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Supporting Community-based Activism for Mental Health and Human Rights

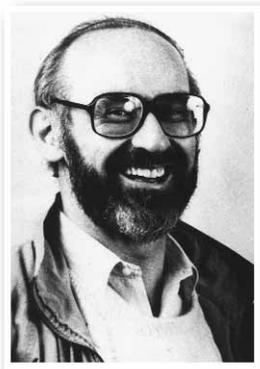
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MARTÍN-BARÓ'S LEGACY, GUANTÁNAMO, AND A CHALLENGE TO PSYCHOLOGISTS

Joan H. Liem & M. Brinton Lykes



Writing from war torn El Salvador in the 1980s, Ignacio Martín-Baró, Salvadoran social psychologist and Jesuit priest, noted that psychologists are challenged to act as socially responsible professionals and as citizens (*Writings for a liberation psychology*.

Harvard University Press, 1994). Our primary task as psychologists is, thus, to accompany those most marginalized from power and resources as they develop a critical understanding of themselves, their history, and their contemporary reality. Through these direct experiences with “the poor”, he argued, psychologists would be positioned to de-idealize a professionalized psychological knowledge developed to sustain injustice and to collaborate in building a “new society” and in creating a renewed psychology.

In the 21st century, the President of the United States, George W. Bush, and his administration have launched pre-emptive wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and honed a rhetoric of “war on terror” to justify these invasions, to expand the powers of the presidency, to curtail civil liberties, to deny detainees the protections afforded prisoners

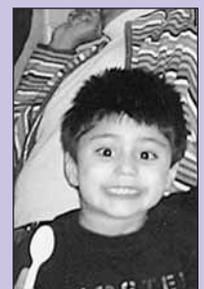


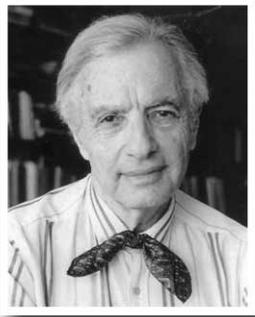
of war by the Geneva Conventions and the UN Convention Against Torture, and to generate fear in the United States population and beyond. As members of the

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Robert Jay Lifton

ly repressive conditions. We turn to the work of some of our colleagues to situate contemporary realities historically and explore possible responses in a conversation with Robert Jay Lifton, M.D., lecturer in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School/Cambridge Health Alliance, distinguished professor emeritus of psychiatry and psychology at The City University of New York (CUNY), and former director of the Center on Violence and Human Survival at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at CUNY.

SITUATING ABU GHRAIB AND GUANTÁNAMO.

The Bush administration has “denounced torture” while openly endorsing coercive interrogations – what the United Nations and the European Parliament have both characterized as psychological torture – as a means of gaining intelligence that they claim will protect the national security. Historian Alfred McCoy (*A question of torture: CIA Interrogation from the Cold War to the War on Terror*. Metropolitan Books, 2006) and activist lawyer Jennifer Harbury (*Truth, torture, and the American way: The history and consequences of U.S. involvement in torture*. Beacon Press, 2005) have both recently documented some of these practices – and their antecedents.

Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund and as mental health workers we are challenged to respond to these increasing-

McCoy notes that psychological, or “no touch” torture, became widespread after 9/11, but dates back to the 1950s. At that time, with the help of psychologists at major research universities, the CIA engaged in a massive research effort to explore mind and behavior control processes – “a veritable Manhattan Project of the mind” – that was funded by both the Defense Department and the CIA. The research initially was gathered to prepare U.S. soldiers captured in battle to resist interrogation by their captors. However, principles derived from this research proved to have considerable applied relevance for counterinsurgency interrogation practices as well, and this information was later incorporated into the CIA’s Kubark Counterintelligence Interrogation Manual (1963), and disseminated worldwide for use against the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War and against insurgent forces in Central America in the 1980s.

