# HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER BerkeleyLaw UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2012 PURSUING JUSTICE THROUGH SCIENCE AND LAW



IN THIS REPORT: Sexual Violence and Accountability Forensics

Victims and Witnesses Human Rights Fellows

# MISSION

The Human Rights Center at the U.C. Berkeley School of Law conducts research on war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights. Using evidence-based methods and innovative technologies, we support efforts to hold perpetrators accountable and to protect vulnerable populations. We also train students and advocates to document human rights violations and turn this information into effective action.

# STAFF AND FELLOWS

## DIRECTORS

ERIC STOVER Faculty Director Adjunct Professor of Law and Public Health

CAMILLE CRITTENDEN Executive Director (through May 2012)

ALEXA KOENIG Interim Executive Director (May 2012 through December 2012)

CRISTIÁN ORREGO Director, Forensics Project

KRISTIN REED Director, Fellowship Program

KIM THUY SEELINGER Director, Sexual Violence and Accountability Project

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## HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER FELLOWS

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# FROM THE DIRECTORS

This past year, our faculty and staff at the Human Rights Center tackled five overarching questions:

- How can safe shelters be improved to better project refugees and displaced persons fleeing sexual violence?
- What legal, judicial, and health-related measures are most effective in ensuring accountability for sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings?
- How can social media and DNA analysis join forces to help locate and reunite family members separated during El Salvador's most recent civil war?
- How can international criminal courts use forensic and scientific evidence to improve prosecutions for mass crimes?
- How can international and national courts make the process of testifying in war crimes trials as respectful and dignified as possible?

Meanwhile, we awarded 17 fellowships to students from seven University of California campuses to work with human rights organizations in nine countries. Since 1994, the Center has awarded 227 fellowships to students to support human rights activities in 65 countries.

On campus, we presented a screening of Kaye Pyle's *Niños de la Memoria*, a documentary on children severed from their families—many of them abducted—during the Salvadoran civil war. We also hosted several guest lecturers, including David Tolbert of the International Center for Transitional Justice, Sara Holewinsky of the Center for Civilians in Conflict, and Patrick Ball of Benetech.

2012 was a year of transition for the Human Rights Center. In January, we moved to a new location within Berkeley Law. After six years as Executive Director, Camille Crittenden left the Center to become Executive Director of the CITRIS Data and Democracy Initiative, a multicampus project that promotes democratic processes through the use of digital media. And Melissa Carnay, our long-time program officer, left for graduate school. We are very grateful for all they accomplished and for the strong foundation they left behind.

While transitions can bring loss, they also create openings for growth. Three new staff members have joined the HRC team: Cristián Orrego (Director of Forensic Projects), Andrea Lampros (Fellowships and Communications Manager), and Julie Frecerro (Program Officer for the Sexual Violence and Accountability Project). In addition, a phenomenal cohort of graduate student researchers, law clinic students, and consultants came on board to help with the Center's many activities.

We hope you enjoy reading about our projects and initiatives. None of this would be possible without your generous support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

ERIC STOVER

Faculty Director

ALEXA KOENIG

Interim Executive Director



Each year armed conflicts and political unrest expose thousands of men, women, and children to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Many survivors do not pursue justice through the formal legal system because of fear or stigma. They often encounter demeaning procedures in police stations and courtrooms or inadequate medical care in hospitals and health clinics. More often than not, their attackers go unpunished.

Through its Sexual Violence and Accountability Project, the Human Rights Center is evaluating health, legal, and community justice measures designed to respond to the needs of SGBV survivors. We share our research with local partners in an attempt to facilitate communication and interaction among the health, legal, and community justice sectors, and between government and civil society.

### WHY THIS WORK MUST BE DONE

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Kim Thuy Seelinger has been the Project's director since its inception in 2010. Before coming to UC Berkeley, she represented sexual violence survivors who had fled to the United States in search of asylum.

Says Seelinger: "It was humbling work, trying to represent someone who has gone to hell and back, several times, and is finally just trying to be here and be safe."

Now at the Human Rights Center, Seelinger focuses on the reasons survivors like her former clients were unable to secure justice in their home countries.

# ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A critical aim of the Sexual Violence and Accountability Project is to better understand the ways in which health- and legal-sector responses can help SGBV survivors find protection and obtain justice in conflict-affected countries. Using a case study approach, the Project examines the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to accountability and creates valuable partnerships and possibilities on the ground. So far, the Project has been studying Africa with a focus on Kenya, Liberia, and Uganda.

