderecho has invited and hosted IACA members to make an assessment of justice reforms in **Chihuahua**, **Oaxaca** and at the **Federal** level.

Jeffrey Apperson, Executive Vice-President of (IACA) visited the cities of **Chihuahua** and **Juarez** on November 5 and 6 to attend and observe the third oral trial of Chihuahua under the new System of Criminal Justice. His visit was sponsored by USAID/Proderecho. Mr. Apperson was accompanied by **Canadian** Judge Robert Hyslop and Judge Kenneth Fields of the **United States**; as well as court administrators Catherine

Hiuseu from Canada and Ray Billote fo the U.S. Vice- President Apperson visited the Center for Alternative Justice in Chihuahua and the Forensic Laboratory which counts on the technical assistance from Ciudad Juarez. He also met with the President of the State Supreme Court for Justice, Rodolfo Acosto and the Attorney General of the State, Patricia Gonzalez. Based on his extensive experience as a court administrator for the IACA, Mr. Apperson found the Reform of the System of Criminal Justice in the State of Chihuahua to be one of the most important projects in states rights, not only in North America, but throughout the world. “This reform can serve as an example for other states in Mexico, and can serve as a model for the federal system”, he stated.

Training for experts from the states of **Chihuahua** and **Oaxaca** continue at the Forensic Laboratory of the Attorney General for Justice in the State of Chihuahua, and at the Specialized Unit of Investigation of the Deputy Attorney General’s Office. A group of Mexican law enforcement officers, crime scene investigators, and medical examiners attended forensic training in **Las Cruces, New Mexico** in November. The program is evidence of how USAID/Mexico is providing assistance through funding and fundamental training for Mexicans to become the trainers and operators of the new system of justice.

In the last week of October, Pepe Díaz Briseño, the agent for the Reform in **Washington, D.C.** sent information relative to the first oral trial held in Initiative Mérida before Plan Mexico was undertaken. The Subcommittee of the Western Hemisphere in the House of Representatives presented Mexico a proposal within the anti-drug “package” to include the assistance of the National Network of Oral Trials. The proposal was supported by Joy Olson, Director of the WOLA. The proposal supports the idea that Initiative Mérida is not sufficient to control drug trafficking without adequate criminal reform and administration of criminal justice in México. This proposal stands to gain support from the United States.

On November 12, with the support of INACIPE and the **British Embassy**, the Bi-national People’s Symposium met with the objective of evaluating the support that the British Embassy has provided **Mexico** in its reform of the new system of justice. In attendance among the 107 participants were Eduardo Medina Mora, Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico and the Mexican Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and the State Attorney General of Chihuahua, Patricia Gonzalez. The following day, INACIPE presented a Workshop on Restorative Justice which was given by Mike Ledwidge and Proderecho staff with the objective of evaluating the assistance of the British Embassy has provided Mexico, and to further explore the ways in which the British Embassy can continue its support. The 25 participants were also informed on how the public can support Restorative Justice.

On December 4 dignitaries from USAID visited the state of **Oaxaca** for the purpose of learning about the work and activities related to the Center for Alternative Justice in the Office of the Attorney General for Justice in the State of Oaxaca. Visitors from USAID included Steve Hendrix, Representative of USAID/Mexico in Washington; Jeffery Bell, Adjunct Director, USAID/Mexico, Andrew Luck, USAID Administration, Rafaela

Herrera, Rule of Law Advisor – USAID/Mexico, and Cristina Prado, Specialist in Public Relations for USAID/Mexico. The group also met with Dr. Evencio Nicolas Martinez Ramirez, Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca for the purpose of learning more about the Criminal Procedural Reforms that have been realized in the state and to evaluate and support the continuation of these advances. A meeting with the State Commission for Human Rights to discuss the work done relative to Domestic Violence and the eradication of Violence was also held, as well as a meeting with Ms. Salinas de Ruiz who is in charge of the advances for the Project on the Law for trafficking in persons. Final meetings were held with the Sub-secretary for Political Development of the Secretary of the Governor's office, the Secretary for Indigenous Issues, and the Attorney General for the Defense of the Indigenous for the purpose of learning more relative to the work of the Criminal Procedural Reform that has been realized in Oaxaca and to evaluate the programs. A meeting with Magistrate Hector Anuar Mafud Mafud, President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca was held for the purpose of reviewing the Criminal Reform Procedures which have been realized in Oaxaca, and to evaluate the programs. Finally, a discussion of the oral trial to be held in the **Isthmus of Tehuantepec** region was held.

A course was presented by Proderecho **Morelos** Coordinator and Attorney Jose Luis Jaimes Olmos of the National Institute of Trial Attorneys (NITA) to prosecutors and defense attorneys. These attorneys are participating in the training for the system of criminal justice for adolescents which will take effect in January 2008. The 12 hour course was held from December 3-5 for a total of 15 prosecutors and 17 defense attorneys.

The continuing collaborations within states and other countries assist USAID/Mexico as it monitors its move toward a new criminal justice system and provides a system of consistent training and evaluation. During this quarter the international collaborations with associations that contribute to quality training increased, and the linkages with these associations enriches the quality of the operators of the new system of justice in the states implementing the criminal code of procedure, as well as providing quality training for those states that are moving toward implementation in the next quarter.

Juvenile Justice

The importance of having judges and litigators who specialize in the Juvenile Justice System is critical in the new system of justice, thus USAID/Proderecho committed its resources during the Quarter to assist states to realize the goal through training and technical support.

Proderecho coordinators held meetings with the Secretary of the Government of **Morelos** to discuss questions related to the trainings on adolescent law for the Public Defenders and Prosecutors. In addition, coordinators worked with the Coordinating Magistrate of Advising to the Secretary of the Government in the review of the organic law of the court of Justice for adolescents. The President of the Bar for Attorney's met with Proderecho

coordinators to prepare an agenda on themes and potential presenters for a celebration to be held the second or third week of November.