Historically, interrogators had found that the use of physical pain often made the strong more resistant while the weak would offer any falsehood to stop it. By contrast, behavioral science research demonstrated that sensory deprivation and self-inflicted pain in combination caused victims to feel responsible for their suffering and to capitulate more readily to their interrogators. The use of key principles laid out in the Kubark manual have been documented in military reports and illustrated in photographs of prisoner abuse at Abu Graib and Guantánamo; they include the use of isolation, hooding, sleep deprivation, hours standing or sitting in stress positions, exposure to extremes of hot and cold, the manipulation of time, and forced nudity to cause humiliation – all calculated to dis-

orient detainees and destroy their basis of personal identity. The Bush administration’s rhetoric claims that these activities do not constitute torture or that those responsible are a “few bad apples,” yet Harbury (2005) & McCoy (2006) have documented the long history of these practices that have become ever more brutal and widespread within the intelligence community. Moreover, they have produced little by way of useful intelligence and have damaged our moral standing within the international community.

SITUATING PSYCHOLOGISTS POST-9/11

These are arguably the most important abuses of power facing U.S. psychologists, psychiatrists, and mental health workers at this moment in history. It is critical that we heed Martín-Baró’s challenge to liberate our profession and to foster a critical consciousness within the populace about the social and psychological costs of the Bush administration’s rhetoric, policies, and practices. Specifically, we are challenged to critically evaluate ourselves and our profession vis-à-vis the uses and abuses of psychological research and knowledge to sustain and support the discourse of deception and praxis of repression described above.

Robert Jay Lifton has spent his career researching and writing about practices of medical and mental health professionals similar to those described above. Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund member, M. Brinton Lykes, recently interviewed him at his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The conversation began with a discussion of some of the reasons why medical and mental health profes-

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sionals become involved in abusive interrogations and torture such as that being carried out at Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo. Said Lifton:

... whether what we do is good or not depends on what group we're working with and what its policies and principles are. Psychologists and psychiatrists are not immune from what I call an atrocity-producing situation - situations that can arise in general that are so constructed militarily and psychologically that ordinary people who enter into those environments are capable of atrocities even though they are not particularly bad people or have no record of atrocities in the past. It looks as though ... psychology and psychiatry go the way of the rest of society, that is, American society has become militarized, it has embarked on an aggressive war against Iraq. In general, the professions tend to follow power and run the risk of serving it. ... you find all kinds of examples of this in Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo and elsewhere, in Afghanistan, where doctors and psychologists, by adapting to the environment, drifted to the environment of torture, more or less passively and, as I wrote [in an article "Doctors and Torture" that was published in the August 1, 2004 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine], failed to report wounds which only could have been caused by abuse falsified or delayed death certificates to cover up abuse, and made medical records available to interrogators, which is against the medical ethos. And now that process has gone much further with these [Behavioral Sciences Consultation] teams that have joined interrogators and include psychiatrists and social scientists, psychologists, and join in the formation and conduct of the interrogation process, ... that's an example of the kind of active participation in a process that readily can become and has become torture, as opposed to the passive adaptation to the environment in which it was occurring.

... Torturers never accept that their purpose is that of destroying people; torturers can consciously believe that they are carrying out what they're doing on behalf of obtaining necessary information. I think that American abuse of detainees and torture have resulted, at least in part, from a hunger for information, and a kind of illusion that if we got enough information we would be able to find the hidden weapons of some kind—wherever they may be—justify the war, and win the war. None of which is possible. ... [Sometimes] extraordinary abuse is justified in the name of protection, of perhaps the most misused concept of any in contemporary history, that of national security.

Lifton described the military's efforts to justify or legitimate these practices through

... a subtle argument sometimes made by the military that the psychiatrist or the psychologist participating in interrogation is not functioning as a healer but rather as a student of human behavior, and therefore it's ok. It's a very specious argument. And it's what I call an invitation to doubling - to the formation of two functionally separate selves which are antagonistic ethically to one another, in the same person.

In talking about the wider political challenges facing psychologists today, Lifton described the "permanent policy of militarization and of war emergency" wherein

... all professions are supposed to join in combating the ostensible danger to the society. It becomes a rationale for what would ordinarily be considered impermissible.... it's a rather new hybrid - of certain democratic elements being suppressed in a legal way and a breakdown of the balance of powers—and a taking over of power rather ruthlessly in all branches of government, and with

that, the professions become subsumed to that monolith.

Lifton and Lykes also discussed the particular social responsibilities facing psychologists and psychiatrists and some more practical options for response to these political challenges.

