



Torture in Ecuador... Never Again!

Various victims who have suffered repression under the state have given their testimonials and have identified the places where they were tortured during the administration of León Febres-Cordero. These testimonials were given before the Commission of Truth, who in response presented a video which expressed their advances with investigations.

The Commission of Truth, presided over by Elsie Monge and comprised of Pedro Restrepo, Julio César Trujillo and Alberto Luna Tobar, was designated by the government to investigate violations against human rights from past governments. Up until now, the commission has received and investigated 270 cases of torture, 146 murders, and 11 disappearances. The majority of these occurred during the Christian socialist administration of Febres-Cordero.

Mireya Cárdenas, detained in 1984 and John Maldonado, captured in 1987 have testified that they were tortured and mistreated in the Intelligence Brigade (ex AEIN), which is located in Conocoto. Cárdenas was able to show the dark cell where she was kept, and was forced to defecate on the floor but a few meters away from where she slept. At this military post, she was beaten, electrocuted, and had her toes pierced with wires, all while nude.

In Guayaquil, Teresa Baquerizo gave her testimony: she was detained in December of 1986 and was kept prisoner in the Cuartel Modelo police barracks. Teresa was an ex-crime scene investigator who was tortured with electric therapy. Before all of these calamities occurred, her one year old daughter was taken from her custody.

The Commission of Truth made an urgent call in order to preserve the pertinent physical evidence in the various locations used for torture and other human rights offenses.

The documentation and elucidation of these violations should be identified and linked to those who are responsible so that they may be tried and sentenced. Beginning with León Febres-Cordero, the intellect behind the political repression between 1984-1988, his ex-ministers and public sector workers, whose objective was to eliminate Alfaro Vive Carajo and other members of insurgent movements.

Febres-Cordero justifies his actions on the grounds that "violations of human rights occur in governments across the globe, lamentably under my mandate as well, but previously the violations had been three times as bad."

The importance of the work done by the Commission of Truth lies in the struggle to ensure that violations of human rights will not rest in forgotten pasts and hopefully will not run free from punishment, including those acts done by the government itself. The Commission of Truth has made itself available to receive testimonies regarding the case of Dayuma, which took place a few months prior in the province of Orellana.

There is but one aspiration for the Commission of Truth and society as a whole:
Torture in Ecuador, Never Again!