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## The Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health & Human Rights

A Partner of Boston College Center for Human Rights & International Justice • A Project of The Funding Exchange

### Commemorating the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health: Honoring a Co-Founder

M. Brinton Lykes

It is impossible to imagine the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights – whether in November at our annual commemorative events or striking for justice in the bowl-a-thon or during our monthly and now bi-annual committee meetings – without thinking about **Ramsay Liem**. Last fall the Fund and the Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College gathered to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the assassination of Ignacio Martín-Baró, to welcome Pedro Faro of the Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Human Rights Center (see article, *The Push for Peace* on p. 4), and, most especially, to offer a tribute to Ramsay Liem, co-founder and long time committee member of the Ignacio Martín-Baró

Photo courtesy of Chris Soldt



Ramsay Liem

Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights who is retiring from Boston College in the Spring of 2011.

As most know, Ramsay is nationally and internationally recognized for his work in U.S./Korea relations and is president of the Channing and Popai Liem Education Foundation that fosters public support for peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. Ramsay is also a long-time community activist in the Greater Boston Asian-American commu-

nities where he has served as a volunteer and founding member of the Asian-American Resource Workshop and of the Boston Korea Friendship Association.

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## Our Mission & Values

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.

## Commemorating The Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund For Mental Health & Human Rights: Honoring A Co-Founder continued from page 1

Ramsay has also been a larger than life figure in academic circles. For those studying unemployment during the 1970s, Ramsay and his life partner and co-principal investigator in those days, Joan Huser Liem, engaged in cutting edge research which forced many to move away from facile and reductionist explanations which blamed the unemployed for their plight. Drawing on William Ryan's critical construction of "victim-blaming" and their own important empirical research with a large sample of unemployed men and their families, they made an airtight case for a structural explanation of unemployment. They highlighted the important effects of structural inequalities and workplace downsizing on individual workers and their families. Their work was not only prescient but is all too relevant in today's economic recession.

Through travel to Puerto Rico and Cuba as well as early work with the Mental Health Committee of the Boston Committee for Health Rights in Central America, Ramsay learned of the work of Elizabeth Lira and her colleagues in Chile. He introduced U.S.-based psychologists and trauma specialists to her cutting edge work on *testimony*, a strategy for working with survivors of human rights violations that emphasized the "bond of commitment" between therapist and client, challenging more traditional practices that emphasized the clinician's neutrality. As importantly, with client permission and support, Lira and her colleagues introduced these testimonies into political truth-seeking processes initiated to document atrocities committed by the Pinochet regime in Chile. In February 1989, Ramsay organized Ignacio Martín-Baró's visit to Boston College where he shared with us his critical insights about the social polarization within war. Ramsay began to use Latin American liberation psychology to build a bridge linking his earlier work on social problems within the U.S. to support for peace and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula, a central focus of his research and activism over the past decade. He has drawn creatively on Ignacio's work on trauma and cultural psychology to explore the life stories, silences and memories of three generations of Korean-Americans. In the past few years, Ramsay has collaborated with performance and visual artists to create *Still Present Pasts: Korean-Americans and the "Forgotten War"*, a multimedia exhibit and performance that opened in Cambridge, MA in January 2005 and has toured 12 US cities from NY to Honolulu (see [www.stillpresentpasts.org](http://www.stillpresentpasts.org)).

Words fail adequately to acknowledge Ramsay's many gifts to the Fund and the many communities in which he has lived and worked. He will remain connected to them as a Visiting Scholar in the Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College where he will continue to engage in the cutting edge research and creative performances evidenced in *Still Present Pasts* and volunteer with the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights.

**Editors:** Esther Chen and Erica Meninno. **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR WORK.** Letters, inquiries, contributions can be sent to: **Martín-Baró Fund**, P.O. Box 302122, Jamaica Plain, MA, 02130, [www.martinbarofund.org](http://www.martinbarofund.org). Please send any questions or comments to [info@martinbarofund.org](mailto:info@martinbarofund.org). Checks payable to: **Funding Exchange/Martin-Baro Fund**; tax deductible to the full extent permitted by the IRS code. Thank you.

# The Martín-Baró Fund Hosts Events on Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery

Esther Chen

In February 2011, the Martín-Baró Fund partnered with the Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice to coordinate a mini-series focusing on human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

The widely accepted definition of human trafficking was established by the 2000 United Nations Trafficking Protocol. In short it states that “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation” is illegal.

