



WHAT'S GOING ON AT PTV?

This year, PTV extended its services to 101 new clients from over 65 different countries, bringing the total number of clients currently being served by PTV to 305 people. More than 90% of our clients have suffered physical torture, and more than 90% have suffered psychological torture. Many have endured both.

More than three-fifths of our clients live below the poverty level and almost all of them lack health insurance, making PTV their primary healthcare provider. While PTV may be the only option for many clients, we are also their best option. Recent findings from an evaluation of our services show that *after joining PTV,*

• • • SAVE THE DATE ! • • •

NEXT YEAR WILL MARK 30 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE AND DEDICATION TO OVER 3,000 TORTURE SURVIVORS BY PTV STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS. **IN OCTOBER 2010, PTV WILL BE HOSTING OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY BASH!** PLEASE BE SURE TO JOIN US FOR A GRAND CELEBRATION OF THIS MAGNIFICENT ACCOMPLISHMENT!

clients have experienced decreases in symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, improvements in physical and emotional well-being, as well as increases in wages, employment hours and community activities.

A STORY OF SUCCESS:

Fatou, daughter of a PTV client, was recently accepted at the highly competitive Los Angeles Flagship High School for Visual and Performing Arts. Fatou came to the United States when she was five years old as a refugee. Prior to coming here, she and her family fled violence in their home country and had lived in utter poverty at a refugee camp in a neighboring country for three years. After coming to the United States she excelled in school, and was chosen by the admissions committee for her incredible academic and dancing talents. Congratulations to Fatou and her proud parents!

Additionally, we have expanded our pool of pro-bono professionals and can now offer even more health, mental health, dental and technical services to our clients. In September, Jackie Lovell, certified massage therapist, began to provide pro-bono massage therapy to PTV clients approximately three hours per week. All of our services are provided at no cost to our clients, whether provided by our own staff or referred specialists.

Over the past year, Medical Director Dr. Jose Quiroga, M.D., has trained four residents of the Department of Family Medicine of the Harbor - UCLA Medical Center in treating torture victims. Dr. Megan Berthold, our Research Director, continues to

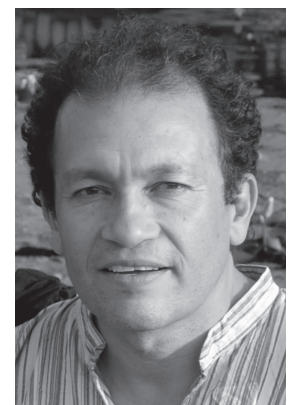
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HECTOR'S WHEREABOUTS:

Hector Aristizabal is a PTV Board Member and native Colombian, whose commitment to human rights work forced him to leave his country in 1989 due to death threats. In addition to PTV, Hector currently takes part in The Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, and The Colombia Peace Project. He holds an MA degree in Psychology, as well as a degree for marriage and family therapy. As an actor and an artist, he is the Creative Director of ImaginAction, a theater arts company that travels nationally and internationally with original performances as well as performances of ancient folk tales. Through plays, workshops, storytelling, and inter-cultural ceremonies, ImaginAction focuses on personal stories and tradition.

We interviewed Hector to find out more about this project. We knew that he had been traveling around the world with

ImaginAction and we wanted to know more about the project and its origins. He told us that after the pictures from the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq came out, he was outraged. As it happens to many survivors of torture, he felt that those images of torture sent him back to his own personal experience. Hector said that he had told his psychoanalyst about his torture, but he never shared his story in public. Encouraged by the former Executive Director of PTV, Michael Nutkiewicz, Ph. D., he conceived a solo theatrical improvisation as a medium to share his story. He named it "Nightwind." In this performance, he considers the



(HECTOR CONT. ON PG 5)

"IN THEATER, IT'S THE COMMUNITY... THAT SACRED SPACE THAT THE IMAGINATION CREATES IS WHERE THE HEALING TAKES PLACE. THEATER CONNECTS PEOPLE AND CREATES COMMUNITY."