Meetings also involved a reunion with the State Attorney General of **Morelos** to discuss the low number of prosecutors involved in the courses for adolescent justice, and the implications of such a low number of trained operators of the system. Another meeting took place on December 13 with the Magistrate of the Court of the Adolescent Unit for Justice, the Secretary of the Government, and two state representatives, to review the results of their visit to Oaxaca. The Morelos Proderecho Coordinator advised the Magistrate of the profiles most suitable as personnel to assist in the planning of a convocation for judges of the adolescent system; the necessary reforms of the system of laws for adolescent justice; and to postpone the implementation of the new system of adolescent justice, as there are no judges selected to sit for cases involving adolescent justice.

This meeting led to the December 10 planning of a meeting with the Chief Magistrate of the Unified Court for Justice for Adolescents of Oaxaca to come to **Morelos**. The visit enabled the Oaxacan Magistrate to observe and establish a structure of organization for the Adolescent Court. In addition, the suggestions for required personnel, necessary trainings, and alternative methods of justice were discussed by the Oaxacan magistrate.

Proderecho Coordinators were present during a session of Congress in **Morelos** to serve as informational consultants to the Congress about the adolescent system of justice. In the event that the adolescent laws enter into effect on January, 2008, Proderecho was there as technical consultants. The Congress approved the transition into the Criminal Code of Procedure take place prior to October 30, 2008 and that the law for adolescents be applied as a supplementary law.

Meetings between **Oaxaca** Proderecho Coordinators and Judges from the Adolescent system of Justice were held on December 11 for the purpose of reviewing their functions in the new system of justice for adolescents. The implementation in the State of Oaxaca is taking place in January, 2008. In attendance were oral trial judges, judges of warranty, and judges who address adolescent justice. Also present was the Chief Magistrate of the first Criminal Court for the State of Oaxaca.

On December 12, **Oaxaca** Proderecho Coordinators met with 70 public defenders that specialize in Adolescent Justice for the purpose of reviewing the defense attorney's role in the new system of adolescent justice.

Juvenile Justice continues to be a priority in the states implementing and planning to implement the justice reforms. Oaxaca and Morelos will be implementing their Adolescent System of Justice in the next quarter. Proderecho will continue provide technical assistance and training in the field of criminal juvenile justice. PRODERECHO recognizes that this is an important task as more and more adolescents are getting involved in gangs, trafficking in persons and criminal activities.

Training and Education

During the Quarter, USAID/Mexico staff presented numerous educational seminars designed to offer a better understanding of the new system of justice from the investigative process to the actual oral trial to the termination methods in a system based on oral advocacy. Specialized courses were presented by MSD/Proderecho coordinators directed at the operators of the Criminal Justice System through the use of simulations of oral trials with the objective of receiving feedback and subsequently providing practice sessions with judges, district attorneys, and defense attorneys.

Classes and trainings on the simulation of Oral Trials were held at the Law School of the University of Durango, **Zacatecas** Campus on November 5-8 for a total of 20 hours. The classes were facilitated by Proderecho and attended by law students who covered the topic of “The Constitutional reform in criminal matters”. Seventy-five participants from the Cultural Judicial Supreme Court for Justice of the Nation and Superior court of Justice for the State were in attendance.

An introductory course for Public Defenders in the state of **Zacatecas** was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators for the purpose of exposing them to the principals, ethics, and format of the new criminal justice system. The course was held on November 23- 24 and was attended by 30 public defenders.

Proderecho staff presented the Family Mediation course was held November 6-8 at the Supreme Court for Justice of the state of **Tamaulipas** directed at the personnel of DIF (Department of Family Services), the Supreme Court for Justice, and the Attorney General for Justice of the State with the objective of training mediators to facilitate family mediation. There were 43 persons in attendance.

Several courses were presented at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration at the Universidad Autónoma de Cd. **Juárez**, on a continual basis, for agents of the district attorney’s office who operate the new system of justice in the Bravos Judicial District. Trainings covered basics on the criminal code of procedure. Courses were held throughout the quarter, with the last group from the Bravos Judicial District. November 13-15 a companion course for Public Defenders who operate under the new system of justice was presented in the Judicial District Bravos, by Proderecho Coordinator and Public Defender Hugo Aguirre who operates under the new system of criminal justice in Judicial District Morelos. The objective of the course was to present public defenders an opportunity to acquire technical skills in litigation, practice preparation for an oral trial, and to familiarize them with the latest reforms of the Criminal Code of Procedures. There were 16 participants.

From the 12-16 of November, Proderecho conducted a course for prosecutors from the State Attorney General’s Office at the New Judicial city of the Attorney General in Juarez. The course entitled “The role of investigative police in the new criminal justice system”. The objective of the course was to determine which of the police from the Bravos Judicial District perform with an understanding of the new system of criminal

justice, and whether they reinforce the need to intervene in the investigative process at some point with the assistance and coordination of the prosecutor; placing emphasis most importantly on the way new information is obtained. Also stressed was the issue that the police are involved in finding investigative results, and not involved in judicial proceedings. The outcome of the training lead Proderecho staff to conclude additional course hours are needed to address more specifically the size of the group. There were 273 police agents in attendance, notably 19 women and 254 men. On November 12-16 training for Judges who protect civil rights under the new system of justice for the Bravos Judicial District was held at the New Judicial City in Juarez. The objective of the training was to discuss the doubts that the judges see relative to safeguarding rights under the new system, specifically with respect to the stages of investigation. The training resulted in expressed satisfaction by the judges, with their discussion of the possibilities of panoramic solutions relative to the filing of a summons. The presenters were Alonso Arancibia from Chile and Alejandra Ramos Duran a judge of civil rights from Chihuahua. On November 20-23 a course for public defenders who operate within the new system of criminal justice in the Bravos Judicial District were presented a course by Proderecho Coordinators on the details of litigation in order to practice the preparation for an oral trial. In addition, 20 prosecutors who were discharged from training were selected for an intensive training session based on the principles of as systematic interpretation of legal precepts. They discussed judicial resolutions during the investigative stage of the process, and they were exposed to the technical elements which define good praxis. The purpose of the course was to review intermediary investigation and provide a panorama of an oral trial. Other trainings conducted in the Bravos Judicial District were from December 3-7 a 6 hour course was held for defense attorneys of the new criminal justice system in the Bravos Judicial District. The course, held at the new Judicial City in Ciudad Juarez was given by Proderecho Coordinators and Public Defender Dulce Guibeth Galaz Portillo of the Morelos District. The course objective was to continue presenting litigation skills and to provide practice in the preparation and development of an oral trial. Sixteen individuals were in attendance.

