

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: political event attendees (2 pages)	00/00/0000	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20048

FOLDER TITLE:

Sister Ortiz

2013-0534-S

rc1821

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

fe OR+12

THE SCREAM

Dianna Ortiz

A survivor of political violence is often revisited by memories when least expected. Some time ago I was sitting next to a young woman on a plane who told me of her dreams of becoming a painter. She had visited a museum in Oslo. One painting in particular had captured her attention. She spoke with enthusiasm of the painting's color composition, simplicity, clarity. What she did not mention was the subject matter.

The painting, Edvard Munch's *The Scream*, is quite familiar to me. But as that bright young woman described it, in one terrifying moment I witnessed again the unrelenting clutches of torture.

Dear young artist, dear fellow human-being—can you not see? This painting that you passionately describe is my life, the life of every woman, child, man who has been subjected to torture. Can you not hear the cries coming from those terrified souls? Can no one hear them but those of us who have survived this hell?

Jacobo Timerman, tortured in Argentina, remembers someone in the next cell, a man he never saw. What Timerman remembers is the wracking cough, until one day it stopped. I remember the screams. I *was* that scream. I heard, I *saw* the screams of people being tortured. I assure you, that scream etches itself into one's eternal memory. I remember this and much, much more.

I remember the night I died, when the screams of other people were muffled, falling, finally, into dead silence. I was taken to a place where there is no more pain. But the Angel of Death passed me by. I was not one of those lucky enough to close my eyes; instead I was reborn in an instant. I remember it: no beliefs, no values, no friends, no family, no memory. I was witness to that rebirth, not innocent as some newborn, but fatally flawed, born in the

image of those who raped and tortured me. I remember the scream that only I could hear.

Later, I remember how people, blind to torture and its effects, looked at me, as if I were a mad woman who had just popped out of Freud's notebook, while others were convinced that I was feeling sorry for myself. Others advised me to forgive and forget. But can one forget, even momentarily, that which was, and that which still is? Elie Wiesel says, "To forget would be an absolute injustice....To forget would be the enemy's triumph....The enemy kills, tortures, and disappears twice—the second time, in trying to obliterate the traces of his crime." Forget? We have neither the freedom nor the right to forget.

When individuals become the target of political violence, their worlds crumble. The damage done to the basic foundation is so severe that the pillars of one's life come crashing down. There is nothing life-giving left. Trust in one's self, in humanity, and in God is shattered. The survivor feels more kin to the dead than to the living. We are left with fear, guilt, humiliation, helplessness, shame, nightmares, flashbacks, hideous memories. This is the survivors' world, a world we wish to flee.

In that darkness, where so many have stood and continue to stand, transfixed by paralyzing fear, there flickers the faint light of a candle, the Marjorie Kovler Center. The Center exists as a sanctuary for survivors of torture, and for their families. At Kovler, we are lifted when we fall, cared for in our brokenness, empowered to take the most daring of all risks—to live.

How has Kovler been a healing presence for so many of us? Sometimes the past, like the future, is too painful to face. Survivors of torture find themselves bombarded with the most intrusive memories. The smell of cigarettes, the

sight of a policeman, the barking of a dog, or simple eye contact can trigger memories of the torture chamber. Like many survivors, I adopted behaviors to protect myself from these memories. I would drink twenty cups of coffee to avoid the nightmares that came with sleep. Bathing frequently, I would use A-Jax and bleach to disinfect myself. I was contaminated by what my torturers had done to me. But at Kovler, I came to realize that my behavior was not abnormal, that I was not mad. Can you imagine what that meant? I was, I am *normal*.

Survivors of political violence emerge from an environment of total control, victimized and powerless. But Kovler recognizes something that we believed had been lost forever: the inner strength that our torturers and all their allies have not destroyed. It was at Kovler that I, and countless others, first came to see ourselves not as victims but as survivors, fragile and broken perhaps, but very much alive.

To Kovler come survivors of political violence, dipped with the colors of despair. We reproduce *The Scream* with our lives. We come mute, desperately seeking a way to unleash the silent screams trapped within us. At Kovler, we recreate our shattered lives and deepen our alliance with those whom we have learned to trust. This strength, feeble at times, empowers us to confront our torturers and their allies, to use our experience to end the practice of torture.

Often times, I am asked what makes Kovler so special. Kovler heard my scream. To it, I owe my sanity, my life. It is a candle in the darkness. □

Dianna Ortiz, O.S.U., was abducted and tortured in Guatemala in 1989. This article is based on a presentation she gave at the tenth anniversary of Chicago's Marjorie Kovler Center for Survivors of Torture.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Ortiz visits White House, is promised information

By ARTHUR JONES
NCR Staff

release information to Ortiz before its June 30 scheduled completion date.

Continued Ortiz, "Mrs. Clinton said

present employee of a U.S. agency."

Clinton told Ortiz that if there was any information concerning "Alejandro,"

it would be released to her even if it were classified. Regarding Guatemalan human rights information generally, "she told me that I and all the others, the thousands and thousands of Guatemalans," have a right to know, Ortiz said.

In a statement read at the start of her vigil March 31, she gave details of what she previously referred to as "horrible acts" she was forced to commit by her torturers. The acts, she said, were videotaped.

While working as a teacher in Guatemala in November 1989, Ortiz was abducted from the backyard of a church retreat. During the 24 hours she was detained, she was burned

more than 111 times with cigarettes, repeatedly raped and forced to wield a small machete against another woman.

"My torturers put their hands onto the handle, on top of mine," she said. "And I had no choice. I was forced to use it against another human being." Her statement, read in a broken voice, recalled her experience of watching blood gushing and hearing her own screams lost with the screams of the unknown woman.

Meanwhile, Ortiz's 21-hour-a-day vigil continues. Accompanied between 8 a.m. to 5 a.m. by five to 20-plus people, including members of other religious communities, Ortiz's silent vigil has particular support from fellow Ursuline sisters.

"Hundreds from all over the country are volunteering to help out," Ursuline Sr. Mary Matthias Ward, head of Ortiz's 232-member community in Maple Mount, Ky., told NCR. "Those from our own community are going as they can and when work permits," she said.

Ortiz is from one of nine autonomous groups of Ursuline sisters in the United States, linked together as a society. The Ursulines first came to the United States from Germany in the 1850s, to Louisville, Ky. A second family of Ursulines, with a generalate in Rome, has four U.S. provinces. The total Ursuline U.S. membership is several thousand strong. ■

Catholic News Service contributed to this report.



Ursuline Sr. Dianna Ortiz converses with first lady Hillary Clinton during their April 4 meeting at the White House.

she would urge investigators to move along as quickly as possible. She did not rule out the possibility that 'Alejandro,' as my torturers called their boss, was a past or

WASHINGTON — The state visit of Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro to Washington April 2 may have led to the White House meeting two days later between Ursuline Sr. Dianna Ortiz, who is staging a silent vigil outside the mansion in Lafayette Park, and first lady Hillary Clinton.

Two White House state dinner guests were Andrew Cuomo and his wife, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, whom an associate said have long been concerned with Guatemalan issues.

Told by Kerry Cuomo of Ortiz's vigil for the release of U.S. documents regarding her abduction and torture (NCR, March 29) and for similar documents relating to all Guatemalan human rights abuses, Clinton said she would meet with the nun.

Following the April 4 meeting, Ortiz said Clinton told her that she would do everything in her power to help obtain as much information as possible on Ortiz's case.

