



the JUST word

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

A Partner of Boston College Center for Human Rights & International Justice

Ríos Montt Convicted of Genocide in Guatemala

M. Brinton Lykes

The Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights has accompanied the Maya Ixil in a variety of ways since 1991 when it gave an initial grant to the Guatemalan Mental Health Promoters Group. That project accompanied Mayan women in exile in Mexico as they shared experiences of what would many years later be described as genocide (see, ODHAG, 1998; CEH, 1999). The work supported by the Fund, as well as subsequent grants to groups based in the Ixil area (see p. 6, this issue), offered psychosocial accompaniment to women in the wake of massacres, forced displacement, and gross violations of their rights. Despite these important projects, it would be many years before Mayan women spoke openly about the sexual violations they had experienced during these massacres and in their wake (Fulchiron, Paz and Lopez, 2009). And even more years before those alleged to be responsible for these crimes were prosecuted for these gross violations of human rights.

On March 19, 2013, more than 30 years later, and ten years after a Guatemala-based victims' group, the Justice and Reconciliation Association (AJR), brought its case to the Guatemalan Public Ministry, a trial against Guatemala's former head of state, Efraín Ríos Montt, and his chief of army intelligence, José Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez,

convened in Guatemala City. The two were charged with ordering and overseeing a counterinsurgency campaign during Ríos Montt's 18 months as head of state in 1982 and 1983. Specifically they were accused of responsibility for fifteen massacres in the Ixil region of the country's northwestern Quiché department, resulting in the deaths of 1,771 unarmed men, women and children, during more than 36 years of armed conflict during which an estimated 200,000 men, women, and children were killed.

In addition to the visible, material effects of armed conflict and war, psychologists working with survivors encounter other consequences. Some have focused on the individual-in-context, describing "psychosocial trauma" (Martin-Baró, 1994) and "social suffering" (Kleinman, 1997), thereby locating violence's continuous trauma within the context of ruptured and polarized community relations and "fractured memories." A Mayan woman survivor of brutal rape during the years of armed conflict in Guatemala talked about her pain as an "ever-present past". Survivors engage the challenges of speaking truth to silence, of seeking justice within the courts, and of rethreading community, despite war's brutal legacies, that is, in the words of Martin-Baró (1994), to "construct a new person and a new society."

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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.

Special thanks to all contributors!

Matthew Dolan, Shaun Glaze, Thomas Kane, Timothy Karcz, Ramsay Liem, M. Brinton Lykes, Nicholas Moffa, Barbara Quinn and Barbara Viechnicki.

Editors: Cristina Sadurni, Nicholas Moffa, and M. Brinton Lykes. **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. Please send any questions or comments to info@martinbarofund.org.

Genocide on Trial in Guatemala continued from page 1

Many Ixiles – and human rights activists and other experts who have accompanied them over more than 30 years – participated in the trial, courageously testifying to the horrific events that killed many in their families and destroyed their villages. Despite various interruptions and efforts on the part of the defendants and their lawyers to undermine the justice system, on Friday, May 10, 2013, a three-judge panel found Efraín Ríos Montt guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity and sentenced him to 80 years in prison. The co-accused, José Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez, was found innocent. This unprecedented event – the first time a former head of state has been tried for genocide by a national government as opposed to an international body – has been applauded by all who seek truth and justice in the wake of such gross violations of human rights.

As psychologists and human rights activists we are challenged to witness to both the testimonies of those who gathered in Guatemala City during these weeks and also those of the diverse populations, including survivors and perpetrators, who live among them in the towns and rural villages of the Ixil area. Community-based psychosocial interventions such as those supported by the Martín-Baró Fund accompany women, men and children locally as they seek to rebuild fractured communities, to defend their rights to health and education, and to seek “a better future for themselves and their children.” As importantly, as U.S. citizens we are challenged to press for a full investigation of the role of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the Reagan administration who are alleged to have funded and trained the Guatemalan military while turning a blind eye to the multiple reports of mass atrocities published by human rights groups in the early 1980s.

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M. Brinton Lykes' APA Award

Nicholas Moffa



Dr. M. Brinton Lykes, one of the co-founders of the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund for Mental Health and Human Rights, was recently selected as the recipient of the American Psychological Association (APA) 2013 Humanitarian Award. The award, given by the APA's Committee on International Relations in Psychology, acknowledges extraordinary humanitarian service, or professional activities initiated by psychologists to restore psychological well-being and alleviate severe stress in challenging circumstances faced by underserved populations. She has engaged in a wide variety of work as a community-cultural psychologist, working with diverse populations such as Latino middle school students and unauthorized migrants in Boston, Mayan women survivors of armed conflict and sexual violence in Guatemala, and African-American and Latina survivors of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Earlier this year, Dr. Lykes was also honored by the APA's Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence with the Ignacio Martín-Baró Lifetime Peace Practitioner Award. She will be honored

at the APA convention in Honolulu, Hawaii this summer.