During the same time period, training for judges of warranty of civil rights was held for judges of the Bravos Judicial District of Ciudad **Juarez**. The objective of the course was to assist them in resolving their doubts relative to oral trials and to stress the importance of the work judges of warranty have in order to preserve the rights of the individuals brought to trial. There were 12 judges participating in the training presented by Proderecho staff.

Consultants continued to provide training to operators of the new system of criminal justice from the Attorney General's Office throughout the week of December 3-7 in Ciudad **Juarez**. The information in the form of lectures on case files and analysis and preparation of investigative statements were based on 6 actual open cases designated by the Attorney General. The consultants continued to assist operators of the new system to understand all the antecedents of the case, to analyze the judicial proceedings, particularly the investigative procedures carried out by the attorney general's agents, in order to establish the acts and who the responsible parties are. These activities were carried out at the request of the Attorney General's Office, who received technical

assistance and recommendations from the consultants. In addition, meetings were held with the forensic anthropologist who evaluated cases of missing and murdered women, for the purpose of understanding fundamentals in the order of scientific evidence gathering. Finally, meetings with the mothers of the victims were held with the objective of learning about the investigative interviews, the advances that have or have not been made relative to the investigations conducted by the Attorney General's office, and the activities that occurred after the discovery of the body in a specific case which occurred March 10, 2003. The meeting with the mother of the victim allowed the consultants to learn about the details of the case and the investigations from her perspective, and provided them with diagnostic information which will help in the continuous investigations. One outcome of these meetings is that the consultants developed a class to train Prosecutors and police agents from the Special Investigations Group on specific methodologies in investigation of cases that violate human rights. This course was given on December 6 for the Special Investigations Group from the State Attorney General's Office in order to provide them with better elements for investigation of cases that violate the human rights of women in general.

A course on Alternative Sentencing with the focus on the system of Justice for Adolescents was held on December 6-7 in **Morelos** to train operators of the system. The purpose of the course was to prepare them for the January implementation of the Law for Adolescent Justice. The 8 hour course addressed 30 participants.

On December 10-11 Proderecho **Morelos** Coordinator presented a course in CIJ for aspiring operators of the new system of justice for adolescents. The 8 hour training addressed 35 attorneys for both the defense and prosecution. On December 12-13, Proderecho Morelos Coordinator supervised training by Magistrate Medina of Chihuahua for aspirants of the system of justice for adolescents.

Training also occurred during the 24-28 of December. The purpose of the courses was to ensure those in attendance mastered the concepts, theories, skills, and techniques of litigation in order to operate in the new system of criminal justice in the **Cd. Juárez** area. Also during this week training continued for public defenders of the new system of justice in the Bravos Judicial District. The objective of the training was to provide defense attorneys with the administrative structure they will encounter in the new system of justice. Training for personnel from the Center for Attention for Victims in the Specialized Unit of Sexual Crimes against Families of the Attorney General's Office was presented December 26-28 by Coordinators from Proderecho, Director of Proteja, Gabriela Saavedra, and USAID Rule of Law Advisor Rafaela Herrera. The purpose of the training was to provide technical assistance to the operators of the Center for Attention to Victims relative to sex crimes, domestic violence, trafficking in persons, and to explain the new criminal procedural process to operators of the new system of justice including prosecutors, litigators, and social workers.

A qualifying course for agents of the prosecutors who operate within the new system of criminal justice in the Bravos Judicial District was held at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration at Universidad Autonoma de Cd. Juarez from November 20 -23. The

32 participants had not yet received training to master the technical concepts of the new criminal procedures. Proderecho Coordinators evaluated the outcome of the course as successful, whereby the participants were able to master technical concepts at a rate of 70%.

The Medical Forensic Laboratory of the State of **Chihuahua** continued to serve as a training facility for prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement personnel to familiarize themselves with the line of investigation. The training covered preparation for the work of the investigative team, criminal laboratory evidence findings, analysis of interviews, analysis of individual witnesses involved in the cases, psychological assessment interviews, and a review of the protocols for an autopsy. The Center for Criminal Studies of the Attorney General's Office of Chihuahua sponsored continued training for prosecuting attorneys. The purpose of the training was to present the benefits and results of forensic techniques and share the experience of the expert presenter on skeletal forensics.

A course entitled "Introduction to Criminal Investigative Methodology and the Corresponding Role of Investigators" designed to train agents of CIPOL in investigative methodology is part of the training provided by agents trained through the cooperative exchanges with US agencies. The course addresses the importance of investigative methodology in the reform of the system of criminal justice, and the role that investigators will assume in the new system. The training began in August and will continue into October and December, 2007. Other courses covering methodology of investigation include a review of the new criminal processes, the investigative interview, and typology techniques.

Training and education of the operators of the new criminal justice system continues to be the major focus of Proderecho Coordinators providing technical assistance. The pace of training and education is expected to increase during the next quarter as the five states will be in the implementation process.

Alternative Justice Training

Proderecho Coordinators conducted a course on "The Stages of Investigation" for prosecuting attorneys in Juarez from October 15 to 19 at the New Judicial City Complex. Thirty-one individuals from the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office in Juarez attended the training from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily.