The Ursuline sister said that would include attempting to have the Presidential Intelligence Oversight Board

New rules hint at another conservative pope

NCR Staff

"This change means that if an abso- a pas

[National Catholic Reporter, April 19, 1994]

file ORTIZ

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Lyon, France)

For Immediate Release

June 28, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

We welcome today's release of the Intelligence Oversight Board's Report on the Guatemala Review. The IOB's government-wide review of the Bamaca, Ortiz and DeVine cases, as well as intelligence bearing on other American citizen human rights cases since 1984, represents an unprecedented level of executive review of U.S. intelligence. It makes valuable recommendations about how to help ensure that America's high standard of respect for human rights is maintained in the conduct of our intelligence relationships. The White House looks forward to working with the appropriate agencies on these recommendations.

The IOB has concluded that CIA and other intelligence agency officials pursued legitimate policy objectives that in many instances advanced the national interests of both the United States and Guatemala. It found there was no credible evidence implicating CIA officers, assets or liaison contacts in the death, abduction, or torture of U.S. citizens in Guatemala. It is important to note that the case of Sister Dianna Ortiz remains under Department of Justice investigation.

The IOB believes, however, that several CIA assets were credibly alleged to have ordered, planned or participated in serious human rights violations. It recommends that ambassadors be informed about intelligence activities with significant policy implications, that executive and legislative branch officials be held accountable for the proper handling of classified information, and that the State Department take more initiative in seeking intelligence agency authorization to share information with the American victims of human rights abuses or their surviving family members. While the report notes that in the past the CIA failed to provide policymakers and Congress with adequate information to permit proper oversight, it finds that steps have been taken to correct this problem.

This report offers important insights into the conduct of U.S. intelligence activities. It highlights the significant contributions intelligence can make towards advancing national interests and sets the standard for the prominent place human rights must have in the conduct of our intelligence relationships. The President commends IOB Chairman Tony Harrington and IOB members

2

General Lew Allen, Ms. Ann Caracristi and Mr. Harold Pote, for their thorough and impartial inquiry.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Lyon, France)

For Immediate Release

June 28, 1996

FACT SHEET
THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD'S GUATEMALA REVIEW

Findings

The IOB finds that CIA and other intelligence agencies pursued legitimate policy objectives in Guatemala including supporting the transition to democracy, combatting narcotics trafficking and advancing the peace process.

Subject to resolution of the Ortiz case, the IOB found no indication of involvement by CIA or other U.S. officials in any of the harm that befell U.S. citizens in Guatemala.

Several CIA assets were credibly alleged to have ordered, planned or participated in serious human rights violations.

DeVine

The IOB finds no indications that CIA officials were in any way complicit in the death of Michael DeVine, and no credible evidence that any CIA assets ordered or had prior knowledge of DeVine's death.

Despite allegations that Col. Alpirez was present at DeVine's death, evidence indicated that was not true. The IOB concludes that Alpirez did participate in the broad cover-up of Guatemalan military involvement in the DeVine murder.

Bamaca

Guerrilla leader Efraim Bamaca was probably captured in March 1992, interrogated and killed within a year. It was unclear who killed Bamaca or ordered his death. There was no indication that CIA officials were involved in or contemporaneously aware of Bamaca's torture and death, but CIA assets and/or liaison contacts were likely involved.

Despite allegations that Col. Alpirez killed Bamaca, the IOB found it was unclear who killed Bamaca or ordered his death. The IOB found that Col. Alpirez probably participated in at least part of Bamaca's interrogation.

Ortiz

The IOB believes Sister Ortiz suffered horrific abuse. Because the Department of Justice continues to investigate her case, the IOB refrains from drawing conclusions at this time.

Assets/Human Rights Abuses

The IOB believes that several CIA assets or liaison contacts were credibly alleged to have ordered, planned or participated in, or were knowledgeable of, other serious human rights violations.

From the early 1980s through late 1994 the CIA gave insufficient attention to serious allegations of human rights abuse made against assets and liaison contacts. It has since taken steps to address the problem:

- In late 1994 the CIA's Latin America Division conducted a review of its asset relationships for allegations of human rights abuse and terminated several relationships; in February 1996 the CIA issued global guidance for dealing with allegations of serious human rights violations or crimes of violence by assets and liaison services.

Notification

The CIA failed to provide enough information on human rights abuses by assets to policymakers and Congress to permit proper oversight, violating its statutory obligation to keep oversight committees "fully and currently informed."

- Primary causes for this failure were the absence of a systematic notification process and inadequate emphasis from CIA leadership.
- The current leadership at the CIA and at other intelligence agencies has instituted processes designed to implement and document Congressional notification more systematically.
- Pursuant to executive order, the IOB has notified DOJ of its belief that in the past the CIA violated its statutory obligations, but notes the violation was not criminal, that the CIA has taken remedial action, and that there appears to be no threat of a continuing violation.

- The IOB recommends that the 1977 State-CIA agreement be amended to require that ambassadors be told about intelligence activities with significant policy implications, including credible allegations of asset involvement in human rights violations.

Information Sharing with Victims of Human Rights Abuse

The IOB recommended that State demonstrate more initiative in seeking authorization from intelligence agencies to share information in briefings to victims and family members.

Accountability for Handling Classified Information

The IOB noted that the system for collecting and disseminating intelligence information can function properly only if executive and legislative officials are held accountable should they compromise or improperly handle classified information.

Other Allegations

The allegation that NSA and Army officials destroyed records related to the activity of US intelligence agencies in Guatemala appears to have been fabricated.

CIA did not increase covert funding for Guatemala to compensate for the 1990 cut-off of military aid.

Follow-Through

The IOB recommends that Agency inspectors general evaluate implementation of its recommendations and any actions taken thereupon, and report the results to the IOB within one year.

About the Review

The Intelligence Oversight Board recently presented its Report on the Guatemala Review to the President. The review is unprecedented as a publicly announced inquiry and for the breadth and depth of its inquiry.

Consistent with the President's intent to make public as much information about the review as appropriate, the President directed the release of a public version of the IOB report on June 28. In addition CIA and DOD planned to release a total of over 400 declassified documents relevant to the cases on June 28. State Department also released additional material from over 450

documents out of the collection of 5,000 Guatemala documents it released last month.

On March 30, 1995 the President directed the IOB to conduct a government-wide review concerning allegations regarding the 1990 death of U.S. citizen Michael DeVine, the 1992 disappearance of Guatemalan guerrilla leader Efraim Barnaca, and all intelligence bearing on the torture, disappearance or death of U.S. citizens in Guatemala since 1984, and related matters.

Over the course of the review the IOB received excellent cooperation from inspectors general and their departments and agencies and benefitted greatly from the extensive follow-up investigations conducted by the Department of Justice on certain matters.

#

DRAFT

DRAFT

Statement by the Press Secretary

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton met today with Sister Dianna Ortiz to express sympathy with her suffering and to indicate that the Administration is working hard to find answers to her questions.

Mrs. Clinton noted that, as directed by the President on March 30, 1995, the Intelligence Oversight Board is conducting a government-wide review of Sister Ortiz' case as well as those of Michael DeVine and Efrain Bamaca Velasquez and related matters. The review also covers any intelligence bearing on the death, disappearance or abuse of U.S. citizens in Guatemala since 1984. The Board's work is substantially completed and it expects to conclude its review in the first half of the year.

Mrs. Clinton assured Sister Ortiz that, once the Board's review is completed, the President intends to make all appropriate information available to Sister Ortiz, the other victims, their families and the public.

