



# Casa Quivira

*“Providing Hope for the Children of Guatemala”*

## PRESS STATEMENT

27 August 2007

**The whereabouts and wellbeing of the remaining forty-two (42) children from Casa Quivira which were under the intervention by the President’s Office for Social Welfare (Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia, SBSP) continues to be unknown.**

**The Judge ordered the occupation of Casa Quivira, by the Guatemalan President’s Office for Social Welfare (SBSP), to end.**

Late in the night of Thursday, 23 August under pouring rain the remaining 35 children in the care of Casa Quivira in Antigua, Guatemala were removed by a judge’s order and transferred to undisclosed locations. Casa Quivira attorneys filed petitions on Friday, 24 August requesting that the judge recently assigned the case, Roxana Mena, indicate why the children were transferred, to what orphanages and the legal status and qualifications of those orphanages to provide the necessary medical oversight and foster care.

Also on Friday, attorneys for Casa Quivira filed a petition to have Judge Mena end the intervention by the SBSP. This motion was granted and an order to leave Casa Quivira’s private property was immediately issued. To date the SBSP has yet to vacate the property and Casa Quivira personnel have been denied access. Today Casa Quivira attorneys will file a complaint asking for clarification as to why the SBSP refuses to vacate CQ property and illegally block entry to CQ personnel. Estuardo Castellanos, lead attorney for Casa Quivira stated: “the intervention of Casa Quivira has been ordered to be ceased by the *Organismo Judicial* (Judicial Branch) yet CQ personnel continue to be denied access and the abuse of power and pressures from the Administrative Branch continues.”

Casa Quivira attorneys will continue to seek to identify where the children were taken, and seek an explanation of the qualifications and legal status of those orphanages. Casa Quivira attorneys will continue to demand that the judge's order be enforced and the private property of Casa Quivira be immediately vacated by the SBSP personnel.

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