Niños de la Memoria

Matthew Dolan

This November, in collaboration with the Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice, the Martín-Baró Fund hosted a showing of *Niños de la Memoria* (Children of Memory) presented by the film's producer, Katherine Smith Pyle. The film focuses on the abduction of children that occurred during the 1980's civil war in El Salvador in the aftermath of massacres committed by military and paramilitary forces. Thus, it focuses on the ongoing efforts to reunite those children with their families.

The film follows the stories of 3 people, each influenced by the effort to reunite families in different ways. One young woman, Jaime, Salvadoran by birth but raised in the United States through adoption, shares her story of how she decided to track down her parents in El Salvador and the struggles and joys she encountered. While her search exposed her to the harsh reality of the horrors of the Salvadoran civil war, she also found herself welcomed into a culture that she previously believed to always be foreign.

We are also introduced to Salvador García, and the unsettling story of the loss of his family. Following a massacre, Garcia discovered the bodies of his wife and several children, but never found his infant daughter. Thirty years later, García's desperate search continues, though now accompanied by his new family of human rights activists.

The film also follows Margarita Zamora, who works for the group Pro-Búsqueda, which is dedicated to reuniting families separated by the war. Zamora helps guide both García and Jaime through the difficult and frustrating process, and is able to provide more than just investigative support, as she herself still searches for her own four siblings.

After the film, Katherine Smith Pyle took time to answer questions from the audience about how the film came together. She emphasized the important role that the Salvadoran community, in El Salvador as well as abroad, plays in Pro-Búsqueda's work. While it becomes more difficult every day to locate families, due to a major gap in records of adoption during the war, those searching for family members have found support in each other. Smith Pyle also discussed some of the complexities associated with the search for lost family members in El Salvador, including the large number of gravesites that may never be discovered. Smith Pyle concluded the presentation by asking the audience to consider the larger question of justice in a post-conflict society, and if it is possible to truly right the wrongs of the past? Pro-Búsqueda might not be able to compensate for time lost or the years of pain and searching, but it does provide hope with the possibility of reuniting children with their families.

Bowling throughout the Ages

Shaun Glaze



Combining our love for social justice and solidarity, the Graduate Education Association's Service and Diversity Committee was proud to partner with Boston College's Center for Human Rights and International Justice, the School of Theology and Ministry, and the

Counseling, Developmental, and Educational Psychology departments at Boston College in a fundraiser for the Ignacio Martín-Baró Fund (MBF). With grants supporting grassroots organizations that fight injustice around the world, the MBF is an organization for which the GEA Service and Diversity Committee was proud to bowl.

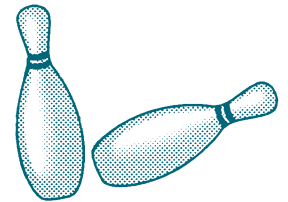
Yes, the snowstorm rescheduled the fun to Boston-favorite Saint Patrick's Day, but the smaller turnout did little to stop teams from raising over \$14,000, exceeding amounts raised last year! GEA Contributions alone totaled \$500. We are confident students will join in the fun and philanthropy again next year. Making new connections with social justice-minded colleagues, competing for the lowest score (or the highest, for the bowling-savvy who attended), and eating delicious potluck food... we could hardly think of a better way to enjoy the weekend while fighting for the betterment of society.



Winning Team - Most Money Raised



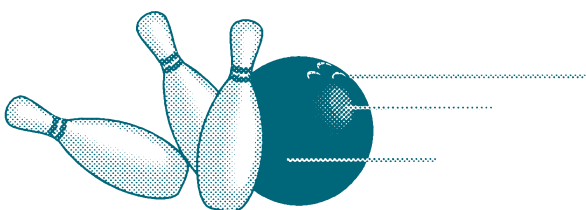
Winning Team- Highest Score



Winning Team - Lowest Score



School of Theology and Ministry, Boston College



Eight Projects Funded in 2013

Communauté des Planteurs et Eleveurs dans la Region, Marachaire (COPERMA) Democratic Republic of Congo

\$6,665



Last year, the Martin-Baró Fund supported COPERMA's multi-pronged project to help traumatized victims who were raped during the ongoing war in the Beni and the Lubero territories of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The project included training for outreach listeners, counseling sessions for victims of severe trauma, and vocational training for victims of rape and other violence that marginalizes girls and young women. 850 beneficiaries received help in 486 psychotherapy sessions in the first year. 540 individuals received instruction in soap making and 327 were trained in tailoring, including sewing



machine repairs and maintenance. COPERMA estimates that the project to date has had positive results for 75% of those who participated in these programs. Importantly, many of those traumatized have been able to reintegrate into their local communities and improve their economic situations through the skills they have acquired in sewing and soap making. In addition, it has led to collaborative conversations with other groups in these territories. With continued funding for another year, COPERMA can expand its work to newly traumatized victims and continue addressing the needs of those yet to recover within the original population of beneficiaries.