DRAFT

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: State Department Release of Guatemala Documents

Late last year, in response to congressional and public inquiries the State Department decided to review for declassification documents relating to cases of human rights abuses which occurred in Guatemala from 1984 to 1995. On Friday May 3, 1996, State will release in full 4,727 relevant documents; another 1,120 documents will be released with some redaction. State withheld an additional 500 documents from public release but will provide them to Congress.

The released documents include State Department telegrams, internal memoranda and public correspondence relating to 16 specific cases of alleged abuse against American citizens, including Sister Dianna Ortiz and Michael DeVine. The release also includes documents relating to Guatemalan guerrilla Efraim Bamaca, husband of Jennifer Harbury. The documents contain some information critical of Sister Ortiz -- primarily U.S. Government officials speculating she may have fabricated her story. You should also know that we intend to provide to her on a private basis the key documents collected by the IOB. While the documents relating to other cases are still under review, we thought it best to provide the key information to her all at once.

You should be aware, however, that she will not be satisfied until we can identify the North American "Alejandro" allegedly involved in her ordeal. None of these documents shed light on that issue. The Justice Department is still investigating the case.

In addition to the State Department Documents released Friday, we are conducting a review of all other relevant documents (2600 total) for release in June, ideally timed to the release of the IOB report.

Lastly there is public, media and congressional pressure for release of all Guatemala documents from 1954 to the present. Such an effort would take enormous resources. We believe our current efforts will produce the key documents relating to the key issues. We are working on a declassification of the 1954

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff
The First Lady

coup and are reviewing what, if any, other human rights cases we should include in the document release.

Supporters of Sister Diana Ortiz have been arrested every day this week during illegal protests in conjunction with her Lafayette Park vigil designed to increase pressure for release of documents.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

3036

May 2, 1996

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: JAMES F. DOBBINS 

SUBJECT: State Release of Guatemala Documents

On May 3, 1996, the State Department will release in full or in part about 5800 documents relating to human rights cases in Guatemala from 1984-1995. The attached memorandum to the President informs him of the release and the fact that building pressure for declassification of Guatemala documents is unlikely to be satisfied by the State Department's action.

This has been coordinated with the IOB.

Concurrence by: Bill Leary,  James Baker

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the attached memorandum to the President.

~~Approve~~ Disapprove

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Melanne,
Maggie
said to give
this to you -
Peggy

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

26-Apr-1996 02:23pm

TO: Andrew D. Sens
TO: Peggy A. Lewis

FROM: Kris Balderston
 Office of Cabinet Affairs

SUBJECT: Sister Ortiz

A friend at the RFKennedy Foundation called and gave me a heads up that they (and others) are getting increasingly concerned about Sister Ortiz's condition. She is currently in front of the WH conducting a hunger strike. They are planning to come to her defense but they do not want to cause the FLOTUS any embarrassment. I understand that the FLOTUS met w her and tried to resolve her problems.

Any suggestions on the next move?

FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

To: Melanne Verveer
From : COC
Subject: Dianna Ortiz
Pages (including cover): 1

Time: 11:38:58
Date: 04/27/96

Dear Melanne,

Telephone tag is so much fun! You must really have your fill of it by now. I hope you're doing well.

I've been calling to try to see what is happening on the Dianna Ortiz case. We're hearing from State that 10,000 pages of documents are ready and have been for some time but that the Intelligence Oversight Board is holding them up. One of our people ran into the head of IOB who said that was not true at all, they weren't holding it up. Kerry Kennedy Cuomo talked with John Shattuck who said that 10,000 pages -- some of them classified confidential -- would be released in 3-6 weeks, but with no indication of what the delay is. Do you have any more information on where the hang up is and how to break it loose?

You probably know that Dianna is now on a bread and water fast. A call has gone out for religious leaders to come to DC next week to do civil disobedience in front of the White House. That will go on all week.

I will be in the office today, Saturday, till 4 p.m. [202-635-2757x29] and home after 6 p.m. [202-546-1958]. I will be in NY Monday and Tuesday, returning Tuesday evening. I hope to hear from you soon.

My love,

Jim Hug, SJ
Center of Concern

Happy Easter!

10.5 is expected
to finish
his report by
end of June.
Mr. Apple ^{to} ^{that} ^{invest in}
will ^{at that}
finish

Enclosed is a photo of me
First Lady and Sr. Dranna
Ottis during a meeting at
the White House on April 4.
During the mtg the First
Lady promised Sr. Dranne
that the ~~State~~ Administration
will get all up - make available
all appropriate information
~~available to State~~ & ~~distributed~~
once
The Intelligence Oversight's
Board review is completed
within next few months by the end
of June

Told Sister Deanne that
the Admin is working hard to
find answers to her questions.

Clinton Signs Farm Measure Ending Subsidies

Associated Press

President Clinton yesterday signed a farm bill that abandons Depression-era subsidy programs in favor of a system offering guaranteed but gradually declining payments over seven years.

Clinton said he signed the measure with reservations because it "fails to provide an adequate safety net for family farmers."

"The fixed payments in the bill do not adjust to changes in market conditions, which would leave farmers and the rural communities in which they live vulnerable to reductions in crop prices or yields," he said, promising to submit legislation next year "to strengthen the farm safety net."

The legislation covers a broad range of nutrition, environmental, specific crop and rural development issues. It

also ends government controls over what farmers can plant or what fields must be left idle.

Clinton signed the bill in a private ceremony, keeping to the low-key schedule he adopted after the death of Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown in a plane crash Wednesday.

While expressing reservations about the bill, Clinton said he was "keenly aware that farm legislation is long overdue and American farmers need to know now the conditions under which they are operating."

He said a hallmark of the legislation is the end of controls over planting. "Farmers will be free to plant for the market, not for government programs," the president said. "The expansion of planting flexibility will improve U.S. competitiveness in world markets."

The new law ends the link between prices and subsidies, instead guaranteeing farmers steadily declining "market transition payments." With farmers knowing exactly how much they will receive from the government, they will be able to plan ahead, supporters said. The law also maintains the food stamp program for another two years while Congress works on welfare reform.

The law ends the special tax on dairy producers and phases out the government support for butter, powdered milk and cheese over four years. Within three years, the Agriculture Department must merge 33 regional dairy price-setting agreements into 10 to 14, and make prices more uniform.

It is estimated farm spending will drop about \$2 billion over the next seven years, projected to be \$48.8 billion.

First Lady Promises Assistance in Nun's Case

By Ann Devroy
Washington Post Staff Writer

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday promised an American nun that the Clinton administration will get "appropriate documents" related to her abuse by Guatemalan military officials declassified and released within six months, officials said yesterday.

The first lady made the pledge in a half-hour meeting she held yesterday with Dianna Ortiz, a 37-year-old Ursuline nun who reported in 1989 that she was kidnapped, raped and tortured in Guatemala by the country's security forces. Ortiz, protesting the U.S. government's lack of response to requests for information on her case, has been holding a si-

lent vigil in Lafayette Park across from the White House.

A year ago, President Clinton asked the Intelligence Oversight Board to conduct a probe of the case

Dianna Ortiz has been holding a silent vigil across from the White House.

and whether U.S. government-backed forces were involved or the United States was making payments to those involved in her torture.

Despite previous pledges from administration officials to speed the process of searching for any classified material about her case and releasing it, none has emerged.

A senior official said yesterday that Hillary Clinton asked to meet with Ortiz because she "felt some personal concern for her." Ortiz has been keeping her vigil about 20 hours a day since Monday.

Ortiz's case is one of several involving allegations of Guatemalan murder, torture or other abuse of American citizens in which CIA complicity is being charged. American lawyer Jennifer Harbury, whose husband, a Guatemalan rebel leader, was killed by a death squad, has accused the CIA of complicity in his killing.



Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz, sitting second from left in the first row, begins a vigil near the White House Sunday to protest human rights abuses in Guatemala. A torture victim there, she is seeking information on her case and that of the thousands of others who have been tortured, killed or who have disappeared in the Central American nation. Joining her at Lafayette Park Sunday were Ursuline Sister Suzanne Sims at left. At the far right in the front row is American journalist Jennifer Harbury, whose husband is believed to have been killed in Guatemala. She likewise has been an outspoken critic of human rights abuses there. In the middle of the front row is Jose Portierra, an attorney who represents Harbury, and to his left is Marta Ixcot, a Guatemalan woman who works with the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission. The vigil, which began on Palm Sunday, drew 200 supporters that afternoon. The man behind Sister Dianna is unidentified.

A silent vigil

Nun who was tortured in Guatemala begins vigil near White House to protest human rights abuses

By Cinnamon Burnim
CATHOLIC STANDARD

Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz tries to avoid sleeping. It is when she sleeps, she said, that her abductors and torturers return to haunt her.

While working in Guatemala in 1989, Sister Dianna, 37, was kidnapped, raped and tortured by Guatemalan security forces operating under the direction of "Alejandro," a U.S. citizen, according to Sister Dianna. Also forced to participate in the torture of others at the prison, Sister Dianna was released a day later, on Nov. 3, with 111 cigarette burns on her body.

Last Sunday, over 200 people gathered in Lafayette Park, across from the White House, to demonstrate support for the start of Sister Dianna's silent vigil for truth. After six years of pleading with the U.S. and Guatemalan governments for information about her case, Sister Dianna is taking her story public, hoping to get some answers. She will maintain a vigil in the park for 21 hours a day.

According to the Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, more than six people a week in Guatemala are killed for political reasons, and the army's

counter-insurgency campaign has left 150,000 dead, 45,000 disappeared, and more than 440 Mayan villages have been obliterated. Coalition Missing, a project of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission, and Amnesty International, a worldwide human rights organization, read statements of support at the vigil.

Last April, Sister Dianna filed a Freedom of Information Act request and President Bill Clinton ordered the Intelligence Oversight Board to conduct a probe into Sister Dianna's case and the cases of other Americans abused, killed or disappeared in Guatemala since 1984. A year later, and after personally writing President Clinton with her story, Sister Dianna has yet to receive any information. In his response to Sister Dianna's letter, President Clinton wrote that, "the IOB hopes to finish its review in the first half of this year... Once I have reviewed the IOB's report, I intend to make all appropriate information available to you, the other victims or their families and the public."

During her interrogation, Sister Dianna said that Alejandro entered the room and ordered her attackers to stop. He helped her get dressed and drove her to the U.S. Embassy for help. During the drive, Sister Dianna said that

she spoke to Alejandro in English, which he understood perfectly, and that Alejandro spoke English with "a distinct, completely American accent."

"I want out of this nightmare, out of this past, out of this room with Alejandro and my torturers," said Sister Dianna, reading her statement in a soft, often broken voice. "The key is the truth. I want to know who Alejandro was. Was he a CIA agent? Why is the U.S. government protecting him? How many other Alejandros are there out there, supervising the torture of innocent people?," asked Sister Dianna.

The Ursuline order has sent four delegations to Guatemala, starting in 1990, in search of answers and they have also been stonewalled.

"I will now maintain my silence, not a silence of complicity or cover-up, but a silence of commemoration for the thousands of known and unknown victims and survivors who have been abducted, tortured, assassinated and disappeared in Guatemala in the past three decades," Sister Dianna said. She added that a candle will burn day and night to remind President Clinton and his administration of the victims and survivors in Guatemala.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

[Catholic Standard, April 1996]

Clinton Library Transfer Form

Case #, if applicable	2013-0534-S	Accession #		
Collection/Record Group	Clinton Presidential Records	Series/Staff Name	Melanne Verveer	
Subgroup/Office of Origin	First Lady's Office	Subseries		
Folder Title	Sister Ortiz	OA Number	20048	Box Number
Description of Item(s)	6 copies of Official White House Photograph 04 Apr 96 P038745-11A SF shows Hillary Clinton with Sister Ortiz			

Donor Information

Last Name:		First Name:		Middle Name:		Title:	
Affiliation:		Phone (Wk):		Phone (Hm):			
Street:		City:		State (or Country):		Zip:	

Transferred to:	Audio/Visual Department
Other (Specify):	

Transferred by:	Jason Kaplan
Transfer Point	During Processing

Date of Tranfer	5/28/2014
-----------------	-----------



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPH 04 APR 96 P038745-11A SF

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

April 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: Brenda Costello

SUBJECT: Briefing for Thursday, April 4

Clinton/Gore Coffee

- List of participants

Drop-By with Sister Dianna Ortiz

- List of Participants
- NSC Briefing and Talking Points
- Letter from Thomas Quigley to Melanne Verveer
- "Nun Launches Vigil Demanding End to Secrecy About Guatemala," AP, 4/1/96
- "Horror Retold in Lafayette Square," Washington Post, 4/2/96

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: political event attendees (2 pages)	00/00/0000	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Melanne Verveer
OA/Box Number: 20048

FOLDER TITLE:

Sister Ortiz

2013-0534-S
rc1821

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

To: Katy Button
From: Leslie Bassett
Re: Meeting with Sister Dianna Ortiz

Participants

Sister Dianna Ortiz
Michelle Arington
Sister Marie Dennis
Sister Suzanne Sims
Anna Gallegher

..
(Katy -- this is one more than I told you -- sorry)

April 3, 1996

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDREW D. SENS

FROM: LESLIE BASSETT *B*

SUBJECT: FLOTUS Meeting with Sister Dianna Ortiz

Sister Dianna Ortiz has accepted an invitation to meet with the First Lady on Thursday, April 4 at 11:45 a.m. Nancy Soderberg will likely represent the NSC in the meeting. The attached briefing materials include contingency press materials for review by the First Lady's office.

This has been coordinated with the IOB.

Concurrence by: James Baker *J/B*

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the attached Memorandum to Melanne Verveer (with information copy to Nancy Soderberg).

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum to Melanne Verveer
Tab A Talking Points
Tab B Ortiz Letter to the President and Response
Tab C Draft Contingency Press Guidance
Tab D Draft Contingency Press Statement

DRAFT

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

2268

April 3, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR MELANNE VERVEER

FROM: ANDREW SENS

SUBJECT: FLOTUS Meeting with Sister Dianna Ortiz, Thursday,
April 4, 1996, 11:45 a.m.

American citizen Sister Dianna Ortiz disappeared in Guatemala on November 2, 1989. She reappeared the next day and left Guatemala on November 5. After her departure Church authorities indicated she had been kidnapped, tortured and raped. She has since said that members of the Guatemalan military kidnapped her and that a North American with ties to the U.S. Embassy was aware of what happened and stopped it. Hers is one of several cases involving American citizens covered by the Intelligence Oversight Board's ongoing Guatemala review.

Sister Ortiz has written to the President and on March 31 began a vigil in Lafayette Park to express her frustration over lack of access to information related to her case and to other cases of human rights abuses in Guatemala. She is particularly concerned about her inability to get more timely responses to her Freedom of Information Act requests (which have been pending for almost a year). She asks that information related to her case be made available to her, and inquires why the USG is protecting the identity of "Alejandro," the North American she believes was aware of her torture.