-HECTOR ARISTIZABAL



WORKING WITH THE BEST

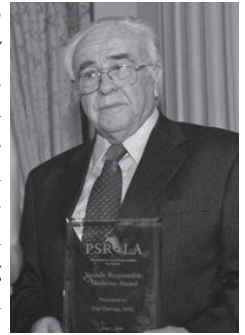


This year, Dr. Jose Quiroga, PTV's Medical Director, and Dr. Megan Berthold, PTV's Director of Research and Evaluation (also a PTV therapist), received awards for outstanding achievement in their respective fields.

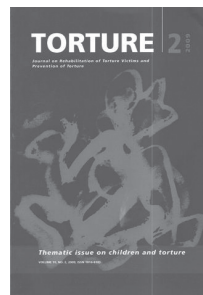
Dr. Berthold received the Social Worker of the Year Award from the regional, state and national chapters of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) for her exemplary contributions to the community and the social work profession through her work with survivors of torture as well as her work with social work students. She was commended for her integration of social work policy, research, education, and practice in the service of the greater good. NASW is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 150,000 members. They have also been a strong advocate against state sponsored torture, both domestically and internationally. Dr. Berthold will be traveling to Washington D.C. in April of 2010 to receive national recognition.

In June, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) in Los Angeles honored Dr. Quiroga with the 2009 Socially Responsible

Medicine Award for his dedication to treating victims of torture and advocacy for a more peaceful world. Just last year, PTV and PSR formed the medical, legal and human rights coalition, "Californians Against Medical Torture." This coalition worked with State Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas to successfully pass a resolution in the California State Assembly condemning medical professionals' participation in torture.



Congratulations to both Dr. Berthold and Dr. Quiroga for your achievements, and thank you for your dedication to alleviating the suffering of those in need.



THIS YEAR, PTV'S FOUNDER AND MEDICAL DIRECTOR, DR. JOSE QUIROGA, PUBLISHED "TORTURE IN CHILDREN" IN THE JOURNAL TORTURE, DOCUMENTING THE WORLDWIDE PROBLEM OF TORTURE IN CHILDREN AND DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION, TO SEE ALL PUBLICATIONS BY OUR STAFF PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.PTVLA.ORG.

(UPDATE CONT. FROM PG 1)

supervise 2nd year MSW student interns from the University of Southern California. During this coming year PTV will conduct its annual training of all of the Department of Homeland Security's Asylum Officers and their supervisors in the Los Angeles Asylum Office about torture and its consequences. We also train legal and medical professionals locally, nationally, and internationally in the issues of torture treatment, and documentation.

While enjoying its programmatic successes, PTV continues to face certain challenges. Our clients endure the long process of obtaining asylum. Clients are unable to legally work before receiving asylum status, which takes several years. This causes our clients considerable distress. Moreover, they do not know if or when they will be reunited with their families—sometimes putting family members in their home country at risk of harassment, torture or murder for a longer period of time.

All of these factors contribute to lengthened services for PTV clients, increasing the staff's caseload. Moreover, PTV staff time is devoted to preparing clients psychologically for court and appearing as expert witnesses for individual cases. As a result, we now have a two month waiting list for services.

Despite these obstacles, PTV has continued to raise awareness on torture and the experiences of torture survivors through

presentations, outreach events, and trainings. For example, this October, PTV successfully collaborated with an ecumenical group of faith based communities including the Los Angeles Religious Campaign Against Torture and Progressive Christians Uniting (PCU) to create an interfaith program of prayer, education, community building and action.

In addition, PTV continues to be a center for community learning. Students interested in non-profit management, torture rehabilitation, or refugee issues have become involved. Within the past few months we have had various new volunteers donate hours of their time. In particular, PTV has become the placement center for service learning for nine California State University, Los Angeles students, coordinated by one of our AmeriCorps VISTAs, Maureen Farrell. Students are encouraged to become more familiar with the issues of torture. They also assist clients by providing services such as English tutoring, computer and job skills training, and by introducing them to Los Angeles life.