An integral and innovative portion of the justice reforms includes the commitment to alternative justice for victims and offenders through mediation and restorative justice. MSD/Mexico Coordinators take a fundamental role in bringing training to the operators of the new system of justice in these areas. Coordinators consistently present courses on Restorative Justice in a series of Modules. The Modules are designed to serve as a foundation for an Alternative Justice Process for both victims and offenders in a more humane and just method of justice. The First Module "Conflict, Communication and Needs" enables participants to reflect critically on general theories of conflict, practice

the application of knowledge in exercises of restorative justice, and engage in conflict transformation. The Second Module entitled “Restorative Justice, Origins, Principles, and Programs” exposes participants to the origins, history and concepts of Restorative Justice and how it differs from other types of justice. The Third Module the “Accusatory Court System” introduces participants to the new transparent system of justice. The Fourth Module in the Restorative Justice course of study entitled “The Offender” keeps its focus on the offender’s needs, interests, and emotions during the restorative process. Module Five of the Restorative Justice course focuses on “Community”, with in-depth attention on the restorative process relative to community needs and the follow-up after restorative conferences.

A workshop on Restorative Justice, Module 8: Practices, was held at the Salon for Multiple uses at the Library of the Superior Court for Justice in **Oaxaca** during the week of October 22-26. The 12 hour workshop was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators and staff for the 24 participants from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Oaxaca. The Module entitled: “The Model for Restorative Conferences and Skills” presented practical application skills and simulations in order to prepare operators of the new system of justice in restorative justice applications. Twenty-four participants continued their training in Restorative Justice.

The seminar on Alternative Methods for the Solution of Conflicts, Mediation, and Conciliation was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators and staff for 10 hours during the week of October 22 – 26 at the Salon for Multiple uses at the Library of the Superior Court for Justice in **Oaxaca**.

The Seminar on Alternative Methods, Conciliation and Mediation was held on November 22 for personnel from the Office of the Attorney General for Justice at the State of **Oaxaca**. The purpose of the seminar was to train participants in the process of conciliation and provide them practical application to improve their comprehension and facilitation of conciliation.

The second session of the workshop on Restorative Justice was held at the Academy of Professional Education of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of **Oaxaca** on November 8. The 52 participants at the workshop were evaluated and results were presented to the Attorney General.

The University Lasalle of Saltillo, **Coahuila** hosted the Restorative Justice Workshop for the general public on November 20-21. The objective of the training was to provide a model of Restorative Justice as an alternative to resolve criminal conflicts. Twenty-five individuals attended.

On December 3-7 the Second Module of the Seminar on Alternative Methods of Solution to Conflict, Negotiation, Mediation and Restorative Justice was presented to share information on alternative methods to solution of conflicts. The workshop was presented in the context of applied knowledge of differences among the topics and was directed at assessing the individuals interested in participating as part of the team for the Center for

Alternative Justice of Ciudad Juarez. The training was held at the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad **Juarez**.

The Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez Institute of Social Sciences and Administration was the location for the presentation of the second module of the Seminar on Alternative Methods of Solution of Conflicts. The training was directed at the individuals aspiring to participate as operators of the Center for Alternative Justice in **Juarez**. The Module, entitled “Mediation” was presented to 24 persons for a total of 12 hours and focused on presenting the process of mediation and provided exercises to assist the participants in mastering the tools necessary to practice the mediation process and to receive feedback on their skills as mediators.

Training on Alternative Justice continues to be the focus in the states of Oaxaca and Chihuahua. As the reforms are posed to be implemented in three other states within 2008, 2009, more training will be required. The Restorative Justice team is expanding its training regions within the next two quarters to include **Zacatecas, Morelos, and Baja California** in comprehensive training.

Evaluative and Diagnostic Procedures

As the work on the reforms of the justice system in Mexico continue in states that are implementing and have passed the criminal code of procedures into law, it is essential that continual and consistent evaluation of the process and of the technical assistance Proderecho is providing take place. In addition, there are diagnostic procedures that Proderecho administers in order to assess the outcomes of the training and the practice of the justice reforms.

Meetings were held with the Deputy Attorney General and the District Attorney in Chihuahua City to analyze and evaluate the investigative work conducted in various cases during the week of October 22-26 at the State Offices of the Attorney General.

Two meetings were held during the week of November 5-9 with magistrates and Federal Judges of the Circuit of **Zacatecas** to discuss the system of criminal justice in the state and the incidence within the federal courts. Magistrates and judges showed much interest in the theme and the necessity for training.

Meetings held in **Oaxaca** on November 8 -9 addressed issues of concern to Administrators from the Attorney General’s Office and personnel from the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA). The IACA conducted an evaluation relative to performance of judges in Oaxaca. In a telephonic interview with Judges Jeff Apperson and Robert Hyslop, of the International Administration of Courts from America (IACA), a discussion focused on the experiences of Chihuahua and Oaxaca in the new system of criminal justice and restorative justice to investigate the possibilities for new interchanges between the United States, Canada, and Proderecho.

During the week of December 10-14, Proderecho consultants met with the mothers of recently murdered women. The meetings, which took place at the homes of the families of the murdered women, were held to prepare the families for future meetings with the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General in **Chihuahua**. The purpose of the meetings was to have the consultants familiarize themselves with the investigation of specific cases on behalf of the Attorney General's Office. As a result of the meetings, 21 family members of recent victims were able to transmit to the Attorney General their apprehensions and aspirations relative to the results of forthcoming cases. Unlike the victim's families of the past, the families of more recent victims were able to learn about the diligence in the investigations conducted by the Attorney General's office, the advances of the investigation in their cases, and about pending issues in the case investigations. Similarly, the Attorney General learned directly about the apprehensions of the families with respect to the investigation, and what their demands for justice are. In some cases, she was able to coordinate assistance for the families through the office of Attention to Victims.