The President's response to Sister Ortiz was delivered to her over the weekend. The Intelligence Oversight Board has been in regular contact with Sister Ortiz. On April 1 the Board had a very hospitable meeting with Sister Ortiz and her colleagues, one of whom spoke on behalf of Sister Ortiz' religious community and expressed she had been touched by and appreciative of her discussions with the Board. Nancy Soderberg met with Sister Ortiz on April 1 and expressed the President's concern.

We recommend the First Lady offer sympathy and understanding to Sister Ortiz, stressing that we are taking her questions very seriously and examining her case closely. If Sister Ortiz expresses concern about the pace of her FOIA requests, we suggest the First Lady indicate we are looking at other ways to be responsive in providing information in a timely fashion.

Sister Dianna Ortiz will be accompanied by two members of her order, Sister Marie Dennis and Sister Suzanne Sims. Her attorneys, Anna Gallegher and Michelle Arington, will also accompany her.

Attachments

Tab A Talking Points
Tab B Ortiz Letter to POTUS and POTUS Reply
Tab C Contingency Draft Press Guidance
Tab D Contingency Draft Press Statement

Points to Make
Meeting with Sister Dianna Ortiz

Your letter to the President and your memories of your kidnapping and torture in Guatemala are heartrending. I wanted to meet with you and offer you my sympathy for your continued suffering.

We take very seriously your questions about what happened to you. If the answers are within government files and records then I believe the Intelligence Oversight Board will uncover them.

IOB Review

- It is important to keep in mind that the Board's government-wide review into your case and others is unprecedented in scope and complexity.
- I understand your frustration that completion of the review has taken longer than anticipated. However, the review is substantially completed and the Board believes it will finish its review within the next few months, which is really not that much longer. Moreover, I can assure you that the reason for the delay is the comprehensive manner in which the IOB has approached your case as well as the others.
- One of the last components of the review is the Department of Justice investigation into your case. My understanding is that Justice is devoting a great deal of time and effort into investigating all possible avenues. Your questions are being taken seriously, and every possible effort is being made to find the answers.
- I know you have spoken with the Intelligence Oversight Board several times, and I hope you will continue to feel free to contact them with any concerns you may have. They take this project very seriously, and I know they appreciate your assistance.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

- The FOIA process is labor-intensive, and as a matter of equity and law requests are placed in a queue as they are received. Unfortunately the agencies from which you have requested documents have some of the longest queues.

- Let me stress that the IOB's review is not in any way delaying FOIA releases. There have been unfortunate misunderstandings on this point.
- Your concern about access to information that directly concerns you is certainly legitimate. I understand there is consideration being given to measures that might make information available in a more timely fashion.

Protecting "Alejandro" (if asked)

- Your questions about the identity and affiliation of the person you call "Alejandro" are valid ones that the IOB is examining seriously. The Department of Justice investigation is also examining the issue of Alejandro. These are our best opportunities for resolving this question.
- You may be assured that this Government is not protecting "Alejandro." We, too, are seeking to find the truth.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 29, 1996

Dear Sister Ortiz:

Thank you for your letter bringing your concerns directly to my attention. I deeply regret the suffering you so movingly describe and offer you my sincere sympathy.

I believe you are aware that I have directed the Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB) to conduct a complete review of all intelligence information that may bear on the facts of your case. In parallel with the IOB's review, the Justice Department is also currently investigating your case. The IOB is working as quickly as possible to complete its challenging work while ensuring its review is thorough. The IOB hopes to finish its review in the first half of this year.

Once I have reviewed the IOB's report, I intend to make all appropriate information available to you, the other victims or their families and the public. The IOB will contact you directly to share this information with you.

The experiences you recount are terrible and clearly haunt you still. The IOB's unprecedented review is nearing completion, and I hope its report may help you gain some measure of peace. In the meantime, I know the IOB will continue its dialogue with you on the status of its review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Sister Dianna Ortiz, JSU
708 Rock Creek Church Road, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20010

breasts, charred her skin into round holes with the tips of their cigarettes. The once unblemished face was black and blue, covered with blood, and distorted beyond recognition. The woman cried out for help. I tried to protect her from these monsters. The room became an arena and Alejandro sat in the seat of "honor." Behind him sat an entourage of US officials. With a pipe in his mouth, he watched nonchalantly as a human life was destroyed. I awakened--with a bloody nose and bruises where my flailing hands had pounded against the wall.

You see, Mr. Clinton, I always want out. Out of this nightmare. Out of this past. Out of this room with Alejandro and my Guatemalan torturers. But the nightmare doesn't end when I awake because Alejandro is not just a dream image. He is a pivotal piece of my past and a symbol of the very real and daily fact: He represents six years of US officials that have lied to me, concealed truth, denied me basic information, and tried to keep me in the darkness.

Why is my government concealing the truth from me, from the Guatemalan people, and from the American public? Who is this American, Alejandro, who not only was present in the torture chamber but had the authority to give orders to my torturers? Why is my government protecting him? Is national security a higher priority than human life?

Like the Guatemalan people, I want desperately to put the past behind me. I have been very patient for six years. What would you do? God forbid, but what if it had been your daughter, your wife? What would you tell her? Forget?

Mr. Clinton, you can put these ghosts to rest by ordering a comprehensive and rapid declassification of US government documents pertaining to my case and to all human rights violations in Guatemala. Give us the truth and let us rest.

Time is running out for me. If the IOB report does not reveal answers to my search for the truth, then I have no other choice than to take strong action. Perhaps hunger strikes or other actions are the only means of obtaining truth in this country. I don't want attention. All I want is peace...for myself and for the Guatemalan people. I don't think that's too much to ask.

Thank you for listening.

Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU

Sister Dianna Ortiz, OSU

cc: Frank Fountain, counsel for the IOB
 Anthony Harrington, Chairman of the IOB.
 Anthony Lake, Assistant to the President for National Security
 John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights
 Selected Congressional offices

*It behind every victim, there is an individual, a family,
a community and a world being affected by torture.*

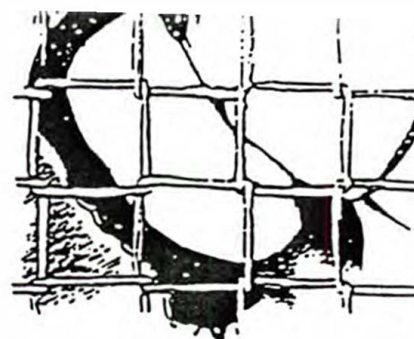
President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

February 7, 1996

Dear President Clinton:

CONFIDENTIAL

DETERMINED TO BE AN
ADMINISTRATIVE MARKING
INITIALS: JS DATE: 5/23/2014



I am writing to implore your assistance in an urgent matter. It's my understanding that you've been briefed on my case and for that reason I will not bombard you with specifics.

For more than six years I have battled tirelessly to learn the truth of why I and innocent Guatemalans fell victim to inhuman acts committed both by Guatemalans and US citizens. After my release, US officials opted to ignore what had happened to me; instead, in concert with the Guatemalan government, they concealed the truth by orchestrating a smear campaign against me with the intent of ruining my credibility. It was not until last spring's scandal that a sudden interest was awakened in my case and those of countless Guatemalans. But even with all of this, I still, to this day, more than six years later, do not know the truth.

In April of last year, I filed my Freedom of Information Act request to obtain access to US government documents on my case. I find it very disturbing to know that various entities that are conducting an investigation of Guatemala cases--the IOB, the Senate Intelligence Committee, the Justice Department, etc.--all have access to my documents. I, on the other hand, have not received one shred of paper, nor have I been given any substantial information on my case. I am the only one who has nightmares about what happened. Yet I am the only one, it seems, who is not allowed to know.

