

program for torture victims



rebuilding lives

Thursday, March 8, 2012

PTV to honor Sister Dianna Ortiz, Survivor and Activist, at Human Dignity Awards Dinner

When Sister Dianna Ortiz, an Ursuline nun from New Mexico, went to Guatemala as a missionary in the 1980s, little did she know that her journey to teach children to read in a rural province would turn into a nightmare she would never forget.

While praying in a convent garden in 1989 in Antigua, she was kidnapped at gunpoint by two Guatemalan soldiers, blindfolded and taken to a secret prison where she was brutally tortured. She was gang-raped multiple times and endured over 100 cigarette burns to her back.

“I want to be free of these memories...,” she said in her 2002 memoir *The Blindfold’s Eyes*. “I tell you this story only because it reflects the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people.”

Despite the pain of reliving these harrowing memories, Ortiz has been a prominent figure in the movement to abolish torture. In 1996, she won a landmark case against the Guatemalan government through the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, a fight riddled with uphill battles but one that brought justice in the end.

In 1998, Sister Ortiz founded the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC), a human rights organization in Washington, D.C. that works to support survivors of torture. Her goal was to form an organization that would help torture survivors speak about their own experiences and advocate for an end to torture.

More than two decades after her fateful experience, Sister Ortiz continues to tell her story and advocate for others who have gone through the horrors of torture. Because of her courage, [PTV is excited to honor Sister Dianna Ortiz with the Human Rights Hero Award at the Human Dignity Awards Dinner on May 31, 2012.](#)

We hope that you can [join us to support Sister Ortiz and PTV](#) in our fight for a world without torture.

“We’re telling our stories to help break the silence that surrounds torture,” Ortiz said. “Torture is wrong. Absolutely wrong. And we want people to realize that ending the practice of torture is not just our responsibility, it’s the responsibility of everyone.”

Thursday, May 31, 2012

Reception & Silent Auction: 5:30-7:00pm

Dinner & Program: 7:00pm

The Westin Bonaventure

404 S. Figueroa Street

Los Angeles, CA 90071

**Purchase Ads, Sponsorships
& Tickets**

*Sponsorship & Ad Deadline: **May 7, 2012***

To purchase tickets or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, [click here](#) or contact Maggie Shackelford

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