Proderecho staff administered a variety of psychometric examinations to personnel from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of **Chihuahua** who work at the Center for Alternative Justice and the Unit for Early Intervention of the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of the evaluations was to assess the knowledge levels of the personnel working with victims of family violence or other crimes, and to determine what kinds of training are necessary to assist them in delivering appropriate services. Proderecho staff also participated in follow-up meetings after the evaluations at the Center for Alternative Justice in Chihuahua. The purpose of the meetings with personnel from the State Attorney General's Office was to explain the methodology of the evaluations administered and to solicit recommendations for proposed training for the cities of Chihuahua and Juarez.

State Events

Aguascalientes

Meetings with the Attorney General for Justice and the Chief Magistrate of the Supreme Court for Justice of the State were held on November 16 for the purpose of meeting with the operators of the new accusatory adversarial system of the states of Chihuahua and Oaxaca and their Proderecho coordinators.

On November 21 the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Aguascalientes sponsored a round table discussion for the purpose of promoting discussion of the integral criminal justice reform. The 28 participants representing prosecutors and agents of the Attorney General's office discussed the experiences from Chihuahua and Oaxaca with the new Criminal Code of Procedure. Later that afternoon the Attorney General expressed an interest in the necessity to work the following year to consolidate the Reform in Aguascalientes. A conference held during the afternoon focused on the implementation of the new system of Criminal Justice in Chihuahua and

Oaxaca. In attendance were 42 agents of the Attorney General, judges, magistrates, public defenders, and operators of the system of prosecutors.

Proderecho staff moderated a panel on the procedural criminal process in a forum regarding Public Security which was organized for elected representatives from the PAN party in Aguascalientes. The panel invited participants to analyze the importance of the procedural reforms and the different models of reform that are in place in the State of Mexico, Nuevo Leon, Chihuahua and Oaxaca. The Attorney General for the State of Aguascalientes, the President of the Commission of Human Rights for the State of Aguascalientes, elected Representatives of the PAN Party and the Technical Secretary of the Commission of human Rights from the state of Jalisco.

Baja California

Baja California has designated its Secretary of the Government in charge of the implementation of the new Criminal Code of Procedure as Gilberto Gonzalez Solis, who has served as the principal promoter of the Code. He has a designated team to assist with the implementations which include an administrator, a systems engineer, and other attorneys. Mr. Gonzalez and his team are responsible for implementation of the new system along with the assistance of Proderecho, which will serve the Inter-institutional Commission in a technical capacity. In addition, Governor Osuna Millan named Attorney Daniel de la Rosa, former head of criminal investigations, as Secretary of Public Security. Mr. de la Rosa was a member of the Review Committee of the new Code of Criminal Procedure and will play an important part in assisting in the implementation in his new post.

Chihuahua

Chihuahua City

The City of Chihuahua hosted officials and administrators from the states of **Morelos**, **Aguascalientes**, and **Jalisco** for the purpose of observing and learning about the Accusatory System as it functions in Chihuahua. From October 31 to November 1, the visitors toured the Offices of the State Attorney General for Justice of the State of Chihuahua, the Court of Warranty, the Forensic Laboratory, and the Deputy Attorney General's Central Offices. The visitors saw how the Oral Adversarial System functions in Chihuahua and were able to take with them a panorama of information which may permit them to implement the reform in a similar manner which is adequate for their respective states. The officials left satisfied and convinced of the positives of the system and some of them demonstrated their interests in returning to their states to see how close they are and how much more time they need to replicate the new system and make it operative in their respective states.

Proderecho was invited by Chihuahua State Attorney General, Patricia Gonzalez Rodriguez to provide technical assistance in a case of "Femicide" which occurred in the month of March. The Coordinator from Proderecho is offering support in the preparation

to the prosecutors in the oral trial. The prosecution was able to obtain a DNA sample from the accused (an oral sample) which was pending presentation in the oral trial. Proderecho provided assistance in the preparation of a plea bargain, questions for interrogation, and cross-interrogation of witnesses and expert witnesses, as well as basing the distinct petitions that are made by the prosecutor in an Oral Trial. This activity was held in the new offices of the Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua on October 28.

The second simulation of an oral trial was held in Chihuahua during the week of October 15-19 in Courtroom 1 of the Civil Court. Proderecho Coordinators and staff assisted in support of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Chihuahua and the Supreme Court for Justice of the State of Chihuahua. Approximately 172 participants registered to attend throughout the week, including administrative personnel from the Courts, judges, and police.

During the week of October 22-26 the Deputy Attorney General of Chihuahua City conducted interviews with family members of individuals whose cases are to undergo investigation. The interviews assisted family members in their understanding of the investigative procedures, and supported them in their process to give testimony.

A meeting held by the Regional Coordinator of Proderecho with the new Chief Magistrate of the Supreme Court for Justice and the Coordinator for Implementation of the Integral Reform of the Criminal Justice System. The meeting was held at the Office of the Chief Magistrate in Chihuahua on October 18. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of the Court within the new system of reform and to discuss the most effective ways Proderecho can continue to provide assistance.

During the period from November 2-8, consultants for Proderecho conducted a number of activities including lectures to prosecutors and investigators on the expedition of investigations on specific cases. Meetings with prosecutors and investigators were also held to analyze the preparation of the case, the state of their investigative procedures and arguments as an ongoing process since August of 2007. Meetings with the family of the victim were held to establish a trusting relationship with the new investigators and to delineate the work that lies ahead as the investigation continues. Prosecutors and investigators visited the crime scene in the effort to experience the crime scenes in depth and to recover possible elements of the case in order to elaborate on their investigation. Evaluations of their investigative activities according to international standards were conducted and recommendations were presented. The end result of these activities was to enable the Attorney General's Office to reorient the investigators, to establish procedures, and determine who the responsible parties are for each case investigation undertaken.