Overall, it's been a productive and rewarding year for PTV and its surrounding community. We are looking ahead to even greater experiences and opportunities!



AN INTERVIEW WITH: DR. KENNETH HIRSCH, DMD

PTV has several volunteer opportunities open to the Los Angeles community, from one-time projects to long term commitments. We are fortunate to have a network of professional volunteers such as dentists, interpreters, and massage therapists. This increases the services available to survivors and helps ensure their ability to recover from the consequences of torture and become productive, independent members of society. Dr. Kenneth Hirsch, DMD from Woodland Hills, CA is the primary dental care specialist and oral surgeon serving fifteen PTV clients for the past year and a half.

Dr. Hirsch received his dentistry degree at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and served for two years as a military physician after graduating. He is on the Peer Review Committee of the American Dental Association, and has been practicing for 40 years. He provides pro-bono services to patients-in-need privately, but has also volunteered with different community based organizations in the past. In addition to providing dental care, he has also supported PTV by hosting several events including our Professional Volunteers Recognition event. We at PTV appreciate his hard-work, dedication and service and decided to ask him a few questions about his experience with us.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH PTV?

Actually, my fiancée Ellen Pfeifer introduced me to PTV and encouraged me to volunteer my professional services. She told me about the medical services provided to clients, and highlighted the program's need for professional volunteers in dentistry. At that time, there were no dentists providing pro-bono services to PTV clients. So, after attending several meetings and becoming more familiar with the program, I started volunteering for PTV.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO WORK WITH REFUGEES AND TORTURE VICTIMS?

The underlying principle that motivates the medical profession is a desire to help your fellow man—to relieve their suffering. The greatest reward I gain from this experience is being able to assist someone who has truly suffered. Some of the patients I worked with have gone through hell. They were actually tortured by a dentist using dentistry. One patient was tortured by having his teeth drilled to force him to reveal information. It is rewarding to not only provide care to this patient, but also to help him feel comfortable enough to sit calmly and have dental work done.



Additionally, in doing this work I feel I'm not only relieving their suffering, but also helping them start a new life. Many clients have come to me with missing teeth or similar problems, and in our society people with missing teeth are not serious job candidates. By fixing teeth I'm not only providing critical dental services, but also helping them in their future employment opportunities.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED?

The greatest challenge has been to see both the physical and psychological manifestations of torture on a patient. This has made me realize that man's inhumanity to his fellow man is worse than I had ever imagined. It has been deeply disturbing to learn about the true depth of the problem of torture, and to be exposed to this sinister side of humanity. It made me more aware of the dire situations in countries around the world, and corresponding affects experienced by people living in the midst of turmoil or repression. However at the same time this work has also inspired me because there are programs like PTV that are there to help survivors rebuild their lives after trauma.



A WARM WELCOME

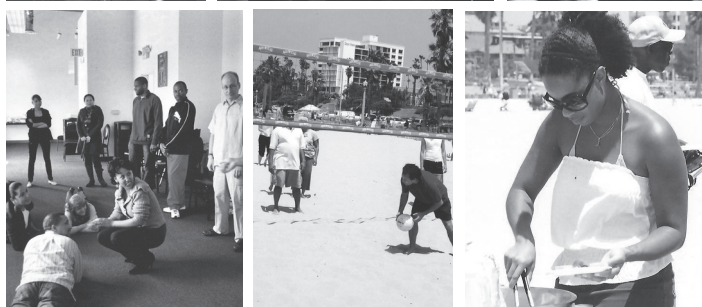
The Program for Torture Victims would like to introduce the recent additions to our office community.

We have two new AmeriCorps VISTAs (Volunteers in Service to America) who will be working with PTV for a full year: Jaimini Parekh and Maureen Farrell. Jaimini is our Resource Development Coordinator working on fund development campaigns and media outlets such as our newsletter. Maureen is our Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator and is working with professional/ general volunteers and community networking.