... we as a profession have a particular responsibility to combat this process because we're very privileged, on the whole we live well, and we're privy to a lot of knowledge about human behavior in some cases...

[On] the "do no harm" level [of psychologists' ethical responsibilities]... I think psychologists have the freedom to embrace it and should. It's a serious medical principle; it's not always followed by doctors. We have to be brought back to it as doctors, but I believe in it. It has been very important to me in my work even though I've done relatively little clinical work and mostly research work, it has been very important to me to do no harm.

Lifton exemplifies Martín-Baró's mandate to de-ideologize psychology in his discussion of his book on Vietnam, wherein he cited two articles on the Vietnam War published in one issue of the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, one of which adapted to the profession's dominant discourse, the other of which deconstructed it and challenged the profession, and all of those who read the piece to rethink how we talk about war and its effects.

... one of them was something like "Psychiatric Principles in Vietnam in the Combat Area" and the second one was called something like "Some Remarks on the Psychology of Slaughter." And it talked about—the psychology of slaughter. That young psychiatrist who wrote

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CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER UPHOLDS HUMAN RIGHTS

Maria Isabel Lanada, Executive Director, Children's Rehabilitation Center
Quezon City, Philippines

When I joined the Children's Rehabilitation Center (CRC), I was anxious about how I would approach my work, but I was also excited. It was really a challenge of conscience to be a member of the CRC. For almost two decades of CRC's existence, justice has been denied to peasants and workers. I have observed many people struggling for survival in rural communities yet finding ways to cope positively even in the midst of life and death situations. Despite colonization by Spain, Japan, and the U.S., the mental health of the Filipino people bears a relation to the culture of their communities. Most communities have had no support from the government, and, faced with cultural, economic, and political crises, the Filipino people have developed a strong sense of collective living and belonging.

In the Philippines, the majority of children suffer malevolent human rights violations under the current administration of President Arroyo and historically, the majority of families have lived under appalling conditions of poverty and sickening economic deprivation. President Arroyo says the dreams of children are very clear and simple, and yet these dreams have always been difficult to fulfill by those in power. But I ask: Why is it so difficult to create regular jobs, implement genuine land reform, and provide social services? Why is it so difficult to stop militarizing the countryside, uphold national sovereignty, free us from domination by the U.S. government, and respect human rights? And why is it so easy to spend the peoples' money to send troops to wage war against peasants

in the countryside, privatize housing and health services, give incentives to foreign investors, and support the U.S. war on terror?

Human rights are indeed an issue for which we, as development work-



ers, psychologists, and social workers must advocate in our work. It is difficult to conduct psychosocial therapy and counseling without advocating for our clients' rights to social justice. **We should TAKE A STAND AND SPEAK NOW!**

As psychologists, I believe we should go beyond the individual-therapist relationship in our work. It is extremely important to grasp the meaning and history of our clients' human rights abuses and to be part of the process of claiming their rights through advocacy and public campaigns. At the CRC we attempt to do this through our Children's Collective. After the children graduate from therapy they have volunteered to be a part of our Child to Child Advocacy Program. It has been very significant for the children to support each others' quests. Some of the members have become organizers and skilled human rights advocates in

their universities and communities. The children give me inspiration to serve the people and most especially to defend and uphold the rights of children. It is also our vital role to help them to organize.

As counselors, our contributions are very much needed. But, we must examine the kind of approach we are using. Is it for the oppressed or for the oppressor? If it is for the oppressor then we will not fully be campaigning for human rights. If we truly believe that human rights should be upheld, then we should actively defend them.

For generations, children from the poor and oppressed masses witnessed, and, worse, became casualties of the government's outright disregard for basic human rights. For generations, children have also witnessed that only through the people's struggle to expose and oppose State violence, could conditions change. It may be a long journey toward a just and peaceful society, but it is inevitable and workers like us must do our part.