I would like to share with you how the experience of torture continues to torment me. Like many torture survivors, I dread the arrival of night. The stillness of the darkness pounds on the locked doors of my mind. I know that if I close my eyes the torturers will return. Awake I fight them; asleep I am powerless. Recently, unable to fight my body's need for sleep, I closed my eyes. I dreamed my torturers escorted me into a room that screamed of hell. The walls were splattered with dried blood and the floor was carpeted with mounds of human waste. In the middle of the room was a cot-like bed with a blood-stained sheet. My torturers ordered me to peel the sheet back. On the cot lay the unblemished body of a woman. I watched as they marred her body, severed her

DRAFT--CONTINGENCY--DRAFT

IOB/Guatemala/Sister Ortiz

Background: Sister Dianna Ortiz, who has reported her torture and rape in Guatemala in 1989, began a silent vigil in Lafayette Park on March 31, and met with the Intelligence Oversight Board and Nancy Soderberg on April 1, and with the First Lady on April 3. Sister Ortiz is asking for access to all USG information relevant to her case. Members of "Coalition Missing," which includes Sister Ortiz, are also requesting the declassification of all USG documents related to Guatemala from 1954 to the present. Sister Ortiz wrote to the President in February; the President's response was delivered to her 3/30. The Department of Justice is currently investigating her case. Sister Ortiz' case is also part of the IOB review, which was launched just a year ago.

Points to Make:

- Mrs. Clinton met briefly with Sister Ortiz to express sympathy over her suffering, and to indicate that the Administration continues to seriously examine her case.
- Sister Ortiz' case is part of the Intelligence Oversight Board's government-wide review, which includes the Bamaca and DeVine cases, and of intelligence bearing on cases involving American citizens killed, disappeared or abused in Guatemala since 1984. This review is unprecedented in scope and complexity.
- The President directed the Board to be thorough in conducting this review. It is critical that the Board have sufficient time to do a comprehensive study. The Board has already provided two interim reports to the President. It expects to finish its review as soon as practicable and within the first half of the year.
- In parallel with the Board's review the Justice Department is also currently investigating the Ortiz case.
- Once the Board's review is complete the President intends to make all appropriate information available to Sister Ortiz, the other victims or their families, and the public. The Board will provide information directly to the American

citizen victims or their survivors, and has already been in regular contact with many of these individuals.

DRAFT -- CONTINGENCY -- DRAFT

Statement by the Press Secretary

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton met briefly today with Sister Dianna Ortiz to express sympathy with her suffering and to indicate that the Administration is working hard to find answers to her questions.

Mrs. Clinton noted that, as directed by the President on March 30, 1995, the Intelligence Oversight Board is conducting a government-wide review of Sister Ortiz' case as well as those of Michael DeVine and Efrain Bamaca Velasquez and related matters. The review also covers any intelligence bearing on the death, disappearance or abuse of U.S. citizens in Guatemala since 1984. The Board's work is substantially completed and it expects to conclude its review in the first half of the year.

Mrs. Clinton assured Sister Ortiz that, once the Board's review is completed, the President intends to make all appropriate information available to Sister Ortiz, the other victims, their families and the public.

DRAFT--CONTINGENCY--DRAFT



Department of Social Development and World Peace

3211 4th Street N.E. Washington, DC 20017-1194 (202) 541-3180 FAX (202) 541-3339 TELEX 7400424

March 18, 1996

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne,

I'm writing to ask if you could help with a rather delicate problem. It concerns the case of Sister Dianna Ortiz, o.s.u., the American nun who was abducted in Guatemala in 1989 and was tortured and raped by persons she is convinced were members of the Guatemalan security forces and an American by the name of Alejandro.

Her case is compelling in itself, including her determination to learn the degree of U.S. complicity in or knowledge of her ordeal. It is to some extent complicated by her insistence in tying her case with those of other victims of severe human rights abuse in Guatemala, including some 27 other U.S. citizens either killed or abused in Guatemala since 1976. These cases are all joined in a project called Coalition "Missing" which seeks the release of the report of the Intelligence Oversight Board which President Clinton directed to investigate these matters a year ago.

A further complication comes with Sister Dianna's determination to engage in a silent vigil in front of the White House, in the hope of getting the information she seeks released. If unsuccessful, she plans to begin an open-ended public hunger fast. I am convinced of her utter sincerity and her determination, but am concerned that her proposed course of action could be futile and counter-productive. I would like to see her achieve her goal of getting the information that she, as a citizen, is entitled to, without resorting to these actions.

A long way of getting to the point: She has a dream of explaining her situation directly to Mrs. Clinton, and may already have made such a request through channels I am unaware of. What I would greatly appreciate is anything you could do to at least alert the First Lady of Sister Dianna's case and, if appropriate and possible, secure some expression from her on the matter of releasing the relevant information.

My deepest thanks for whatever attention you can give this. All the best.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Quigley
Policy Adviser

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1996 The Washington Post
The Washington Post

April 02, 1996, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A02; MARY MCGRORY

LENGTH: 803 words

HEADLINE: Horror Retold in Lafayette Square

BYLINE: Mary McGrory

BODY:

Sister Dianna Ortiz stood under the budding tulip trees of Lafayette Square and implored the man across the street to feel her pain.

Sister Dianna doesn't look much older than President Clinton's 16-year-old daughter Chelsea, but she is a 37-year-old Ursuline nun who survived a hideous chapter in Guatemala's grim story. In 1989, she was kidnapped, raped and tortured by Guatemalan death squads and turned loose with 111 cigarette burns on her body and a story nobody wanted to believe.

They still don't. The government's attitude was pretty well played out by Park Police. Just as the gathering -- several hundred casually dressed nuns and priests -- was getting underway, the police came and demanded to see the permit. It was, they said, for the east side. They must uproot the lectern and resettle some four yards from where they were. The government, which has yet to give Sister Dianna one paper related to her case, has felt all along that she should keep moving.

A year ago, President Clinton ordered the Intelligence Oversight Board to conduct a probe. The only word she and her lawyers have received is: wait.

She feels she has waited long enough. There is steel in the fragile frame, a cool head under the silky black hair. She will keep a vigil in Lafayette Square 21 hours a day until the administration divulges what it knows about her ordeal and the identity of a man called "Alejandro" who supervised her torture, and who spoke "unmistakable" American English and broken Spanish. He proposed to take her to the U.S. Embassy, where a friend of his would help her. She jumped out of his jeep when it was stopped in traffic on the way.

In the park, she was surrounded by several hundred sympathizers. They listened in rapt, horrified silence as she began to read, in a clear, steady voice, an account of what she endured beginning on Nov. 2, 1989. She has told the story many times, to U.S. and Guatemalan officials, none of whom have done anything she knows of to bring her torturers or Alejandro to justice.

In previous testimony, she has left out one incident. This time, she told her "guilty" secret. In six years, she could bring herself to tell only three or four people about the ultimate horror. She could talk about what happened to her; martyrdom is for her manageable. But what happened to another woman because

The Washington Post, April 02, 1996

of her haunts her night and day. As she approached the heart of darkness in her story, Sister Dianna's voice began to tremble. She had been handed a small machete by her torturers. "[They] put their hands onto the handle, on top of mine. And I had no choice, I was forced to use it against another human being. What I remember is blood gushing -- spurting like a water fountain -- droplets of blood spattering everywhere."

That is what she cannot live with.