We are fortunate to also have two MSW Interns for the academic year from USC; Sali Guirguis and Lorene Gingerich. Sali Guirguis is our Research Intern working on clinical outcomes studies and evaluation. Lorene is our Development Intern working on fund development and grants research.

Additionally, Dr. Jené Moio (a seven year research volunteer) has returned to PTV as a pro-bono consultant on the research team. Jackie Lovell, certified massage therapist, has also joined PTV's team. She will be providing pro-bono massage therapy to PTV clients approximately three hours per week.

We are excited to welcome all of them to PTV, and we are delighted that they chose to share their talents with us.



THE HEALING CLUB

PTV successfully coordinated three Healing Clubs this year—providing a space in which survivors can find new friends, laugh, and feel at home. Guests bring food from their culture to share, and PTV provides transportation to make the event more accessible for clients.

Our first Healing Club, held on February 14, took place at the PTV office. Board Member Hector Aristizabal led community theater and dance workshops. Our 2nd Healing Club took place at Santa Monica Beach on May 9, celebrating the beginning of summer. It included activities such as volleyball, ping pong, swimming, and more. Our 3rd Healing Club for this year took place on June 21st, celebrating the June 26 United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture, at Santa Monica Beach. This event was jointly coordinated with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles. They brought food, equipment, a yoga instructor to lead relaxation exercises, and volunteers to organize games for the children.

A special thank you to Mr. Richard Chackar, owner of Perry's Café, who provided space, food, chairs, umbrellas, and drinks for both of PTV's beach days.



Jackie Lovell



Jaimini Parekh



Jené Moio



Sali Guirguis



Maureen Farrell



Lorene Gingerich



(HECTOR CONT. FROM PG 1)

possible outcomes of his own arrest and torture in Colombia by US-supported military. Could the resulting energy from this experience only be vengeful, or could it be channeled into a peace movement?

The response to his presentation was so intense that he thought he needed to develop a way to process what had happened with the play. He understood that the public saw in his play someone that was not just acting, but acting his own pain as a survivor. The connection by the public was powerful. Seeing the pain of torture acted in a theatrical scenario by a survivor had a personal dimension of connectedness different from the connectedness created by reading about torture. The play and the public response brought together three dreams he had all his life. First, as a survivor, he was in search of healing his emotional wounds. Second, as an artist, he saw the potential of using theater to process his experience. Finally, as a therapist, he was using art as a way of healing others. He added, "As an activist, I found a way to engage the public in my play using the technique of the Theater of the Oppressed."

Overwhelmed, Hector was faced with a dilemma: reduce his acting and say "no" to further invitations while continuing his work as a therapist; or simply say "no" to his practice and dedicate his life to talking to people about torture and to imagine actions to address this pressing problem.

A society that allows torture to take place affects more than the victims or people afflicted by torture. It affects the society at large. After September 11th we know that the Bush administration authorized torture as a means to gather intelligence. However, many interrogators and victims have demonstrated that torture doesn't work for gaining intelligence. Rather, it is a way to create terror in the population. It sends the message, "if you don't agree with us, it may happen to you." Now, imagine the effect that has on our society.

"My work is the key to my own chamber (torture chamber); on trying to find ways to heal my wounds, I developed my own technique on how to work with the community finding the path to healing." He uses the body in a process that he calls "blood thinking." It's not intellectual thinking, but a thinking that involves the body and is "born in our blood."

For Hector, theater became a laboratory in which he invites people to look at their own wounds. He emphasizes the challenge he presents to people: learning how to heal. He said that it's important to look at our wounds and see what the wounds can tell as a way to find a cure. We all have the possibility to become a healer. We are all carriers of medicine. Like the Shaman, the wounded healer finds meaning in suffering as a way to heal.

To learn more about Hector Aristizabal and ImaginAction, please visit <http://imaginaction.org/>

REFUGEE

a poem by: Reza Bahri

Flower in that garden
tree in the woods
that is in our thoughts,
we are strangers in this surrounding.
It is quite a time that we have come from a long way
to look at the breeze,
to look at the desert that people have made green
full of thoughts of spring
we are strangers in this surrounding.