The U.S. government's global terror campaigns have become rampant. At least half a million Iraqi children were killed because they were deprived of food and medicines. How many more have died because of war in Iraq? How many children have been killed in Afghanistan? How many children are to be killed, maimed and traumatized by cruel sanctions and wars of aggression as the U.S. continues to impose its will on the entire Middle East, Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia and elsewhere in the world? ♦

MBF'S PETITION CAMPAIGN TO END TORTURE AND COERCIVE INTERROGATION

Ann Murphy

On November 16, 1989, Ignacio Martín-Baró, five other Jesuits, their house-keeper and her daughter were killed by 24 Salvadoran soldiers. Nineteen of the accused assassins were trained at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia. To commemorate the sixteenth anniversary of these assassinations, the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund sponsored a public forum on the issue of torture and the complicity of mental health professionals in coercive interrogation. The Forum was held at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge on November 13, 2005 and was co-sponsored by Global Lawyers and Physicians, Physicians for Human Rights, and Psychologists for Social Responsibility.

The Fund used the occasion to announce the launch of a two-pronged petition campaign calling on both the U.S. Congress and the American Psychological Association (APA) to commission independent investigations of this situation, and to take concrete steps to put an end to these practices. Panelists at the Forum included Dr. M. Brinton Lykes, Fund member and Boston College professor, Dr. Sondra Crosby, M.D., Professor of Socio-Medical Sciences at Boston University School of Medicine, and Dr. Bernice Lott, Professor Emerita of Psychology and Women's Studies at the University of Rhode Island.

In opening the Forum, Dr. Lykes cited Martín-Baró's depiction of the effect of civil war on El Salvador. He argued that war becomes the focal point of people's lives, resulting in "an increasing polarization in society, so that people begin to look at others as either 'enemies' or 'friends'; an increas-

ing institutionalization of lying by those in power; and an increasing reliance on violence to resolve conflict."

Lykes observed that Martín-Baró's words about the war in El Salvador in the 1980s all too accurately describe national life within the United States since 9/11:

Almost without realizing it, we have become accustomed to institutions being exactly the opposite of what they are meant to be: those responsible for guaranteeing our safety are the main source of insecurity; those in charge of justice defend abuse and injustice; those called on to enlighten



and guide are the first to deceive and manipulate. The lie has come to permeate our existence to such an extent that we end up creating an imaginary world, whose only truth is precisely that it is a false world, and whose only pillar of support is the fear of reality, which is too "subversive" to be tolerated ... In this environment of lies, thrown off balance by social polarization, with no place for sanity and reason, violence dominates life to such an extent that people begin to believe that violence is the only solution to the problem of violence itself (Writings for a Liberation Psychology, 1994, pp. 113-114).



Also addressing the Forum was Dr. Sondra Crosby, a physician who works with torture survivors at the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights at Boston

Medical Center. Crosby stressed the terrible consequences of torture on those who inflict it, as well as on their families, friends, and communities. The final speaker, Dr. Bernice Lott, traced the struggle among members of the APA to convince that organization to take a strong and principled stand against involvement by its members in torture or coercive interrogation.

The Forum also featured excerpts from two recent media explorations of the issue: WGBH's *Frontline: The Torture Question*, and *Democracy Now: Psychological Warfare? A Debate on the Role of Mental Health Professionals in Military Interrogations at Guantánamo, Abu Ghraib and Beyond*. ♦

PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LEADS HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' CALL AGAINST TORTURE

Paul Rocklin, J.D., Senior Program Associate
Physicians for Human Rights

Since the emergence of the first revelations of torture and ill-treatment of detainees by US forces, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has given voice to the ethical, legal, and human rights concerns of health professionals across the United States. Over the past four years, PHR has played a central role in investigating the facts about U.S. interrogation practices and about the role of health professionals in designing, implementing, and otherwise facilitating them.