"When a police officer in rural Liberia sees us taking note of his perspectives and recommendations for improved response, he starts asking what the clinic nurses across town have suggested, as well," Seelinger says. "There is a clear desire to work with other actors to improve protection, but cross-sectoral dialogue and coordination hasn't always been easy."

Wherever fieldwork is conducted, team members engage all levels of urban and rural government and civil society to identify challenges in implementing gender-violence laws for sexual violence survivors.

#### KENYA

The Project's research on SGBV accountability mechanisms in Kenya illustrates its far-reaching impact. In May 2011, the Human Rights Center partnered with Kenyan government and civil society organizations to convene the Sexual Offences Act Implementation Workshop, which focused on identifying and addressing barriers to realizing the Act's full potential. Since that historic dialogue, several positive outcomes have developed, including:

- the drafting and submission of the 2011 Sexual Offences Act Amendment Bill, which incorporates Workshop recommendations;
- the provision of court rules by Kenya's Chief Justice Willy Mutunga, to help local judges properly and consistently interpret the Act;
- finalization of Ministry of Health regulations guiding post-rape care and the gathering of medico-legal evidence; and
- securing a major grant to support the project's civil society partners in their efforts to implement workshop recommendations.

#### LIBERIA

In early 2012, the Human Rights Center launched its second accountability case study in Liberia. With

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the help of students from Berkeley's International Human Rights Law Clinic, Seelinger is assessing the effectiveness of Liberia's unique approach to addressing sexual violence, which includes a dedicated police corps, prosecution unit, and criminal court.

"Liberia poses an extraordinary opportunity to study the pros and cons of directing resources into separate, specialized response units, as opposed to taking a more mainstreamed response," says Seelinger. "It's different than what we found in Kenya last year, and we'd like to get a better sense of the relative advantages of these two approaches."

#### NEXT STEPS

Seelinger has begun a third case study to assess Uganda's response to sexual and gender-based violence. A fourth study—focusing on Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, or the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo—will begin in 2013.

In 2014, case studies specific to the Africa Region will conclude, and inquiries into South and Southeast Asia will commence.

# SHELTER FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS

The Sexual Violence and Accountability Project is also conducting a study of safe shelters for refugees and internally displaced persons who have been affected by sexual and gender-based violence.

At the request of the UN High Commission for Refugees' Policy Development and Evaluation Service in Geneva, Seelinger and her team are assessing shelter models in four contexts: Kenya, Colombia, Haiti, and the Thailand-Burma border. They have interviewed safe shelter staff and residents in desert camps, jungles, and urban centers to capture ground-level strategies and develop recommendations for policymakers and service providers. Four country reports, as well as a comparative assess-



Project Director Kim Thuy Seelinger (far left) and Berkeley Law student Michelle Ben-David (far right) pose with members of the Women and Children's Protective Service, Liberia National Police, Bong County, Liberia. Credit: Counsellor Felicia Coleman.

ment, will be presented to local stakeholders and UNHCR headquarters in 2013.

### **CREATING DIALOGUE**

Throughout 2012, the Project has been organizing a major symposium in Washington, DC, in partnership with the United States Institute for Peace, the Stockholm International Peace Research Initiative, and the Peace Research Institute of Oslo. The meeting will convene the FIELD's most engaged scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to communicate ways to bridge the gap between academic research and policymaking, with an eye toward improving responses to conflict-related sexual violence. More information can be found at missingpeace2012.com.

This critical work would not be possible without the generous support of the Human Rights Center's funders. We thank the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Humanity United, the Open Society Institute's International Women's Program, the Compton Foundation, and the United States Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, all of whom supported the Sexual Violence and Accountability Project's activities in 2011–12.

"After I leave [this shelter] I would like to learn English and French and typing. I'd like to be a big lady, in a rocking chair, and to look out at everything and say 'Je suis heureuse! [I am happy!]'" – SHELTER RESIDENT, HAITI

#### FORENSICS

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In Argentina, El Salvador, Chile, Bosnia-Herzegovina and beyond, forensic laboratories hold the bones and other biological samples of those who went "missing" during brutal dictatorships and civil wars. Forensic science technologies, including DNA analysis, are being used not only to identify the dead, but to track down and reunite families torn apart by armed conflict.

The Human Rights Center's Forensics Project bolsters ongoing efforts to hold governments accountable for war crimes and bring justice to families that have lost loved ones.