Action des Femmes a la Non-Violence (AFN), Democratic Republic of Congo

\$5,500

Action des Femmes a la Non-Violence (AFN) was established in 2008 to campaign against gender based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, seeking to end sexual violations of women and girls. Through education and self-sustaining economic programs, they support women's and girls' survival and capacity-building. They also organize advocacy campaigns bringing women together to denounce continuing abuse. The project funded by the Martin-Baró Fund seeks to break the culture of silence surrounding gender-based violence, working with approximately 80 women and girls who have survived several decades of armed conflict within and between the DRC and Burundi. Women and children, particularly young girls, are primary targets, suffering gender-based violence including rape and torture. The program is designed to respond to these violations through a trainer of the trainer model. The initial group of women from North and South Kivu will participate in women's workshops focused on: (1) women's human rights, (2) leadership, (3) advocacy skills, and (4) literacy. It is anticipated that through working together they will experience personal empowerment and enhanced self-esteem. They will then multiply the skills they have learned, toward building and strengthening women's coalitions towards demanding their rights and realizing gender equity.



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Eight Projects Funded in 2013

Live with Hope, Uganda

\$7,000

Last year, the Live with Hope Foundation successfully supported girls in the Kapchworwa District of Eastern Uganda who faced female genital mutilation, and introduced alternative income-producing projects for women cutters who have limited options for overcoming region-wide poverty. Building on these successes, this impressive organization is planning to expand its reach to the outlying District of Bukwo, which has even more limited resources and services than Kapchworwa. National laws sanctioning female genital mutilation have not been effective and Live with Hope, based on their past experience, believes that real change can only come from the bottom up – changing community attitudes and providing concrete options for alternative sources of income in areas where this traumatic practice is still prevalent. Live with Hope has demonstrated its ability to work directly with stakeholders and the Martín-Baró Fund is pleased to partner with them again this year.



Asociación de Médicos Descalzos, Guatemala

\$7,000



Médicos Descalzos has worked to strengthen traditional health therapies since 1993 in twelve municipalities in the Guatemalan department of El Quiché, including in the areas of primary care, maternal and infant health, and mental health. With the grant from the Fund, the Asociación will strengthen the traditional practices of the Ajq'ijab', or Mayan therapists, local indigenous leaders who continue to serve as the most culturally and economically accessible resource in their communities. Such practices include individual and psychosocial attention, family and community counseling, and conflict resolution.

The Asociación de Médicos Descalzos will engage in educational and graphic-conceptual interventions regarding the six cultural psychopathologies that demand the most attention among the indigenous population in three concrete ways. Firstly, they will hold six intensive training seminars for twenty-four Ajq'ijab' to return to the twelve districts and train their colleagues in their respective districts. Subsequently, they will hold twelve workshops with the twenty-four Ajq'ijab' to assess the new training

seminars, ideally reaching a total of 180 Ajq'ijab' and assuring that the replication of the original training will continue uninterrupted. Finally, the Asociación will hold six meetings of the Departmental Board of Ajq'ijab' to allow them to exchange ideas.

Asociación Centro de Educación y Formación Maya Ixil (ACEFOMI), Guatemala

\$7,000

The Asociación Centro de Educación y Formación Maya Ixil (ACEFOMI) extended its psychosocial and human rights workshops to four rural communities surrounding Chajul, developing training programs with and for between 25 and 30 women living in each village. They facilitated six workshops in each community. Topics included self-esteem and personal hygiene; mental health and nutrition; and, women's rights. This year the work included a session on child development through which women sought to better understand their children's school experiences. Individual family visits afforded an opportunity to observe women's applications of the training and work with them to develop family gardens for growing nutritional foods. ACEFOMI reported challenges in outreach to local youth. Fifty young women and men participated in a first series of workshops. They have developed a new strategy involving collaboration with local middle schools in hopes to attract greater participation. Topics for the upcoming year include sexual education and preventative health care; work, social responsibility and solidarity; environmental and land challenges; and the legacies of the armed conflict in the context of globalization and migration.