During the week of December 10-14, Proderecho consultants met with the mothers of recently murdered women. The meetings, which took place at the homes of the families of the murdered women, were held to prepare the families for future meetings with the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General in Chihuahua. The purpose of the meetings was to have the consultants familiarize themselves with the investigation of specific cases on behalf of the Attorney General's Office. As a result of the meetings, 21

family members of recent victims were able to transmit to the Attorney General their apprehensions and aspirations relative to the results of forthcoming cases. Unlike the victim's families of the past, the families of more recent victims were able to learn about the diligence in the investigations conducted by the Attorney General's office, the advances of the investigation in their cases, and about pending issues in the case investigations. Similarly, the Attorney General learned directly about the apprehensions of the families with respect to the investigation, and what their demands for justice are. In some cases, she was able to coordinate assistance for the families through the office of Attention to Victims.

Juarez

Proderecho Coordinators conducted a course on "The Stages of Investigation" for prosecuting attorneys in Juarez from October 15 to 19 at the New Judicial City Complex. Thirty-one individuals from the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office in Juarez attended the training from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily.

From October 15 to October 17 Proderecho Coordinators were in Juarez to conduct psychometric assessments and interviews on behalf of the Chihuahua State Attorney General. A total of 149 individuals were assessed by four coordinators to develop a pool of individuals with the appropriate profile for selection as potential operators of the Center for Alternative Justice in Ciudad Juarez. The assessments were held at the Judicial City Complex in Juarez. The Attorney General's Office will determine the individuals who will proceed with a three week training based on the results of the psychometric assessments and interviews. The selected individuals will undergo three weeks of training in alternative justice, after which a written and practical evaluation administered will determine if they qualify to work in the Center.

On October 29 the Administrative offices of the Judiciary hosted training on "Substantive Criminal Rights" in Juarez. The training was held for Trial Judges, Judges of Warranty, and Defense and Prosecuting attorneys who operate within the new justice system. There were 93 participants in attendance, with almost equal participation of 45 males and 48 females. The themes presented addressed theories of crime surrounding the construction of a case. The course lasted 12 hours over 3 days, during which time the participants learned about elements necessary to build their cases. There was also a review of the constitutional reforms relative to the criminal matters which serve to reinvest the participation and interest of the Commission of Justice and the House of Representatives in drawing up legal opinions.

Consultants held a meeting with an expert Forensic Argentinean Anthropologist on November 14 for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the fundamental scientific details which the forensic anthropologist uses to determine the precise cause and details of the deaths of victims which the Attorney General's office has investigated.

On November 15 a meeting was held between the Proderecho consultants and Brenda Grijalva Maldonado, in charge of the Unit of Absent or Missing Persons from the Office

of the Attorney General. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the second phase of functioning of this unit, its personnel, and the methodology used to investigate, the technology used in investigations, and the links between investigations and new cases that have emerged. The Unit recognized that they could formulate some recommendations to function more effectively.

USAID/Mexico has established a collaborative relationship with the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez College of Human Rights and during the Quarter held courses at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration for judges, prosecutors, and public defenders. Other courses include Special Case Proceedings: The Abridged Proceeding. A course on the Techniques of Interrogation presented for police personnel was held with the participation of the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office in Juarez. In addition to the courses, general reviews were held to approach the themes of abbreviated proceedings and the system of justice for adolescents. The reviews entitled "A Review of the Criminal Code of Procedure" were didactic in their presentation of theory with a portion of the workshop focused on simulation and practice of oral trials. These reviews were held throughout the Quarter.

Inter-institutional practice exercises in the simulations of oral trials for Judges, Prosecutors, and Defense Attorneys have been held throughout the Quarter with participating institutions which included the Supreme Court for Justice of the State of Chihuahua, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua, and the Public Defense of the State of Chihuahua. The trainings were all held at the Administrative Building of the City of Justice of Ciudad Juarez.

Sierra Tarahumara

On November 13 Proderecho Coordinators met with Jose Luis Garcia Naranjo, the Head of Coordination of Training of the Tarahumara. The meeting objective was to coordinate the support to sensitize and certify indigenous interpreters for the new system of criminal justice for the Sierra Tarahumara. The following accords were reached:

Proderecho is to sponsor and support the revision of a manual on the new system of criminal justice. Technical support provided by Proderecho will work to make the new criminal code of procedures understandable and accessible to the Tarahumara.

State and Federal institutions (INALI , the state of Chihuahua) and Proderecho will organize a project to certify interpreters for the indigenous population of the Sierra Tarahumara.

Weekly meetings will be held with Tarahumara leaders for the purpose of continuing the accords above.

A meeting between the Chihuahua Proderecho Coordinator and Jose Luis Garcia Naranjo, Head of Training in the Coordination of the Tarahumara was held on November

20, in order to continue realizing the objectives of certifying indigenous interpreters to serve in the new system of criminal justice. The certification of the indigenous interpreters is supported by the Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indigenas (INALI) and the Secretary of Education and Culture. The projected time frame for the interpreters course is 6 months according to the official for Coordination of the Tarahumara. A plan to conduct a sensitization of basic terminology so that interpreters can understand the criminal reform process will be presented by Proderecho Chihuahua staff working in conjunction with INALI. An accord was reached to submit a work plan within a month that contains comprehensive material for the 4 indigenous ethnic tribes within the state. The Director of Education mentioned that there already exists an Association of Indigenous Interpreters who have received training and seek support of the Governor of the state to continue training as part of this accord. Inclusion of these interpreters will allow the state to take advantage of existing resources.