She shook her head, and then she laid her shiny head down on the lectern on her folded arms, and sobbed. Friends came and led her over to the side. She collapsed into the arms of Jennifer Harbury's attorney, Jose Pertierra. Harbury's husband, a Guatemalan rebel leader, was killed by death squads -- she says with CIA complicity. Pat Drake of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission, where Sister Dianna now works, took up the reading. Sister Dianna, looking drained, came back for the end.

While she was recovering, her friends explained her qualities. Sister Alice Zachman, the humble and redoubtable head of the Guatemala Human Rights Commission, said Sister Dianna is an artist, a poet and a musician -- although she doesn't play the guitar anymore. "She never sleeps. She keeps the radio and the light on. She's fending off nightmares." Betsy Swart, an environmentalist who volunteers at the commission, says Sister Dianna enjoys daily life and "is always doing sweet things for people in the office."

Central American thugs have a special animus against gringo women who teach their people subversive doctrines like justice and democracy. U.S. officials of the "better-dead-than-red" school hated to condemn fascist friends. When four U.S. nuns were slaughtered in El Salvador in 1980, our secretary of state, Alexander Haig, said they might have been running a roadblock. Fortunately, one of the sisters, Ita Ford, had a combative Manhattan lawyer for a brother, and he fought back.

All Sister Dianna asks her government for is the truth, if tax dollars were paying Alejandro and her other torturers.

Before the somber afternoon was over, after the palms were distributed and the Scriptures were read, she looked surprisingly up to challenging a president. A young man stepped up to the microphone and began to sing the anthem of those without human rights. "We are broken, tortured people, and we are singing for our lives."

Wiped out as she was, Sister Dianna sang along.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 02, 1996April 02, 1996

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press

The materials in the AP file were compiled by The Associated Press. These materials may not be republished without the express written consent of The Associated Press.

April 1, 1996, Monday, PM cycle

SECTION: Washington Dateline

LENGTH: 581 words

HEADLINE: Nun Launches Vigil Demanding End to Secrecy About Guatemala

BYLINE: By GENE KRAMER, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

An American nun who says she was tortured in Guatemala plans to give President Clinton a daily reminder of her appeal to end official secrecy about human rights abuses in the Central American country.

Sister Dianna Ortiz vowed Sunday at Lafayette Square, across from the White House, to reappear there six days a week in a "Vigil for Truth" about any U.S. involvement in Guatemalan death squads and other repression there.

Recalling in graphic detail a 1989 experience in Guatemala, the 36-year-old Ursuline nun from Grants, N.M., told an audience of about 250 people that she was abducted and raped and at one point "lowered into an open pit packed with human bodies ... children, women and men, some decapitated, some lying face up and caked with blood."

Breaking into sobs, she was helped away from the microphone. The speech was finished for her by Pat Davis of the sponsoring Guatemala Human Rights Commission-USA, which lists a score of U.S. citizens affected by state-sponsored violence in Guatemala.

One of them was Jennifer K. Harbury, widow of a Guatemalan guerrilla leader, who staged a hunger strike at Lafayette Square last year. Harbury, a lawyer, had demanded information on the fate of her husband and missing Americans in Guatemala.

After questions were asked in Congress about reports of CIA involvement, Clinton ordered a full report from the Intelligence Oversight Board that was to have been completed last year.

"God forbid, but what if it had been your daughter, your wife" treated the way she was in Guatemala, Sister Ortiz asked Clinton in a Feb. 7 letter released at Sunday's gathering. "What would you tell her?"

The Associated Press, April 1, 1996

"I ... have not received one shred of paper" about the matter, the nun's letter said, despite ongoing investigations by the oversight board, the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Justice Department and despite her own Freedom of Information Act request. Yet, "I am the only one who has nightmares about what happened."

Also released was a March 29 letter from Clinton to Sister Ortiz in which the president expressed sympathy and added that the oversight board's "unprecedented review is nearing completion and I hope its report may gain you some measure of peace."

After reviewing it, Clinton said, "I intend to make all appropriate information available to you, the other victims or their families and the public."

Sister Ortiz, who was in Guatemala to teach Indian children, said a man called Alejandro who appeared to be in charge was light-complexioned and spoke perfect American English but bad Spanish.

While she was being raped, she said, he appeared, "cursed in unmistakable American English and ordered them to stop the torture, since I was a North American nun and my disappearance had become public."

She said Alejandro helped her get dressed and promised to take her to the U.S. Embassy to talk to a friend "who would help me get out of the country." Not trusting him, she said she jumped out of his jeep and escaped into heavy street traffic.

"I want to know who Alejandro was ... Was he a CIA agent? Why is the U.S. government protecting him? How many other Alejandros are there out there, supervising the torture of innocent people?" she asked.

She also accused Guatemalan army officers and a U.S. diplomat of branding her as mentally ill and linking her abduction and torture to "a lesbian love affair gone bad."

The Ursuline order and the Roman Catholic clergy have been supportive of her, she said.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: April 1, 1996

Date: 04/05/96 Time: 17:03

MTortured Nun Receives Promise of Help from First Lady

WASHINGTON (AP) An American nun who says she was tortured by Guatemalan military personnel said Friday that first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton promised efforts to have U.S. government documents on her case released soon.

Sister Dianna Ortiz, who has been conducting a vigil across the street from the White House, said in a press statement she received the assurance during a meeting Thursday with Mrs. Clinton.

"Mrs. Clinton said she would do everything in her power to help me obtain as much information as possible," Sister Ortiz said.

Since Monday, Sister Ortiz has been conducting a 20-hour-a-day vigil to protest the U.S. government's lack of response to her request for documents concerning her case.

The nun said Mrs. Clinton told her she would attempt to have the information released before a presidential panel completes its investigation.

Sister Ortiz said the target date for completion is June 30.

President Clinton last year asked his Intelligence Oversight Board to investigate the case and allegations that U.S. payments had been made to Guatemalan informants who might have been among those who tortured Sister Ortiz.

Sister Ortiz, 37, a member of the Mount St. Joseph Ursulines in western Kentucky, has testified that she was abducted, raped and tortured by Guatemalan soldiers in 1989. She says her back is scarred with 111 cigarette burns inflicted by her torturers who, she contends, appeared to be acting under the authority of an American with links to the U.S. government.

The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala has said it has no knowledge of any such person.

In her press statement, Sister Ortiz said Mrs. Clinton offered assistance in the release to her of any information contained in government documents about that person.

Nancy Soderberg, a National Security Council aide, met earlier this week with Sister Ortiz, a New Mexico native who works for the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission-U.S.A., based in Washington.

APNP-04-05-96 1707EST

GUATEMALA
HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION/USA

April 23, 1996

First Lady Hillary Clinton
The White House
1500 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

Enclosed you'll find a copy of Sister Dianna's statement she made at a press conference yesterday.

I want to thank you for meeting with Sister Dianna. You have no idea of how much hope you gave her by your sincere listening and concern.

Having worked with Dianna for more than a year, I know what the torture has done to her, but I also know that she can be healed if she receives the information she is requesting.

Your willingness to enable this to happen is of great support to all of us who know and love her. I talk to her mother almost every day. You can imagine, as a mother, what pain her parents have also experienced throughout this whole ordeal. They were so happy to hear of your support.

Thank you again. I know that you will do all you can to bring peace and healing to Sister Dianna.