Salvadoran Association of Torture Survivors (ASST), El Salvador

\$7,000

In April 2013, ASST released a completed report, long kept confidential, containing the testimonies of victims of torture during El Salvador's 1980-1992 civil war. Lack of funding impeded publication of the report after the Salvadoran peace accords of 1992, but the Martín-Baró Fund's assistance has helped make it possible. The report contains the accounts of 270 victims interviewed in 1986, in the midst of the civil war, by the non-governmental Human Rights Commission of El Salvador. The report has two aims: to further educate Salvadoran society, and those beyond, about the horrors of torture carried out by paramilitary forces during the war to help ensure that such acts never happen again; and to use the compiled material to bring claims before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). In 2012, the IACHR accepted a complaint by the Human Rights Institute of the Central American University, submitted on behalf of ASST members, covering four specific cases



and accusing the current Funes administration of negligence in investigating torture cases. This past year, ASST conducted 15 workshops to help address the psychosocial needs of 30 torture survivors in El Salvador and showcased their exhibition "Torture: Never Again in El Salvador" throughout the country. The exhibit will be shown, and more psychosocial workshops realized, throughout the country this coming year with ASST's renewal grant from the Fund.

The Awakening, Pakistan

\$6,500



The Awakening envisions a progressive and sustainable society, wherein all people live peacefully and with dignity, enjoying social, political and economic equality as well as the right to livelihood, to freedom of expression, and to equal opportunity for public participation. The Awakening's mission is to empower the poor, disabled and disenfranchised in rural regions of Pakistan. It employs rights-based, people-centered, grassroots and participatory methods to eliminate socio-economic inequality; promote health, nutrition and well-being; facilitate self-reliance, enable local self-governance, ensure natural resource management; and promote people's advocacy. The main focus of The Awakening's work is on the rights of women, promoting women's rights through a leadership conference for women leaders. Workshops are organized to educate various groups about the rights of women from the perspective of Islam, international and national laws and conventions and to encourage their role as agents of change in their communities. In follow-up sessions, after their participation in the workshops, leaders will deliver lectures on women's rights including violations in the form of SWARA. After participating in the events of The Awakening media personnel will be prepared to cover cases of women's rights violations with greater attention. Through advocacy for the rights of people and social justice for the neglected segments of society including women, girls, youth and rural communities, The Awakening will continue to strengthen its networking with local and national humanitarian and rights-based organizations.

Women's Affairs Technical Committee, Palestine

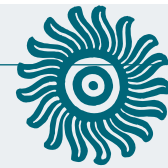
\$7,000

The Women's Affairs Technical Committee is a coalition of women's organizations created at the time of the Oslo Peace Accords meetings in 1992. Their purpose is to ensure that women's voices and concerns were included at all levels of Palestinian state building. The purpose of the work supported by the Martín-Baró Fund is to develop the talents of young men and women interested in using theater performances to raise awareness of critical issues facing Palestinian society. Their specific focus is on severe domestic violence, such as the killings of women, and its roots in the Israeli occupation, weak Palestinian laws, and Palestinian patriarchal culture. The project will train participants in the methods of Augusto Boal's Theater of the Oppressed and engage them in creating a play about murders of women. Performances will then be held in schools and universities with the intention of exposing this important issue to a wider audience and provide people the chance to speak out, express anger, and become engaged in efforts to change laws that fail to protect women, e.g. excusing "honor" killings. The Martín-Baró Fund looks forward to the results of this challenging initiative.



El Salvador 2013: We Must Not Forget

Barbara Quinn, rscj



This past March 2-9, ten students from the Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry and I traveled to San Salvador for a "reverse mission" experience with CRISPAZ, a former grantee of the Martín-Baró Fund. Immersed in sobering memories of war, poverty, and injustice, we nonetheless felt the resilience of a faith filled and hopeful people whose very memories of suffering impel them to rebuild their lives and their communities through education, trauma healing, vibrant base communities, and social justice initiatives around violence, land, and restorative justice.

This faith and hope were on full display as we met women artisans who eke out a living selling their beautiful crafts and listened to a young woman who helps youth in prison claim their human dignity through poetry and art and bread baking! We felt the tenacity of hope as we visited the holy ground where Archbishop Romero lived and died and ignited a vision among the people that is vibrant still. And the blood of martyrs on the grounds of the UCA seed belief in the power of the cross. Two days

in the countryside for our homestay, situated near Río Sumpul, the site of a horrible massacre of 600, revealed how joy can reside side by side with deep pain. Our afternoon at El Centro Bartolomé de las Casas, funded by the Martín-Baró Fund, enlashed their motto, "do not forget but work with reality." And work they do for the wholeness of life: healing trauma and promoting mental health, challenging the machismo culture, fostering inclusivity, cooperation, and corporality, and caring for the land as promise for the future. Adjacent to El Centro is El Rosario, a gorgeous church pock marked with bullet holes when the military imprisoned people there for days after they protested the government in the public square. As if they could forget such atrocity, the Dominican priests who care for the church chose to lock the front doors until the day when justice reigns. They are still locked.

We must not forget for memories of tragedy hold the seeds of a future full of hope. These memories will forever place a claim on us to work for justice that all might live and love with dignity.

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