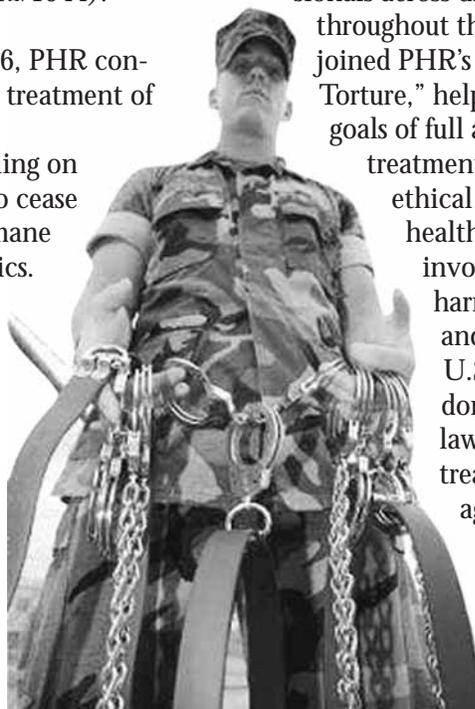
The 2005 report, *Break Them Down*, continues to serve as a seminal and widely-cited exposé of the use and health consequences of psychological torture at Guantánamo Bay and in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. The report is available online at http://www.phrusa.org/research/torture/pdf/psych_torture.pdf. PHR also has documented and detailed the Defense Department's attempts to fundamentally alter traditional ethical standards in order to

promote health professionals' participation in "aggressive" interrogation methods (<http://jama.amaassn.org/cgi/content/short/294/12/1544>).

In March 2006, PHR confronted the brutal treatment of hunger strikers at Guantánamo, calling on U.S. authorities to cease painful and inhumane force-feeding tactics. PHR endorsed the statement of over 250 international medical leaders, including PHR President Holly G. Atkinson, M.D., published in the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, condemning the force-feeding of detainees "strapped into restraint chairs in uncomfortably cold isolation cells to force them off their hunger strike" (<http://www.phrusa.org/research/tor->

[ture/news_2006-03-10.html](http://www.phrusa.org/news/news_2006-03-10.html)).

More than 1,000 health professionals across disciplines and throughout the country have joined PHR's "Campaign Against Torture," helping to advance the goals of full accountability for ill-treatment of detainees; strong ethical standards to protect health professionals from involvement in abuse and harm in interrogations; and compliance by the U.S. government with domestic anti-torture law, international treaties and declarations against torture, and fundamental principles of human rights. ♦



For more information about PHR's Campaign Against Torture, please visit <http://www.phrusa.org/no-torture>.



Note from the Editors

We would like to inform our readers that as of January 2006 our Coordinator, Guadalupe López Tovares, is no longer with the Fund. Lupe served as Fund Coordinator for 18 months during which time she helped us to organize our historical and current files; to think critically about our mission and goals, organizational structure, and work plans; to carry out our grant making activities; to engage in community outreach; and to translate many of our materials into Spanish. We want to thank Lupe for all of her efforts, and for her continued support. We know that you join us in wishing her every success in her new professional activities.

Anne Anderson, Coordinator

Psychologists for Social Responsibility

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) is monitoring the American Psychological Association's response to the persistent reports of psychologists' involvement in cases of torture and/or cruel, degrading and inhumane treatment of detainees. We support the leadership of the APA Divisions for Social Justice in strengthening APA's original position. However, the situation is not yet resolved. If the APA is to live up to the spirit of its own 1986 Resolution and make its ethics code meaningful in the current context, it should immediately:

- ❖ Call for an independent nonpartisan commission to investigate the possible involvement of psychologists in any manner—training, support, guidance, consultation, interrogation, etc.;
- ❖ State its opposition to and condemnation of methods such as sleep deprivation and harassment (e.g., focused on religion, ethnic identity, sexual orientation and gender); and,
- ❖ Educate policy makers about the psychological damage done by the use of methods that fall in the category of cruel, degrading, and inhumane treatment.

If the APA denounces not only torture, but also condemns acts that we know are psychologically harmful, we close some crucial loopholes for perpetrators. The use of these methods is not only unethical but compromises national security by enraging groups whose members are subjected to them, and creating a norm conducive to the mistreatment of any detainees including American soldiers. Help clarify ethical standards for psychologists by supporting the specific steps outlined above; you will strengthen our profession and contribute to the security of the peoples of the world. For more on PsySR, contact psysr@psysr.org, www.psysr.org ♦



MARTÍN-BARÓ'S LEGACY, GUANTÁNAMO, AND A CHALLENGE TO PSYCHOLOGISTS, *continued from page 3*

that latter article had the ethical impulse to use his profession to expose killing—slaughter—as opposed to the one who wrote the first article who was adapting.