Our heart is not in this place
our heart is where our roots are.
in truth, we with what purpose came here?
Have we come to be awoken, joyful and enlightened?
Have we come to be abundant and to have rain?
Have we come to be a sun and to shine?
Have we come to construct and destroy ourselves?
Have we come to be free and to be jailed?
Have we come to calm our confusion?
Have we come to rectify our mistakes?
In truth, we with what purpose came here?

We are strangers in this surrounding,
we are slaves in this freedom.
our place is not here,
our place is where our roots are.
Again, we have to go back,
again, we have to develop our house,
our soil is thirsty for our rain
we deserve our struggles.

Happiness is not a shell:
that the waves can bring to the beach,
and inside the shell there is some rare commodity.
No expert fisher can get even a small fish from the sea,
without any tools or struggle.
We deserve our struggles.

All the destruction is from our own axes
happiness, joy, respect, growth, wishes, freedom
they are all from the growth of our own thoughts
again we have to run
again we have to go
our soil is thirsty for our rain.



DONOR LIST FALL 2009

Paul Almond
Elizabeth Amini
James Angleton
Hector Aristizabal
Aye Aung
Marilyn Bailey
Robert Bailey
Roger Berg
Fred Berthold
Victoria Bezman
Patrick Bonner
Richard Bready
Meredith Brown
Adolfo Cabrera
Marlene Cabrera
Juan Cappello
Sandra Casillas

Hannah Cohen
Heidi Crane
Zena David
Ana Deutsch
Jignesh Dhamecha
Linsly Donnelly
Rose Durocher
Thomas Eggen
Margareta Ericksen
Tim Everett
Virginia Fawcett
Gauthri Fernando
David Fisher
Raquel Fonte
David Gangsei
Julieta Garcia
David Gardner

Ralph Goldstein
Jimmy Hara
Kristen Hoffman
David Howard
Randi Hutchinson
Margaret Jacob
Norman King
Thao Lam
Adam Levine
George Lewis
Marion Lipshutz
Beatriz Loiederman
Ken Louria
Sean Lyons
Diane Maiden
Anthony Maramarco
Rita Maran

Valnere McLean
Tiffany Negrinelli
Kristine Nguyen
Rober Oester
Soo Park
Margaret Perez
Ellen Pfeifer
Kristin Pingca
Jose Quiroga
Rosmarie Roberson
Mollie Rock Zuccato
Diana Rush
Tiffany Sanders
Eileen Scahill
Steven Seligman
Kathy Seroff
Brian Sikkenga

Teresa Slidenberg
Joanna Stein
Leticia Talavera
Gregg Tenser
Jolie Twiss
Lindsay Urquhart
Elsa Vasquez
Addul Wali
Pamela Weinberger
William Wenck
Adlai Wertman
Annie Will
Naomi Wolman
Hyunjung Woo
Kevin Yoshida
Reza Zulfiqar

PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS

Venice Family Clinic
Kenneth Hirsch, D.M.D.
Preedar O'Reggio, M.D.
Naomi Wollman, M.D.
Laila Al-Marayati, M.D.

Sergio Fuenzalida, M.D.
Luis Pantoja, M.D.
Alisse Sochaczewski, Therapist
Jackie Lovell, Massage Therapist
Beth E. Meyerowitz, Ph.D.

Francisca Garcia, M.D.
Kenneth Chuang, M.D.
Kendra Gorlitsky, M.D.
Margaret E. Perez DC QME
Chris C. Hartzler, Ph.D.

Claudia Ahumada Degratias, Ph.D.
Felice Dresner
Cat Scott, M.D.
John Briere, Ph.D.
Jene Moio, Ph.D.

Tomas Deutsch
Eric Wat
Brigitte Perreault
Esabelle Mihail
Arthur Camplone, Ph.D.



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OUR MISSION

To alleviate the suffering and health consequences of state-sponsored torture through medical, psychological, and case management services to torture survivors.