Enhanced by the arrival of biochemist and forensic geneticist Cristián Orrego, who joined the Center from the California Department of Justice's DNA Laboratory in 2011, the Project supports the work of forensic scientists and non-governmental organizations that use DNA identification and other scientific techniques to identify victims of human rights violations.

Instead of building DNA labs, this effort focuses on training in-country NGO staff members. Trainees learn how to analyze lab results, work with and improve the skills of in-country forensic scientists, and leverage relationships with internationallyaccredited DNA analysis labs, whether located in Guatemala, Bosnia-Herzegovina, or Arizona.

# **"BEYOND REASONABLE DOUBT" ADVANCES USE OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE BY THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT**

In October, Human Rights Center staff members went to The Netherlands to lead a workshop on the use of scientific evidence to prosecute war crimes cases.

The workshop—"Beyond Reasonable Doubt: Using Scientific Evidence to Advance Prosecutions at the

International Criminal Court"—brought together many of the world's leading investigators and prosecutors, as well as legal experts, scientists, and NGO researchers.

Those attending included:

- scientific and technological experts in remote sensing, information technologies, digital and video evidence, sexual assault investigations, exhumations, clinical examination, DNA analysis, and forensic training;
- staff members from the International Criminal Court;
- NGO researchers engaged in investigating potential violations of international humanitarian law; and
- experts from other international courts.

Workshop participants explored the potential for greater use of scientific evidence at the ICC and in other criminal courts.

# HELPING EL SALVADOR'S PRO-BÚSQUEDA FIND "DISAPPEARED" CHILDREN

Since 2003, the Human Rights Center has collaborated with the El Salvador-based Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos (Association for the Search of Disappeared Children of El Salvador). Established in 1994, Pro-Búsqueda has helped hundreds of families search for their children who went missing or were abducted during El Salvador's civil war (1980–1992). Many of these children were adopted by families in other countries who were unaware of the forced separations. So far, 373 children, have been found, often with the aid of DNA evidence. More than 500 remain missing.

In 2006, Pro-Búsqueda acquired its first database of DNA profiles from the family members of missing children. The database was made possible through a collaboration between the Human Rights Center, Physicians for Human Rights in Boston, and the California-based Alliance of Forensic Scientists for Human Rights and Humanitarian Investigations. DNA evidence played a key role, for example, in the confirmation of kinship of Eduardo Giai Checco, adopted in 1982 by an Italian family, and Angela Fillingim, adopted in 1985 by a couple in Berkeley, California.

The Human Rights Center continues to help Pro-Búsqueda expand its scientific and investigative capacities. Over the past year, the Center has facilitated collaboration among Pro-Búsqueda, the International Commission of Missing Persons (ICMP) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the DNA Lab of the Forensic Anthropology Foundation of Guatemala (FAFG, Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala).

In May 2012, ICMP convened a multidisciplinary workshop on DNA analysis of the missing for a delegation from El Salvador. The meeting was held at ICMP's Sarajevo headquarters and included representatives from several Salvadoran institutions and human rights organizations, including the Ombudsman for Human Rights, the National Search Commission of Missing Children, the Supreme Court of Justice, the Institute for Legal Medicine of the Republic of El Salvador, as well as Pro-Búsqueda, Tutela Legal del Arzobispado de San Salvador (the leading human rights organization of the Catholic Church), and Centro para la Promoción de los Derechos Humanos Madeleine Lagadec, an NGO that specializes in gathering documentation on the massacres that took place during El Salvador's war years.

During their weeklong visit, Salvadoran participants met with forensic archeologists, anthropologists, and geneticists, as well as representatives from judicial bodies from the Balkans, the Missing Persons Institute (MPI), and family associations. Delegation members engaged in roundtable discussions regarding policy issues, institution building, the need for purpose-specific legislation, the role of families of the missing, and how to centralize missing persons records.

# HELPING AT HOME: TASK FORCE TO ASSESS NEW FORENSIC IMAGING TECHNIQUE

In June 2012, Aaron Laycook, a deputy district attorney in Contra Costa County, California, and a Berkeley Law alumnus, came to the Human Rights Center with a question worthy of an episode of CSI.

Could a thermal imaging camera—of the kind carried by many firefighters to look for hot spots





Eduardo Giai Checco (in black) embraces his brother following the discovery of their kinship via DNA analysis. Eduardo was separated from his family 30 years earlier during the massacre of Finca Peña in El Salvador when he was just four years old. Credit: Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos

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in buildings—be used to detect bruising beneath a person's skin before it becomes visible on the surface? Laycook explained that such technologies could be especially helpful in domestic violence cases, where the window of time for collecting evidence can be especially small and often closes before bruises appear.

