

Report on Micro-Grant Activity:

Translation and Dissemination of Notebook on *Reparations: Using Civil Lawsuits To Obtain Reparation For Survivors Of Human Rights Abuses And To Challenge The Impunity Of Human Rights Abusers*

By the Center for Justice & Accountability (CJA)

We translated the Notebook – totaling 25 pages and titled *Reparations: Using Civil Lawsuits To Obtain Reparation for Survivors of Human Rights Abuses and to Challenge the Impunity of Human Rights Abusers* – into Spanish and have created a plan for dissemination and distribution.

By May 15, a link to the Notebook, in English and Spanish will be posted on our website.

Also by May 15, we will disseminate the Notebook in Spanish by email to our list of more than 500 Spanish-speaking human rights attorneys, human rights groups, torture treatment professionals and torture survivors. In particular, we will send the Notebook to groups and individuals in Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Spain and the United States with whom we have been collaborating or would like to collaborate.

We will encourage our close working partners - the Rigoberta Menchu and Helen Mack Foundations in Guatemala, IDHUCA (the Human Rights Institute of the Central American University) in El Salvador, and several prosecutors and human rights groups in Spain -- to make the notebook available to people who have questions about universal jurisdiction and, in particular, about how civil lawsuits can be used to bring human rights abusers to justice. When we disseminate the Notebook, we will ask for readers' feedback.

By the middle of September we intend to compile feedback on the usefulness of the Notebook, especially the Spanish translation,

Goals

By disseminating this paper throughout the international human rights community and communities of Spanish speakers within the United States, we expect to increase cooperation and therefore create a stronger front in the fight against impunity. The effects will be twofold. We expect that this activity will strengthen our ties and mutual education with other organizations practicing similar work as well as educate more survivors about their rights and give them hope of finally finding justice.

The fact that our cases have a multinational quality, in that we use U.S. courts to deal with abuses occurring in other countries, makes collaboration essential with human rights lawyers, torture treatment professionals, and victims associations from many countries.

Having the Notebook in Spanish will significantly improve the understanding of these groups about our work and should help them to think through how they might initiate new cases on which they could work with us in the future .

In addition, due to previous collaboration with the Rigoberta Menchu Foundation, one of CJA's attorneys has become a prosecutor in the international criminal case open in Spain against former military and government officials responsible for atrocities committed against Guatemalan civilians during the 1970s and '80s. By giving these prosecutors access, we anticipate that we will receive their support and information for the current and upcoming cases that CJA will try in the U.S. court system.

An additional goal is to increase understanding and trust between our Center and victims of torture. As they gain a much deeper understanding of the legal options open to them, they are likely to participate more actively as plaintiffs and witnesses.