Photos courtesy of Chris Soldt



Julie Dahlstrom

Siddharth Kara, Fellow of Human Trafficking at Harvard’s Kennedy School, described in his book, *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*, that the transatlantic slave trade from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries involved the trafficking of 11 million Africans. Today, there are an estimated 30 million victims of human trafficking according to David Batstone, author of *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade and How We Can Fight It*. The Martín-Baró Fund shared its voice in the fight against human trafficking this February.

The first event of the mini-series featured Dr. Janice Raymond, professor emerita of women’s studies and medical ethics at the University of Massachusetts, as part of the CHRJI’s Conversations at Lunch Series. Dr. Raymond spoke at Boston College on the issue of human trafficking and its relation to modern migration trends. Students and faculty gathered to learn about the common issues experienced by thousands of migrant women who have been victims of human trafficking.

The second event of the series, co-sponsored by the Martín-Baró Fund, the CHRJI, and with REACT

(Rallying Efforts Against Contemporary Trafficking), an undergraduate student organization at Boston College, was a screening of the documentary, “Call + Response.” The film goes behind the scenes of modern-day issues of slave labor, sex trafficking and exploitation, and child soldiers, and promotes awareness and hope through the incorporation of artistic talent and activist and political commentary. Julie Dahlstrom, an immigration attorney at Lutheran



Social Services of New England and BC Law Alumna, introduced the film and facilitated a Q&A session afterwards. Staff from the Massachusetts branch of the Not for Sale Campaign attended the screening and hosted an information table for attendees. Natalie Giordano, a student from Gordon College, commented, “I’ve been invited to similar events, however this one was extremely moving and called many people in the audience into action.”

In short, there is much to be done in the battle against human trafficking. Audrey McIntosh, the Massachusetts co-director of the Not for Sale Campaign, says, “Human Trafficking is an issue that affects each one of our communities and, unfortunately, is an injustice that most people do not even know exists. It is time for us to bring attention of this grave crime to our policy makers, business and community leaders, and those who are vulnerable and at risk of being trafficked. Human beings should not be bought and sold in our country today.”



## Lykes and Moane Awarded for Publication

Danielle Roberts

Last September, the Association for Women in Psychology awarded Martín-Baró Fund co-founder and Boston College professor, M. Brinton Lykes, and her colleague, University College Dublin professor Geraldine Moane, the 2010 *Distinguished Publication Award* for their 2009 Special Issue of *Feminism and Psychology* on the topic of 'Feminist Liberation Psychology' (<http://fap.sagepub.com/content/19/3>). As their introduction to the issue makes clear, feminist and liberation psychologies are at the cutting edge of creating new spaces for liberating knowledge production and social change within the global communities of the 21st century. The issue includes sixteen articles authored by feminist and liberation scholars from the North and South, including



Larry J. Madrigal and Walberto V. Tejada, staff from the Centro Bartolomé de las Casas, San Salvador, El Salvador, a former Martín-Baró Fund grantee. This work challenges dominant Euro-American psychological perspectives and paves the way for new expressions of *feminist and liberatory praxis* that facilitate spaces for transformational change at the intersection of diverse dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, violence, and trauma. These 21st century complexities require the voices surfaced by Brinton, Geraldine, and other authors of this important contribution to work which continues to “make a road” begun by Ignacio Martín-Baró and feminist psychologists over 20 years ago.

## The Push for Peace featuring Pedro Faro

Denise Marques

Whether knowledgeable about communities in Chiapas, Mexico or learning about these indigenous people for the first time, it seemed that all in attendance were deeply engaged in Pedro Faro's 'The Push for Peace' event. This speaker, from the Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center in Chiapas, Mexico, elucidated the repressive situation that Chiapas communities are facing. Faro described tourism projects that will displace rural peasants and illegal land takeovers that will undoubtedly affect the self-determination of local communities.



Photos courtesy of Chris Soldt

In addition, Faro dedicated a significant amount of time discussing future mining plans that will deeply disrupt terrestrial and cultural life of these indigenous communities. After elaborating briefly on some of the struggles in Chiapas, the floor was open for questions and discussion. A participant who seemed moved by the presentation eagerly asked about what could be done

to contribute to the cause of indigenous communities in Chiapas. In response to this question, the presenters offered the suggestion of supporting an alternative way of life other than capitalism.



Pedro Faro

Faro embraced this direction of inquiry by utilizing the remainder of the presentation to discuss the work of his organization. Faro explained that The Fray Bartolomé de las Casas Human Rights Center, an organization independent of any political party, ideology or religious creed, produces daily reports on human rights, defends cases in court, and supports indigenous communities under attack. Overall, 'The Push for Peace' provided a glimpse of the struggles of Chiapas communities and presented an opportunity not only to learn about interventions but to contribute to an organization making important efforts.

