



**II World Congress on Psychosocial Work in Search and Exhumation Processes related to Forced Disappearances
April 21-23, 2010, Bogotá-Colombia**



The *First International Congress on Psychosocial Work in Search and Exhumation Processes, Forced Disappearance, Justice and Truth*, was carried out in Antigua-Guatemala in February 2007. The aim was to discuss psychosocial accompaniment in exhumation processes in order to develop minimum standards and a guide that could be used worldwide. The Congress had 150 participants from 30 countries in America, Asia, Europe and Asia, under the invitation of the Community Studies and Psychosocial Action Team (ECAP), the Community Action Group (GAC), and the North-South Cooperation Institute, with the auspices of the International Spanish Cooperation Agency, and the Catalan Cooperation Agency for Development.



Fundación
Nydia Erika Bautista

As a result of the Congress, the exchange of experiences and the planning process a work group produce the first document on *International Consent On Minimum Standards on Psychosocial Work in Exhumations for Human Rights Grave Violations*.



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The need to continue debating and working on experiences and lessons learnt in greater depth, in a historical perspective in which many countries have committed and continue to commit efforts related to search and exhumation processes related to forced disappearances, in order to contribute to truth, justice and reparation of victims, families and society, is the basis to organize the II International Congress, with will be help in Bogotá, Colombia, April 21 to 23 of 2010.



Colombia is not an exception in Latin America, in the way it has experienced past and present systematic and generalized forced disappearances on behalf of State entities, and other armed actors in conflict. Mass exhumations carried out under demobilization and transitional justice processes of armed groups, have made thousands of victims of forced disappearance, extrajudicial executions, massacres and other crimes against humanity, more visible. Numerous organizations have also reported how public policies are not adequate or centered on the needs of victims.



However, the exhumation processes that compel us to reflect on this situation, are a measure of continuing human rights violations as a common experience to many countries in the world. Launching the *International Consent On Minimum Standards on Psychosocial Work in Exhumations for Human Rights Grave Violations*, as well as validating and implementing these standards in different contexts, will allow us to build, -from a psychosocial perspective-, search and exhumation processes that attend to ethical, technical and political considerations related to the needs and rights of victims.

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Main objective: Share and reflect on experiences, minimum standards and best practices for psychosocial work in processes of search, exhumation, identification and return of remains related to forced disappearances and other grave human rights violations.

Specific objectives:

- Launch the *International Consent On Minimum Standards on Psychosocial Work in Exhumations for Human Rights Grave Violations*, and a proposal in order to promote, implement and follow up on its application internationally.
- Analyze the current situation on search and exhumation processes in different countries of the world: dimension of the problem, legal and institutional responses, the role of victims and psychosocial actions.
- Share experiences and best practices of psychosocial accompaniment and work related to search, and exhumation processes.

Methodology:

1. Pre-Congress: Carry out regional workshops in which Minimum Standards will be shared, discussed and validated in Colombia. We hope these processes can also be carried out in other countries of the world, in order to present the state of the art, advances and difficulties during the II International Congress.
2. Congress: Conferences, panels and roundtables with the participation of families of victims, professionals and public officers who have specialized work in the topics. We will also build strategies in order to position and implement the Minimum Standards internationally. The II International Congress will host cultural activities (photography exhibitions, videos, murals, artistic groups) and offer publications and other materials. We will also build a strategy to create and maintain a network of entities and organizations who work in these areas.

Note: We invite all organizations to bring their visual and printed materials for exhibition and sale.

3. Post-Congress: Activities in order to collect experiences presented during the II International Congress. We hope to promote and follow up on the implementation of the Minimum Standards in different regional and national contexts.



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Organizers:

- Equipo de Estudios Comunitarios y Acción Psicosocial de Guatemala (ECAP)
- Grupo de Acción Comunitaria – Guatemala (GAC)
- Familiares de Desaparecidos Forzadamente por el Apoyo Mutuo - Familiares Colombia
- Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista (FNEB)
- Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz
- Corporación AVRE
- Programa de Iniciativas Universitarias para la Paz y la Convivencia, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (PIUPC)
- Equipo Colombiano Interdisciplinario de Trabajo Forense y Asistencia Psicosocial (EQUITAS)

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