Orrego proceeded to establish a task force with the participation of three attorneys from the Domestic Violence Division of the Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office and three forensic scientists. The task force will investigate whether this technique can provide evidence of otherwise hidden trauma. The task force will also assess what it would take to convince courts that such evidence is reliable and accepted by the scientific community. Meeting that threshold could help provide critical evidence in domestic violence and other violencebased cases around the world.

We thank the United States Department of State, the Alliance of Forensic Scientists for Human Rights and Humanitarian Investigations, and the Lois and Irving Blum Foundation for their support of the Human Rights Center's Forensics Project in 2012. 8



In 2009, Neth Phally testified in a Cambodian courtroom on behalf of his brother, who had been executed 30 years earlier in a Khmer Rouge prison run by Kaing Guek Eav, also known as "Duch."

After testifying, Phally was allowed to hold up a photograph of his brother so his unseeing eyes could confront the man accused of causing his death at Tuol Sleng detention center. "I believe my brother will be at peace, having learned that justice is achieved through this court," said Phally.

What led Phally to show the photograph of his brother? "There were many reasons," he later told researchers from the Human Rights Center. "To begin with . . . I wanted my brother to see the man who was responsible for his suffering. You see when my brother was taken to Tuol Sleng he was blindfolded and couldn't see anyone. But in the courtroom I could show him the accused. . . . I felt this would help release his soul from wandering and help him find peace so he could be reborn again."

Neth Phally was one of 20 "civil parties" interviewed by Center researchers about their experiences testifying before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, which is now trying former Khmer Rouge leaders on charges of genocide and other serious war crimes. The study, conducted by Eric Stover, Michelle Balthazard, and Alexa Koenig, was published in the *International Review of the Red Cross* (June 2011).

Phally and other interviewees told the researchers that they felt it was their moral duty to bear witness on behalf of their deceased family members, and that they regarded their time on the witness stand as an opportunity to discharge that obligation, as well as an opportunity to confront Duch with his crimes.

While many interviewees felt good about their decision to engage with the court, such positive experiences are not common to all international criminal tribunals. For many witnesses, testifying in a war crimes trial requires a great act of courage, especially when war criminals still walk the streets of their villages and towns.

#### A NEW INITIATIVE

To better understand the courtroom experiences of victims and other witnesses who testify in war crimes trials, the Human Rights Center plans to launch a Victims and Witnesses Initiative in partnership with the Peace Research Institute Oslo in 2013. The Initiative will examine witness protection and support measures at the International Criminal Court and national courts planning to prosecute international crimes. The principal aim will be to help these courts and local organizations better protect and provide support for witnesses.

To help improve their experiences, the Initiative will:

- analyze the satisfaction of witnesses who have already testified at the International Criminal Court;
- interview victim participants as well as their legal counsel and intermediary organization representatives; and
- assess witness protection and support services in national courts prosecuting international crimes in Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Libya. The project may be expanded to include Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal.

#### WHY THIS WORK MUST BE DONE

Victim and witness issues have been a longstanding concern of the Human Rights Center and its faculty director, Eric Stover. In the late 1990s, Stover conducted the first study of victims and witnesses who testified before an international war crimes tribunal and published his findings in a book, *The Witnesses: War Crimes and the Promise of Justice in The Hague*.

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For the study, Stover interviewed 86 victim-witnesses—Bosnian Muslims, Serbs, and Croats—who appeared before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. He found that while the vast majority of study participants supported war crimes trials, many scorned the notion that justice somehow possessed "miracle-working" powers. For many witnesses, tribunal justice could be capricious, unpredictable, and inevitably incomplete: defendants could be acquitted; sentences could be trifling given the enormity of the crimes; and verdicts could be overturned.

As the world increasingly turns to international criminal justice to respond to mass violence, Stover argues we must reexamine how we think about and interact with victims and witnesses who enter judicial processes. Most of all, we have a duty to make the process of testifying in war crimes trials as respectful and dignified as possible.

"Really, my heart was about to explode. When I got to the witness stand, the first thing I did was bow to the public as [my deceased husband, Ket] was my tie to Cambodia, and this was important for me. Then I paid my respect to the court which was finally there for us. I told myself, 'I'll occupy this place. It is small, maybe a square meter, but it is going to be my place. I will get comfortable. This is my place.'"