## Six Projects Funded in 2011

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### Asociación Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Ignacio Martín-Baró El Salvador [Ignacio Martín-Baró Cooperative]

\$3,500

M. Brinton Lykes



Of El Salvador's 7 million citizens, an estimated 2 million live in the United States. The 12-year civil war left approximately 70,000 dead. Poverty and economic exclusion that led to that conflict persist and social violence has intensified. The municipality of Jayaque, where Ignacio Martín-Baró served as a pastor during the 1980s, is no exception. Violence related to gangs and/or associated with drugs and extortion, primarily committed by youth, is increasing, and the principal victims are youth themselves. Most families are relegated to work in *maquilas*, construction, or domestic service, and rely on remittances from their family members living in the United States. Internal migrants from previous conflict zones including Chalatenango and Morazán have moved to Jayaque which is vulnerable to natural disasters, earthquakes, and mudslides.

*Strengthening the psychosocial capacities of women, youth and children* seeks to enhance community engagement through recruiting youth volunteers who will join project staff to diagnosis and assess community problems. Community members will prioritize the most pressing issues and collaborate in developing interventions under local leadership. Project staff include the Jayaque residents who were recipients of university scholarships through the *Ignacio Martín-Baró Cooperative* and are now 'returning home', giving back to neediest in their communities through community-based participatory research, youth training, and mental health resources. [See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MNHVyeS1o>, for more information about the Cooperative]

### Women Asylum Seekers Together (WAST), UK

\$7,000

Barbara Viechnicki

WAST Manchester is one of three WAST organizations in the UK. Its primary goal is to provide a supportive and empowering environment for women asylum seekers. Participants now come from over thirty countries, including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Sudan. While the British government has provided asylum since 1999, it has not been sympathetic to women claiming asylum for gender-based persecution. Many barriers make it difficult for women asylum seekers to navigate legal and social systems. In addition to language barriers, poverty, and limited access to social and mental health services, women asylum seekers experience isolation and depression. WAST provides a physical space, travel expense reimbursements, warm meals, and weekly support group meetings.



In the first year of Martín-Baró Fund support, WAST expanded the number of women attending the weekly support group meetings up to 55-60 per week. There were increases in individualized support through one-on-one counseling, phone advocacy, formal counseling, internet access and assistance in dealing with solicitors for small groups of 8-10 women. In addition, WAST set up separate anti-deportation group meetings to help women interested in running anti-deportation campaigns of their own or learning from others. About 15 women regularly participate in these sessions.

With a second grant from the Martín-Baró Fund, WAST plans to introduce monthly access to legal advisers and make private space available on members days so that women asylum seekers are assured confidentiality and privacy as needed. These additions will enhance the support structure that WAST makes available to Manchester's women asylum seekers.

## Six Projects Funded in 2011

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### Women Empowerment Literacy and Development Organization (WELDO), Pakistan

*Christina Wartski*

**\$7,000**



The Women Empowerment Literacy and Development Organization (WELDO) provides psychosocial support to women and children who have been displaced to the cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad by conflict generated by the post-9/11 U.S.-initiated “war on terror” involving Taliban forces and the Pakistani military. The women, fleeing from the conflict-ridden Swat and Waziristan provinces, have been directly affected by human rights violations and threats to their mental health due to the deaths of loved ones, the collapse of essential infrastructures including their homes, witnessing murder and mutilated bodies of those killed, and fear of death. WELDO provides leadership development in camps that house Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). They aim to build leaders’ capacity to promote basic

health, emotional support, financial independence and economic sustainability within the camps.

The Martín-Baró Fund’s grant to WELDO will provide support for training IDP leaders selected from the community who will undergo a four-day long session and then help with the distresses of the camp. Specifically, the funds will support two field workers, art kits for therapeutic art sessions, workshops for emotional support, and handouts to promote WELDO’s programs.

### Dolores Medina Foundation, El Salvador

*Tim Karcz*

**\$7,000**

The Dolores Medina Foundation is a small organization working in the Colonia Guatemala section of San Salvador, El Salvador. A Catholic-based group directed by a nun, their pre-existing program is a residential and programmatic one that engages street children in a five stage program to get them off the streets. This begins with engagement while in the streets, then progresses through the Dolores Medina residential program and ultimately leads to reintegration of the child with his or her family.