Lifton argued further that:

It's what you do in relation to the institutions, it's where you hang out your shingles ...and for whom you work, what you stand for. Being in a profession like psychology or psychiatry doesn't eliminate the need to make profound ethical judgments about how one lives one's life, what one does with one's knowledge and we need that to be not only an individual matter, but a group matter...

We do want to press our society as far as we push them toward ethical commitments ...I think that people have to work both inside and outside of established arrangements—so even in terms of these issues you have to work within the electoral system and vote for the better or least bad candidates and you have to work outside the electoral system and take a public stance, sometimes more militantly, against these abuses, you have to do both. And as professionals you have to do both, to work inside our professional organizations and outside of them.

Please join the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights in petitioning the American Psychological Association to take a clear and unambiguous stance against the participation of psychologists in interrogations such as those at Abu Ghraib and Guantánamo. To sign it, go to www.martinbarofund.org/contact/petition-APA.htm and see the related article in this issue. ♦

SEVEN PROJECTS FUNDED FOR 2006

Maria De Jesus

This year the Martín-Baró Fund received over 70 brief funding proposals from new groups from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and North America. Approximately 35 of these proposals were from grassroots organizations that appeared to address both the human rights and the mental health needs of the communities they intended to serve. Following careful review, four of the groups were invited to submit full proposals. In addition, six groups that had been supported by the Martín-Baró Fund in 2005 were asked to submit renewal proposals. From among these ten proposals, the Martín-Baró Fund Committee has selected seven groups to fund for 2006. They are:

KOMISYON FANM VIKTİM pou VIKTİM (KOFAVIV), THE COMMISSION OF WOMEN VICTIMS FOR VICTIMS, PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, \$7,000

Haitians living in Port-au-Prince have experienced unprecedented violence and have been victim to massive violations of their rights. Women victims participating in KOFAVIV's program have not only experienced the trauma of rape, many have also had husbands, partners, children, or other family members brutally killed. Many have lost their means of economic survival and are unable to meet the basic needs of their family. Their trauma has been aggravated by a situation of ongoing violence and absolute lack of human security, which makes women and their families vulnerable to further abuses. KOFAVIV seeks to respond to the mental health impact of human rights violations and violence by providing support to individual victims of violations, while facilitating healing processes at a community level. With the grant offered by the Martín-Baró Fund, KOFAVIV will offer twelve peer support groups, each with approximately 20 members. These groups employ Reflection Circles to encourage non-hierarchical, participatory interaction and dialogue around issues of importance to the women. KOFAVIV will also hold community Open Space sessions on the mental health impact of human rights violations in poor communities. These Open Space activities will focus on the impact of violence in individual communities, and will serve as a space for the women to begin to reach beyond their peer groups and to talk with others about how violence has affected women in particular. KOFAVIV will invite individuals from other grassroots groups, organizations, and institutions to participate in these activities.



ASOCIACIÓN CENTRO DE EDUCACIÓN Y FORMACIÓN MAYA Ixil (ACEFOMI), SAN GASPAR DE CHAJUL, GUATEMALA, \$7,000



The Martín-Baró Fund renewed its grant to the Center for Mayan Ixil Education and Development, which works with youth and women in the rural town of Chajul and its surrounding villages, an area profoundly affected by more than thirty-six years of civil war and entrenched poverty. Over the past year, women and youth participated in monthly mental health workshops, sharing their experiences during and after the war, working through their fears, and developing support networks. In addition, participants learned about human rights specific to indigenous women and youth as a way to demand the fulfillment of those rights. ACEFOMI reports that the response of the participants in their work in the past year has been very positive. This year's grant will serve to strengthen the work that the women have done in the community. They will hold four workshops in each of ten identified indige-

nous communities. The workshops will address mental health and human rights issues, discuss the importance of gender equality, and examine types of organization and leadership within indigenous communities, as well as problems that affect the community such as poverty, youth gangs, and family violence.

