



Casa Quivira

“Providing Hope for the Children of Guatemala”

PRESS STATEMENT

30 August 2007

One week after the children in the care of Casa Quivira were ordered transferred the whereabouts and wellbeing of all forty-two (42) children continues to be unknown. These children were under the intervention of the President’s Office for Social Welfare (Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia, SBSP).

One week after Judge Roxana Mena ordered the occupation of Casa Quivira, by the President’s Office for Social Welfare (Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia, SBSP) to end they still refuse to leave.

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 judge, 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. To date Casa Quivira attorneys have not received an answer to this petition.

Also on Friday, attorneys for Casa Quivira filed a petition to have Judge Mena end the intervention of Casa Quivira. This motion was granted and an order to leave Casa Quivira’s private property was immediately issued. To date, however, the SBSP has yet to vacate the property and Casa Quivira personnel continue to be denied access. Today Casa Quivira attorneys will file a complaint asking for obstruction of justice charges to be brought against the SBSP. Estuardo Castellanos, lead attorney for Casa Quivira states “if the private property of Casa Quivira is not handed over to the court today and the SBSP intervention of Casa Quivira not ended we will file a petition with the court to seek charges of obstruction of justice by the SBSP.”

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