The support of the Martín-Baró Fund will allow Dolores Medina to implement a school mediation program as well. This program will include a series of workshops in five target schools in their area, bringing together a range of people in the community concerned with homeless children: teachers, police, municipal officials, community leaders and the children themselves. The workshops aimed at the children will cover a range of topics, including leadership development, construction of masculine and feminine identity, assertive communication, self-esteem, conflict resolution, forms of violence, children’s rights-related laws, and school mediation processes. Another four workshops will be held with the professionals and community members on topics related to children’s rights, conflict resolution, and deconstructing patriarchal and adult-centered strategies. This program will have the dual purpose of creating a participatory framework in which to proactively address causes of homelessness in children as well as creating a network of community members engaged in guaranteeing the rights and protection of children in the area.





## Rural Missionaries of the Philippines, Northern Mindanao Sub-Region (RMP-NMR)

**\$7,000***Thomas A. Kane*

As poverty in the Philippines is rampant, protest movements have emerged throughout the country. The national government, with clear U.S. instigation, hatched the National Internal Security Program (NISP). It did not only exact heavy toll from the civilians caught in armed conflict, but also targeted activist organizations asserting their economic, social, political and cultural rights. Since NISP was implemented in 2004, mostly rural poor human rights defenders have fallen victims of extrajudicial killings sweeping the entire country. All are documented. Thus far, no one has been prosecuted, much less convicted for these crimes.

In 2009, political violence under NISP made its presence known in Northern Mindanao. Undeniably, attacks against human rights defenders and militarization of rural areas inflict much trauma to the citizens. Victims of human rights violations experience mental health concerns directly related to torture, mistreatment, and displacements. Issues relating to mental health not only affect the individual, but families and communities as well. In the rural areas where impunity is at its highest, survivors are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

RMP-NMR's Healing The Hurt project seeks to (a) create a psychosocial team that will involve grassroots organizations to readily and regularly respond to burgeoning cases of human rights violation-related mental health issues; (b) launch advocacy and networking activities that will lead to creation of support groups for the psychosocial needs of rural poor human rights defenders under attack, their immediate families and communities, especially women and children who are victims of militarization and displacement; and (c) provide psychosocial services to the target beneficiaries mentioned. The project seeks to regularize the patchy provision of psychosocial services to the affected individuals and areas.

## Aware Girls, Pakistan

**\$7,000***Charu Stokes*

In many communities in Pakistan women live in fear, violence and terror due to the Taliban and military operations; many have become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) due to the conflict. These women witness human rights violations, including the beheading of people and the hanging of their bodies on the streets, and some women are restricted in their mobility and banned from receiving an education.

Aware Girls, founded in 2002 and based in Peshawar, Pakistan, is a young women-led organization working for women's empowerment, gender equality, and peace in Pakistan. This renewal grant from the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund will support a new project working with internally displaced women on gender issues. The project's aim is to heal the mental health trauma of women affected by terrorism in Pakistan in hopes that these women can move forward in their lives and can contribute to their own development and towards the protection of human rights in their society.



The project will be implemented in the Swat area, a region deeply affected by terrorism. A manual on *Trauma and Torture Treatment* will be developed which will include resources for trauma treatment, basic human rights, the effects of human rights violations on societies, and educational materials about the social realities which led to the conflict situation in the area. Visit [www.awaregirls.webs.com](http://www.awaregirls.webs.com) to learn more about the organization.



## Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund

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## Bowlathon 2011

*Kathleen Sellers*

On Sunday, April 17th the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry sent fourteen students and faculty to participate in the annual Bowl-A-Thon of the Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights. This event helps support the grant-making capacity of the Martín-Baró Fund, whose mission is, “through grant-making and education,” to foster “psychological well-being, social consciousness, active resistance, and progressive social change in communities affected by institutional violence, repression, and social injustice.”

The School of Theology and Ministry—with its two student and one faculty teams—really stepped up its game

this year. Not only did it send more than twice as many student bowlers as last year, but the faculty team won the prize for the highest scoring team! Together they raised more than \$5,500 to support the Fund.

Also represented at the event were six other teams comprised of faculty and students from various Massachusetts universities including Boston College, MassArt, UMass Lowell, and Harvard Divinity School. Despite the rough economy, the eight teams together raised approximately \$18,000. This is enough to fund three grants this year. Donations and pledges came from sponsors from around the United States.

## The Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund 20th Anniversary Video is Online

A New Person, A New Society:  
A Human Rights Legacy of Ignacio Martín-Baró

<http://www.martinbarofund.org/about/videos.html>

This video was made possible by the generous support of producer and filmmaker Jenny Alexander and Northern Lights Productions