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CENTRO BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS, SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, \$7,000

The Martín-Baró Fund also renewed its grant to the Centro Bartolomé de las Casas, which works with local communities on economic, social, psychosocial, and spiritual development. Centro Bartolomé de las Casas reports that they have achieved their first primary objective for 2005, which was to accompany the communities of Arcatao and Nueva Trinidad in exhumation processes. They have begun legal negotiations and psychosocial accompaniment toward the exhumation of remains in the riverbed of Río Sumpul, Chalatenango. They have also consolidated their local memory recovery initiatives in the north-west of Chalatenango, incorporated survivors as protagonists in local processes, initiated basic psychosocial attention in the north of Morazán, and been invited to Chile and Brazil to share their experiences at international assemblies on memory and mental health. With this year's grant from the

Martín-Baró Fund, the Center hopes to continue and consolidate a local group of survivors in the north-east zone and to provide psychosocial support to relatives and survivors of the exhumations slated for October to December 2006.



BOARDING SCHOOL HEALING PROJECT, SOUTH DAKOTA, USA, \$7,000

During the 19th and well into the 20th century, Native American children were forcibly abducted from their homes to attend boarding schools, where they were systematically humiliated, abused, and stripped of their language, cultural traditions, and family connections. The devastating impact of these experiences continues to affect tribal life

today. The Fund renewed its grant to The Boarding School Healing Project, which seeks to document and raise consciousness about these abuses so that Native communities can begin a process of healing. They report that they have not yet achieved their goal of completing the documentation process on all the reservations in South Dakota. They have found that this process is quite slow due to the level of trauma faced by survivors. On the positive side, they have been successful in offering individual and group support, workshops, and visits to the boarding schools. In addition, they were able to launch a grassroots campaign this past year to pressure the United Nations to implement its resolution that would call for a study of the genocidal practices against indigenous peoples, including boarding schools. The campaign has allowed them to engage Native communities in human rights organizing so that they can understand and shape

these processes. With this year's grant, they hope to continue the documentation process as well as the UN campaign. In addition, they plan on finishing a toolkit for tribal communities that want to pursue remedies through tribal court systems, as well as to present possible strategies for redress in international fora to the survivors involved in the project.



CENTER FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES (CIF), NEW YORK CITY, USA, \$5,000

Center for Immigrant Families' (CIF) organizing model focuses on the needs of low-income immigrant women of color, using a popular education model which emphasizes the centrality and importance of people's own knowledge, experiences, histories and cultures. "I learned how to feel differently about myself and my community," reports one of the workshop participants, "and to feel proud of being an immigrant...and to feel how strong you have to be to be an immigrant here." In the past year CIF engaged in significant outreach to more women in the Lower Manhattan Valley

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resulting in an expansion of their membership; engaged in program development and implementation; engaged in critical and outgoing leadership development of current members; and continued to work towards CIF's mission of promoting psychological well-being, health, development, and organizing for justice among low-income immigrant women of color. With this year's grant, CIF will continue doing outreach, and conduct four community-based workshops on *Culture, Migration, and Community Organizing* and the *Creating Community Literacy Project*. They will also conduct another four-part leadership training on community organizing and popular education for those who have participated in the workshops.



CHILDREN'S REHABILITATION CENTER (CRC), QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES, \$5,000

Philippine children and families have been the victims of decades of conflict, poverty, and economic displacement – and most recently of massive human rights violations connected with the Arroyo administration's U.S.-backed war on "terrorism." In the past year, the CRC extended community-based psychosocial services in the areas of Eastern Visayas, Southern Tagalog, and Northern Luzon. They also provided psychosocial, medical, nutritional, and educational assistance to 21 child political prisoners. Programs for children emphasized play therapy and arts, and cultural performance. The CRC also offered trainings on the Child Rights Framework to Luzon human rights workers who were bombarded by killings and various human rights violations in the past year. In addition, they offered counseling for adults and encouraged them to find alternative solutions in challenging government policies of terror in their communities. This year's grant will allow the CRC to continue the service delivery for the displaced families from Eastern Visayas regions as well as for the child political prisoners. In addition, the Center will continue the arts workshops for children and symposia on human rights issues.