CIVIL PARTY, DUCH TRIAL, EXTRAORDINARY CHAMBERS IN THE COURTS OF CAMBODIA



A shrine dedicated to a family member who perished at S-21. Credit: Eric Stover



Duch explains the detention of Western prisoners at S-21. He does not remember the name of the former prisoner in the photograph on the desk. Credit: Kok-Thay ENG, 29 August 2012. Source: Documentation Center of Cambodia.



Since 1994, the Human Rights Center has selected an extraordinary cohort of U.C. students to serve as Human Rights Fellows and sent them to work on cutting-edge projects with organizations around the world. Now in its 19th year, the 2012 program included fellows from seven U.C. campuses who worked on sixteen projects in nine countries. On November 1, these inspiring researchers and advocates came together to report on their fieldwork, findings, and reflections at the 2012 Human Rights Fellowship Conference in Berkeley, California.

HANNAH BIRNBAUM, CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING, UC BERKELEY Philanthroplanning Utopia? Foundations and the Politics of Urban Re-Imagining; Detroit Collaborative Design Center, Detroit, MI

SHANE COLLINS, GLOBAL HEALTH SCIENCES, UC SAN FRANCISCO Accessing Safe Shelters: Survivor Narratives; Sexual Violence and Accountability Project, Human Rights Center, Berkeley, CA

MONICA CROOMS, LAW, UC DAVIS Victims in Hiding: The Need for Comprehensive State Anti-Trafficking Laws to Improve Victim Identification and Protection; Torture Survivors Project, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

**CATALINA HERNANDEZ**, LITERATURES AND CULTURES, UC MERCED Deviant Mamas: Understanding How and Why Women Make Empowered, Informed Choices for Healthier, Safer Outcomes in Maternal/Infant Care; Choices in Childbirth, New York, NY

**HANNAH LABAREE**, LAW, UC DAVIS *Evolving Standards* of Decency: Incremental Reform in Sentencing Law; Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, Alabama

NICOLE LINDAHL, JURISPRUDENCE AND SOCIAL POLICY, U.C. BERKELEY Witnesses, Victims, and Perpetrators: Violence and Human Rights Violations Stemming *from the "War on Drugs";* Project Rebound, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

**LEONORA PAULA**, LITERATURE, UC SAN DIEGO Urban Housing Rights in Brazil: More Than Just "A Roof and Four Walls"; Union of Housing Movements in São Paulo, Brazil

**GABE SCHWARTZMAN**, GEOGRAPHY, UC BERKELEY "You're Either For Coal or Against Us": The Dynamics of Populist Movements Supporting Mountaintop Removal in West Virginia; Blair Heritage Alliance, Logan County, West Virginia

**HABIBA SIMJEE,** LAW, UC BERKELEY Unaccompanied Minors: The Journey for a New Home; Casa Cornelia Law Center, San Diego, CA

**SAMANTHA STEVENS,** SOCIAL DOCUMENTATION, UC SANTA CRUZ Whose Serengeti? A Visual Exploration into the Serengeti Highway Controversy; African Network for Animal Welfare, Tanzania, and Kenya

**OLGA TOMCHIN**, LAW, UC BERKELEY *The Queer DREAM: LGBTQ Undocumented Youth;* National Center for Lesbian Rights, San Francisco, CA

**DIVYA VOHRA**, EPIDEMIOLOGY, UC BERKELEY, AND AIDAN TAIT, JOINT MEDICAL PROGRAM, U.C. BERKELEY AND U.C.S.F. *Exploring Pregnancy Intentions and Need for Contraception among Women in Luanda Province, Angola;* Population Services International, Luanda, Angola

**LEAH ZANI**, ANTHROPOLOGY, UC IRVINE Blast Radius: Expanding Victim's Rights in the Land of a Million Bombs; Mines Advisory Group, Laos

**ANONYMOUS FELLOW,** CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING, UC BERKELEY Soy Frontiers: Dispossession, Collective Rights, and the Politics of Responsibility in Paraguay; Anonymous Organization, Asunción, Paraguay

#### ANONYMOUS FELLOW, LAW, UC

BERKELEY Desaparecidos: Missing Citizens and a Vanishing Rule of Law in the Mexican Drug War; Anonymous Organization, Monterrey, Mexico

**ANONYMOUS FELLOW,** SOCIOLOGY, UC BERKELEY The Power of "Powerless" Workers: The Counterintuitive Rise of the Colombian Recycler Movement in the Neoliberal Age; Anonymous Organization, Bogota, Colombia