A number of meetings with the Coordinator of the State of the Tarahumara and Proderecho Chihuahua state Coordinator were held during the week of December 3-7, and included representatives of the indigenous ethnic groups of the state. The purpose of the meetings was to support the desire of the indigenous community to form a civil association in order to receive certification for indigenous interpreters. In addition, a discussion was held to address the issues of the requirements to achieve the certification, receive government assistance for paid honoraria when they interpret, and count on assistance to receive books related to human rights and agricultural rights

On December 13-14 the Proderecho Regional Coordinator of Zacatecas met with indigenous interpreters who work in the Sierra Tarahumara and representatives of diverse indigenous groups from Chihuahua. These meetings were held at the Center for Social Integration 22, located in Guachochi, Chihuahua. The objective of the meeting was to address the basic concepts of the new system of criminal justice and define what the functions and profiles of the interpreters will be within that system. In addition, an analysis was made of the forms of imparting indigenous justice in the new state justice system. There were 20 participants, 14 women and 6 men including the leader of the interpreters, Mauricio Garcia Macharichi.

Durango

The Attorney General of the State of Durango, Jesus Gutierrez Vargas, and two of his advisors met with Proderecho staff on October 17. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the work of Proderecho to the Attorney General, and to establish a working relationship so that Proderecho can support the state in the reform process. During the meeting, the Attorney General stated that the Governor of Durango gave instructions that all representatives of government related institutions involved in the justice system are to begin working in favor of the criminal reform process, similar to the work that was done in Chihuahua.

Jalisco

USAID representatives from the International Republican Institute (IRI) met with diverse groups from Jalisco on December 12 for the purpose of exploring the opportunities of instituting an interlocutory program and creating consensus for the Criminal Code of Procedure. The IRI expressed an interest in working to build support from the business and political community as well as civil associations for the reform of the justice system.

A breakfast meeting with Attorney Cesar Eduardo Trujillo, Director of the Center for Mediation of Guadalajara and Congressman Juan Carlos Marquez Rosas Representative and Chair of the Commission for Justice of the Congress of the State of Jalisco was held to discuss IRI interests in working in Jalisco alongside Proderecho in the Justice Reform Process. A meeting was also held with the Board working on Oral trials for the grand alliance of Jalisco. Present were Magistrate Antonio Fierros, Professor Francisco Jiménez Reynoso, Coordinador of the Law School Program from the University of Guadalajara, Attorney Einsten Aviles Ibarra President of the Bar of Mexican Atronéis (Jalisco Chapter); and a Representative de Coparmex and litigating attorneys of Jalisco.

A dinner meeting between IRI representatives and the Director of the Center for Attention to Victims of Sexual Violence was held for the purpose of discussing the interest of IRI in working with Jalisco on programs for victims of sexual violence and human trafficking.

Mexico City, D.F.

Activities in Mexico City for the week of November 5-9 included the participation of Proderecho staff member in an interview with Channel 22 to discuss one his experience of his detainment for a crime he did not commit. His experience shed light on the creation of a judge for execution orders for crimes.

A second activity held on November 7, involved a radio interview with ITAM Professor Miguel Sarre to discuss the viability of Oral Trials in Mexico as they have been experienced in the states of Chihuahua and Oaxaca.

Proderecho assisted in the preparation of a document which captured the proposed constitutional reforms from diverse Congressional political parties in order to assist in generating consensus of the Legal Reforms.

On November 11 a course about the federal constitutional reforms was presented to judges and magistrates of the Federal Judicial Power.

Morelos

Proderecho Morelos Coordinator monitored the approval of the theme of Trafficking in Persons within the Reforms. This took place in collaboration with the Attorney General for the Defense of Minors and Families within DIF. In addition, there was a monitoring

of the Trafficking theme with the Coordination of Consultants of the Governor, with the plan of presenting a final version to Congress for the purpose of approval the following month of February, at the latest. A future meeting with the Director of PROTEJA, USAID Rule of Law Advisor Rafaela Herrera, Maestra Mayela, Director of DIF for Morelos and the wife of the Governor, and the Director of the Center for Social Coexistence and Assistance for minors from birth to 12, has been planned for early in 2008.

Oaxaca

Meetings held in Oaxaca on November 8 -9 addressed issues of concern to Administrators from the Attorney General's Office and personnel from the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA). The IACA conducted an evaluation relative to performance of judges in Oaxaca.

On November 8, the State Bar of Attorneys and law clerks of the Independent Rights, A.C. from Tlaxiaco district lead by Angel Maldonado Jr. held its first cycle of conferences entitled "A new way of doing justice". The conference was presented for the purpose of broadening the understanding of the Law of Justice for Adolescents in the new accusatory adversarial system of justice. In attendance were lawyers, journalists, public official, agents from the Attorney General's Office, and municipal authorities and constituents from the future cabinet posts. In light of this conference, and the attendance of members of the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA), Oaxaca was recognized by local newspapers and journalists of the *Imparcial* and *Diario Marca* as the state which maintains leadership in the criminal reform in Mexico. The *Imparcial* quotes an IACA official who stated "...[this] is a system of justice that is not in the service of attorneys, moreover to attend the citizens..." . The Executive Vice President of IACA, Jeffery Apperson, a court administrator from the District Court of Kentucky, USA, assured the attendants that the advances made in Oaxaca permit the development of a better administration of justice whenever efforts to learn about the reforms are sought.

Practice sessions on Basic Techniques of Litigation for Oral Trials were conducted by Proderecho Coordinators for 20 participants at the Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez de Oaxaca (UABJO). The 19 hour session engaged participants in actual practice of oral trial procedures.

The President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca, Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud met with Proderecho Coordinator and other dignitaries who serve as trainers at the Superior Court for Justice in Oaxaca to continue the collaborative networking that exists within the state. Other judges present included magistrates Cresencio Martinez Geminiano, Gerardo Carmona Castillo, Alejandro Enrique Figueroa, and Juan de J. Vásquez Urdiales, and attorneys Juana Rosa Corte Silva, Hugo Villegas Aquino, Violeta Margarita Sarmiento, Fanny Gómez Mercado, and Ana Aguilar. The 3 hour meeting was a positive reunion keeping all parties updated on the progress of the justice reforms.

