



# Casa Quivira

*“Providing Hope for the Children of Guatemala”*

## PRESS STATEMENT

20 August 2007

### **Eight (8) Children Removed from Casa Quivira by Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia SBSP).**

One child is believed to be at the National Hospital in Antigua, Guatemala. This child was transferred there on Saturday, 18 Aug by orders of the Guatemalan President’s Office for Social Welfare (Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia SBSP), due to deterioration of her health. Yesterday, Sunday, 19 Aug seven more children were transferred from Casa Quivira by the SBSP officials who have taken control of Casa Quivira. These children were presumably also transferred to the hospital due to health considerations but Casa Quivira attorneys and personnel have not been advised of the whereabouts or health status of these children and no statement has been made by the SBSP nor any other government entity of Guatemala regarding this matter.

I am appalled by the abuse of the Guatemalan government to illegally occupy the private property of the Casa Quivira Children’s Home, in Antigua, Guatemala. During this occupation, these same authorities have refused to allow specialized formulas, medicines and other supplies from Casa Quivira staff to enter the home; compromised the health of the infants by not following basic practices of infection control; refused to permit our staff doctor to examine or treat the children; allowed the basic hygienic status of the home to deteriorate; and intimidated the care-givers of the children. Now, they cannot even account for the whereabouts or health status of the children that they have allowed to get sick through poor care.

Calls to Ms. Maldonado de Wennier’s office continue to go unanswered. Estuardo Castellanos, an attorney for Casa Quivira, will again file a writ of habeas corpus (exhibicion personal) today to seek relief for the unlawful detention and poor care of the children by the SBSP. All avenues of justice will continue to be pursued until the legal custody of the children entrusted to the care of Casa Quivira is restored.

Clifford Phillips  
Director  
Casa Quivira