*Cluster munitions displayed at government offices, Xieng Khouang province, Laos.* The yard is literally full of bombs sorted by size and type. Measured in tons of ordnance per capita, Laos is the most bombed nation in the world, and unexploded munitions still litter the country. After nearly 50 years of contamination, bombs have become both a risk and a resource—dangers to be looked out for and also resources to be collected, reused, repurposed, or sold for scrap metal. Credit: Leah Zani



One of many people earning their living through recycling and the reselling of discarded materials, Bogota, Colombia. This man's t-shirt translates as "environmental super hero." In spite of labor scholars and organizers having long dismissed such workers as "unorganizable," millions in the informal workforce have begun mobilizing for labor rights over the past 20 years, including those in the Colombian informal recycler movement—a "least likely" case for successful mobilization due to the recyclers' extreme marginality and the Colombian state's violent repression of labor movements. Credit: Anonymous



Abandoned coal miners' union hall, Blair, West Virgina. Mountaintop removal coal mining in Central Appalachia has been widely cited as environmentally and socially devastating, correlated with health issues, flooding, and biodiversity loss. However, efforts to stop it have been countered by a widespread non-union "pro-coal" movement, where people actively politically support the coal industry in the face of environmental and labor regulation. Organizations like the Blair Mountain Heritage Alliance call for sustainable practices and preserve the region's rich history of union organizing. Credit: Gabe Schwartzman



Protesters march to demand justice for the disappearances of their family members and loved ones, Monterrey, Mexico. The drug war in Mexico has claimed the lives of 60,000 citizens, greater than the number of civilian deaths in the ten-year Afghan conflict. More disturbing is mounting evidence of widespread state-sanctioned torture, extrajudicial killings, and forced disappearances carried out by security forces, often working on behalf of cartels. Civil and faith-based movements are demanding reform and accountability. Credit: Anonymous

# **DONORS AND PARTNERS**

We recognize with gratitude the individuals and organizations that have supported our work between August 2011 and July 2012.

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Family reunion between Sra María Maura Contreras and her biological son Serapio Cristián Contreras (Mario Ulises Carballo) on 9 August 2012 in Santa Ana, El Salvador, following 30 years of forced separation. The disappearance of the Contreras family's children was a key piece of evidence that led to the second decision of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in August 2011, which found the Government of El Salvador culpable for the abduction of children during El Salvador's civil war.

The photo below includes Mario's sister Gregoria Herminia who, along with Mario and then-four-month-old Julia Inés, was abducted in August 1982 during military operations in San Vicente, El Salvador. Gregoria was found in 2006 in Guatemala. Her kinship was confirmed by DNA evidence. Julia Inés is yet to be found.





The link between Mario Ulises Carballo, María Maura, and Mario's father Sr. Fermín Recinos was discovered during a "blind" search of the Pro-Búsqueda Database of DNA Profiles of Family References, using Mario's DNA profile.

Credit: Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos

#### CREDITS

FRONT COVER: Distribution of the "Duch" Verdict Vann Nath after having received a copy of the Duch verdict on 12 August 2010. Nath was one of only a handful of survivors from the secret Khmer Rouge prison S-21, also known as Tuol Sleng, where at least 12,273 people were tortured and executed in the late 1970s. A prominent artist and human rights activist, Nath played an important role in reviving the arts in Cambodia after decades of war and genocide. Nath died on 5 September 2011 at the age of 65.

The Public Affairs Section of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia has distributed 10,000 copies of the Duch-verdict (450 pages) and 17,000 copies of the summary (36 pages). These documents will be available in all 1,621 communes in Cambodia as well as in libraries, schools, and other public institutions.

Kaing Guek Eav (alias "Duch") was found guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes and sentenced to 35 years of imprisonment on 26 July 2010. He is the first person to stand trial before the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, more commonly referred to as the Khmer Rouge tribunal. On 3 February 2012, an appeals chamber increased Duch's sentence to life imprisonment.

Credit: Photo courtesy of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia

BACK COVER: Motorbike at a rural police station in Bong County, Liberia. Its two stickers capture some of the challenges in addressing sexual and gender-based violence in many parts of the world: One refers to UN Security Council Resolution 1325's protections against sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict. The other features Rambo. Credit: Kim Thuy Seelinger

A special thank you to Thomas Levy for his help with the drafting of this report.

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