



Casa Quivira

“Providing Hope for the Children of Guatemala”

PRESS STATEMENT

23 August 2007

Guatemalan National Police Attempt Illegal Raid of Offices of Casa Quivira in Antigua, Guatemala. Whereabouts and Wellbeing of Nine (9) Children Removed from Casa Quivira by the Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia SBSP) continues to be unknown.

Casa Quivira attorneys at 9:00 a.m. today blocked the Guatemalan Police in Antigua, Guatemala from illegally entering the offices of Casa Quivira. When lawyers from CQ insisted upon seeing the judge's order to enter the premises the police responded that they were acting on a tip and orders from the *Ministerio Publico* MP (District Attorney's Office). They stated that they were sent to locate fake documents, fake stamps and seals from civil registrars and fake blank documents from other Guatemalan government offices which can be used to falsify adoptions and that they were to search the premises for this paraphernalia. A judge's order was never demonstrated.

Police waited for personnel from the MP to present themselves in order to affect a search of the premises. No personnel presented themselves and the police eventually left. Before leaving, Casa Quivira attorney, Guillermo Amado, made a statement to the police that the investigation of Casa Quivira is currently underway with the *Juzgado de Primera Instancia Penal* (Court of First Application) in Antigua and that any search of the premises without the permission of this court would be considered an illegal procedure. Amado has filed a formal complaint with the Court of First Application in Antigua seeking an investigation of the origins of the attempted police search.

The Guatemalan President's Office for Social Welfare (Secretaria de Bienestar Social de la Presidencia SBSP), still refuses to account to Casa Quivira as to the whereabouts and well-being of the nine (9) children who have been transferred from Casa Quivira by the SBSP officials. These children were presumably transferred to the hospital due to health considerations but Casa Quivira attorneys have not been advised of the whereabouts nor health status of these children and CQ attorneys are seeking a formal investigation as to the who gave the order allowing the children to be transferred and on what basis.

Clifford Phillips
Director
Casa Quivira