Proderecho Oaxaca Coordinator participated in the Third Annual Information Activity, 2007 presented by Magistrate Hector Anuar Mafud Mafud, President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca with the purpose clarifying the advances made by the Court during their work on the Reform of the Criminal Code of Procedure for the state. Present were Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, Constitutional Governor of the State of Oaxaca and Congressman Herminio Cuevas Chavez, President of the Local Congress.

The University of the Gulf of Mexico, Oaxaca Campus was the sight of a conference entitled “Dating Violence” on November 14. The conference was directed at students of the Psychology department with the purpose of sensitizing the participants on the theme of violence during dating, its consequences and possible alternative solutions. There were 70 persons in attendance.

The city of Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca is preparing to embrace the new accusatory system of justice for Adolescents in the Mixteca region in 2008. The bar of attorneys and legal clerks of the City of Tlaxiaco participated in a series of conferences presented by personnel of the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca on October 31. The series of conferences began with a presentation on the new system of justice for adolescents by Attorney General for Justice, Evencio Nicolás Martínez Ramírez, and continued with presentations on Adolescent Law with attorney María de la Luz Candelaria Chiñas, Special Prosecutor in Adolescent Justice. Following were presentations on Central Governing Principals of the Accusatory System given by José de Jesús Silva Pineda; Criteria of Opportunity and Alternative Sentencing presented by Attorney Fernando Santiago Hernández, Director of the Professional Education Academy. One session included basics on trial, debate, and resources within the new system, given by Dr. Rubén Vasconcelos Méndez, deputy Attorney General of Internal Matters. Execution of Sentences was presented by Heriberto Antonio García from the Human Rights section of the Attorney General’s Office. Also presenting were Victor Manuel Aguilar Avila, Chair of the Attorney’s Bar of Tlaxiaco, who spoke on the new system of justice for adolescents and how the accusatory system will function in the Mexteca region in 2008 within the system of Oral Trials. Chairman Aguilar Avila stated that the Mixteca community should prepare for the administration of the new system of justice where oral trials will be held after investigations with the presence of a judge and all the parties involved so that the citizens as the recipients of the system of justice can participate.

Tamaulipas

Proderecho staff presented the Family Mediation course was held November 6-8 at the Supreme Court for Justice of the state of Tamaulipas directed at the personnel of DIF (Department of Family Services), the Supreme Court for Justice, and the Attorney General for Justice of the State with the objective of training mediators to facilitate family mediation. There were 43 persons in attendance.

Zacatecas

Classes and trainings on the simulation of Oral Trials were held at the Law School of the University of Durango, Zacatecas Campus on November 5-8 for a total of 20 hours. The classes were facilitated by Proderecho and attended by law students who covered the topic of “The Constitutional reform in criminal matters”. Seventy-five participants from the Cultural Judicial Supreme Court for Justice of the Nation and Superior court of Justice for the State were in attendance.

Two meetings were held during the week of November 5-9 with magistrates and Federal Judges of the Circuit of Zacatecas to discuss the system of criminal justice in the state and the incidence within the federal courts. Magistrates and judges showed much interest in the theme and the necessity for training.

On November 15, Zacatecas Proderecho Coordinator supported a simulation of an oral trial at the Universidad Autonoma de Durango (Zacatecas campus) for 200 academics and students of law from the states of Durango, Zacatecas, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua.

A meeting was held with judges and magistrates from the Superior Court for Justice in the State of Zacatecas to discuss the functional models of institutions from Chihuahua and Oaxaca in the new system of criminal justice. A conference session held on November 22, addressed students and academic faculty of the Law School for the purpose of discussing the oral-adversarial system and the issues that await the state as it proceeds toward implementation. The second session of the conference was attended by Agents of the Attorney General and prosecutors of the state of Zacatecas for the purpose of discussing the oral-adversarial system and the issues that the operators of the new system will face.

Attorney Eduardo Ruiz Fierro, a major official from Zacatecas met with Proderecho staff with the purpose of initiating a project to create a Center for Community Mediation. The Governor of the state committed herself to begin the project within the first few days of the New Year.

Proderecho Coordinators from Zacatecas and Oaxaca met with high level officials from the Office of the Governor of Zacatacas to elaborate on the plans for establishing the Community Centers for Mediation in the municipalities of Zacatecas.

Conclusion

The number of events reported above enumerates the work of USAID/Mexico during the Quarter from October 1 to December 31 and demonstrate the successes of the project in moving toward criminal justice reform in Mexico. The many workshops, trainings, seminars, and meetings are examples of the productivity of the staff as they continue to work with those states that have passed the reform package, and as they expand their working area to include states that are close to passing the reforms. The expansion of

USAID/Mexico's influence and support is recognized by states that are interested in the march toward justice reform and respected by the Federal government.

Since there are various levels of the justice reforms taking place, staff must work diligently to respond accordingly. For states that are at the entry level, basic inquiries regarding the reform are addressed with fundamental training. Needs assessments are conducted to assist in allocation of resources and to determine the current level of commitment from states inquiring and seeking initial assistance from USAID/Mexico.

For those states that are reviewing and evaluating reforms and are moving toward legislation of the reform package, USAID/Mexico continues assisting with training and technical support to the maximum extent possible. The assistance to review, revise, promote, and pass the reforms continues. For Chihuahua and Oaxaca, USAID/Mexico continues to provide support with dedication, so that the system now implemented can be implemented successfully and smoothly. For Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California, USAID/Mexico is prioritizing the technical assistance for these states as they move toward implementation in 2008 and 2009.

The difficulty of these mandates is that USAID/Mexico must allocate its resources with efficacy; thus it is unable to respond to all the requests for assistance. It is important then, that USAID/Mexico work to provide a solid foundation for legislative, judicial, law enforcement, civil and social, and academic institutions in Mexico; so that the march toward the new and transparent system of justice will be embraced, supported, and carried out by the operators and bring civil rights and human dignity to the recipients of the system.