RWANDAN WOMEN'S PEACE LEADERSHIP PROJECT, RWANDA, \$5,000

The 1994 genocide in Rwanda shattered the country's political infrastructure and economy, devastating a country already weakened by the structural adjustment policies of the International Money Fund and the World Bank. Rwandan women suffered some of the most profound physical and psychological effects of the conflict. In collaboration with Pro-femmes, an umbrella group of 40 Rwandan organizations, the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, a non-profit organization based in Amherst, Massachusetts, U.S. implemented a project to train staff members to become trainers in conflict resolution and reconciliation. Seminars included the use of inter-communal dialogue and other techniques for rebuilding community relations and promoting social healing. At the end of the seminar, participants expressed feeling more confident in their emerging identities as peace leaders. With this year's grant, the Karuna Center has proposed two phases of work with Pro-femmes. Phase I is the final workshop to review and consolidate the learning from the two-year training program. Phase II is designed to meet Pro-femmes request for further mentoring through hands-on coaching of trainee-led regional trainings, followed by a meeting of all trainees to discuss the lessons learned, challenges they are encountering through their practice, and ways to strengthen themselves as a group of peacebuilders capable of providing ongoing mutual support. ♦





Bryan Gangemi

On April 2nd, the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund held its annual Strike for Justice Bowl-a-thon fundraiser. This year's event was our most successful to date, raising over \$22,000! A dozen teams participated in the Bowl-a-thon, including students from Boston College, UMass Boston, and Weston Jesuit School of Theology, as well as members of the Fund, new and long-time supporters. A special thanks to the students from Weston Jesuit School of Theology, who, along with their faculty and staff colleagues, came out in strong numbers to support the event. We are again grateful to Lanes and Games in Cambridge for their generous support of this event. As always, our deepest appreciation to all who participated in and supported this year's event making it our best yet!



BOWL ACROSS AMERICA INITIATIVE



In the past year, members of the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund have reached out to supporters of the Fund across the country in order to explore the possibility of setting up Bowl-a-thon fundraisers to complement our annual event in Boston. It brings us great pleasure to report that as a result of efforts, plans are underway to coordinate a Bowl-a-thon in Chicago in late May. Nelson Portillo, a Ph.D candidate in Psychology at Loyola University Chicago, has spearheaded the initiative to bring supporters of the Martín-Baró Fund in the Chicago area together for this event. Supporters of the Fund, who have worked on the Planning Committee and are now doing outreach for the event, include faculty and students from University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University, Loyola University of Chicago, and the University of Chicago. Many thanks to our friends and colleagues in the



Chicago area who have taken the lead on this initiative. Please contact Bryan Gangemi (bgangemi@seiu615.org) for further information or if you would like to get involved with this initiative.

Editors: Maria de Jesus, M. Brinton Lykes. **Contributors:** Anne Anderson, Maria De Jesus, Bryan Gangemi, Maria Isabel Lanada, Joan H. Liem, Ramsay Liem, Robert Jay Lifton, M. Brinton Lykes, Ann Murphy, Paul Rocklin. **Distribution:** Ben Achtenberg, Maria De Jesus, M. Brinton Lykes. A special thanks to Deborah Parker for her assistance in re-organizing our database and to Winnie Chow for her work in bringing it up to date. **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK.** Letters, inquiries, contributions can be sent to: **Martín-Baró Fund**, P.O.Box 2122, Jamaica Plain, MA, 02130, www.martinbarofund.org. Checks payable to: **FEX/Martín-Baró Fund**, tax deductible to the full extent permitted by IRS code. Thank you.

OUR MISSION & VALUES

OUR MISSION

Through grant-making and education, the Martín-Baró Fund fosters psychological well-being, social consciousness, active resistance, and progressive social change in communities affected by institutional violence, repression and social injustice.

OUR VALUES

- ◆ We believe that the scars of such experiences are deeply seated both in the individual and in society.
- ◆ We believe in the power of the community collectively to heal these wounds, to move forward, and to create change.
- ◆ We believe in the importance of developing education and critical awareness about the oppressive policies and practices of the United States and of multinational corporations.

OUR GOALS

- ◆ To support innovative grassroots projects that explore the power of the community to foster healing within individuals and communities that are trying to recover from experiences of institutional violence, repression, and social injustice.
- ◆ To promote education and critical awareness about the psychosocial consequences of structural violence, repression and social injustice on individuals and communities, while educating ourselves and the wider community about the community-based responses of grantees in their pursuit of social reparation and a more just and equitable world.
- ◆ To build collaborative relationships among the Fund, its grantees, and its contributors for mutual education and social change.

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