



Casa Quivira

“Providing Hope for the Children of Guatemala”

PRESS STATEMENT

22 August 2007

Whereabouts and Wellbeing of Nine (9) Children Removed from Casa Quivira by the Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia (SBSP) still unknown.

The Guatemalan President’s Office for Social Welfare (Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia -SBSP), refuses to account for the whereabouts and well-being of the nine (9) children which have been transferred from Casa Quivira by the SBSP officials who have taken control of Casa Quivira. These children were presumably 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 neither the SBSP nor any other government entity of Guatemala regarding this matter.

Estuardo Castellanos, an attorney for Casa Quivira states that the SBSP refuses to account for the whereabouts or health status of the children that they have allowed to get sick through poor care. “This is a great irresponsible act on the part of the very entity of the government (the SBSP) which is supposed to be in charge of caring for the wellbeing of children that they would allow these children to become ill, transfer them to hospitals and not give any accounting of their current status.” Attorney Castellanos will appeal today to U.S. officials in Guatemala as well as the Guatemalan courts to allow an accompanied visit to the Children’s Home by Dr. Rene Juarez, the Casa Quivira staff pediatrician. Dr. Juarez has not been allowed to visit the children to examine them even though these children have been under his care on a daily basis since entering the home.

Attorney Castellanos will again file a writ of habeas corpus (*exhibicion personal*) today to seek relief from 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