Gratefully,


Sister Alice Zachmann, SSND
Director

SISTER DIANNA ORTIZ BEGINS FAST

*Torture victims often seem nameless and faceless.
But behind every victim, there is an individual, a family,
a community and a world being affected by torture.*



STATEMENT OF SISTER DIANNA ORTIZ

April 22, 1996

For the past three weeks, I have spent my days and nights in front of the White House, holding a silent vigil for TRUTH--the truth about my case and the truth about all those Guatemalans who have suffered and died at the hands of the officially sponsored death squads, for years supported with U.S. dollars. While some U.S. officials may have been moved by my vigil, others have stated to me that I seem comfortable in the park. Others, still, have relegated my vigil to the category of irrational whim. One official remarked, "Declassification will happen. It's too bad that Dianna feels like she has to sit in front of the White House in the meantime. It's her choice."

But is it my choice? I have listened patiently to explanations for six years. For six years, I've been told to wait. I've attended meeting after meeting. Each month I have expected the results of the Intelligence Oversight Board's inquiry, which was supposed to have been concluded last July. I have filed a FOIA request. I still do not have my documents. If I am in the park, it is because I need the truth, and my options have been gradually eliminated.

I appreciate the White House officials who have taken time to meet with me. I especially appreciate the willingness of Hillary Rodham Clinton to speak with me on April 4. I believe Mrs. Clinton is in good faith trying her best to help me. I know that the documents I seek do not belong to her, but to the CIA, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and other government agencies. Yet our government could choose to order the declassification of information for victims and survivors of human rights abuses in Guatemala.

Since January, twenty-seven people have been tortured in Guatemala. Eighty-one have been murdered for political reasons. The hundreds of thousands of people in Guatemala who have lost loved ones to torture and murder, who are struggling to recover from heinous forms of torture, who are desperately trying to prosecute human rights violators and break the cycle of impunity that allows the atrocities to continue need the information.

The release of documents does not necessarily mean that the truth will be allowed to surface. When documents are eventually declassified by the U.S. government, they are oftentimes blacked out almost in their entirety and the paragraphs that we are allowed to read are usually the most meaningless of paragraphs. I want the TRUTH, not just documents. I want to know who Alejandro is. I want to know why our government has protected him. I want to know why a U.S. citizen had the authority to supervise and give orders to my torturers. Until I receive this information, I cannot heal.

In recent weeks, with so much fear, I opened the lid of my Pandora's box and shared with the world what I experienced and witnessed at the hands of the Guatemalan security forces and Alejandro, the U.S. citizen. You may think this strange; but even at this moment, I can sense the presence of my torturers. I can smell the torturers. I can feel their monstrous hands on my body, I can hear them hissing in my ear that I am the one who killed the woman. I can see them blessing me with the blood of the woman. Will this end?

Will this end? Jean Améry, an Austrian philosopher tortured by the Gestapo, said, "Anyone who has been tortured remains tortured. Anyone who has suffered torture never again will be at ease in the world, the abomination of the annihilation is never extinguished. Faith in humanity, already cracked by the first slap in the face, then demolished by torture, is never acquired again."

It is with great horror that I repeat these words. Torture, for him, was an interminable death. Améry took his life in 1978.

I want so desperately to live. I want so desperately to believe in humanity again ... to be free of Alejandro and all my Guatemalan torturers. Thousands of Guatemalans who have been tortured by the security forces also want to live and to believe in humanity again. Only the truth will set us free.

Because I am still barred from knowing the truth, because I am still in a prison of silence, because U.S. government agencies deny me access to the documents that could allow me to recover my life, I will now begin a fast of bread and water, continuing my silent vigil in front of the White House and daring to place my life in the hands of the U.S. government.

Weathering the heavy rains, harsh sun, blustery winds and cold temperatures has not been easy. But what I have found most difficult to weather is the tempest of memories that everyday life in the park has unleashed: the sight of a uniformed police officer walking past me or stopping to enlighten me on park regulations reminds me of the policeman who raped and tortured me ... the smell of cigarettes reminds me of the cigarettes that were used to brand my body ... the clicking and flashing of cameras as tourists sweep toward the White House, video cameras in tow, call me back to that room where my torturers used these as weapons against me... the stream of questions from journalists, tourists, and supporters reminds me of the interrogation.

During my torture, I was lowered into an open pit. Rats were dropped onto me. At one point, I passed out and when I awoke, rats were all over me. The first night of my vigil a police officer approached me and told me about the rats in the park--rats the size of cats that snuggle up next to you for warmth when you're asleep. I don't sleep. I fight to stay awake. When I go home at 5:00 in the morning for my hour of rest in a bed, my body is so sore from the ground that I have to pile pillows on top of the mattress. Although loving and concerned people bring me all sorts of food, I have lost ten pounds in the twenty-two days of my vigil. And as my weight drops, the ground gets harder.

The dark I live in ten hours a day reminds me of that cell where I waited for my torturers' hands, the blindfold that kept my eyes from their faces. But whether I am in the park or out of the park, the darkness of the blindfold is with me. This time, it is not my torturers who conceal their identity from me. It is the U.S. government.

Whether I am in or out of the park, I am still in a clandestine cell, in the dark, waiting, wondering what will happen. My hands are tied. I cannot move forward. It is the U.S. government who keeps me with the policemen, bound hand and foot, in the dark, with the rats. It is the U.S. government who controls information about the event that haunts me, who could ensure that Alejandro and my Guatemalan torturers will **never** torture again, and that no one else in Guatemala will ever have to live this **HELL**.

Saint Augustin said, "Hope has two daughters--anger and courage: anger at the way things are and the courage to work to make things other than they are."

I say, enough is enough! I demand that the U.S. government stop playing games and stop toying with the lives of people. Give me and the people of Guatemala the TRUTH! We have a right to know the TRUTH.

For more information, please contact the Guatemala Human Rights Commission\USA at 202-529-6599. Journalists should also feel free to contact Jose Pertierra, Esq., at 202-783-6666; Michele Arington, Esq., 202-383-6722; and Anna Gallagher, Esq., 301-588-8066.

U.S. Documents Confirm Skepticism on Nun's Rape

*Embassy Had Cited Gaps, Inconsistencies
In 1989 Account of Torture in Guatemala*

By R. Jeffrey Smith
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sister Dianna Ortiz, the Ursuline nun whose account of kidnapping, torture and rape in Guatemala has galvanized repeated protest demonstrations against U.S. actions in that country, was greeted by disbelief when she first demanded U.S. help in finding her assailants, according to classified State Department documents released yesterday.

The U.S. Embassy in Guatemala City cited what it called a series of gaps, inconsistencies and "embellishments" in her story, as well as a lack of independent corroboration, as it suggested to Washington in confidential cables that she might be trying to perpetrate a politically motivated hoax.

Ortiz, who spent last weekend reviewing the documents for the first time, said they proved the U.S. government was biased against her from the outset and had never seriously investigated her claims of heinous mistreatment in 1989 at the hands of personnel from the Guatemalan military, with whom the United States was then closely allied.

"The U.S. Embassy was . . . deceptive, paying lip service to the need to find the truth in my case, and secretly undercutting me, slandering me, and trying to prevent the truth from emerging," Ortiz said at a news conference.

She went on to demand anew that all U.S. government documents pertaining to her case be released under her year-old Freedom of Information Act request, including those at the CIA and Defense Department. She said she was ending a five-week vigil and two-week fast in Lafayette Square near the White House because of a letter to President Clinton last week by more than 100 federal lawmakers, who called for "maximum possible disclosure" of material relating to her case.

None of the hundreds of State Department documents released yesterday provides information supporting Ortiz's most sensational, and controversial, claim: that near the end of her day-long torture session in a clandestine Guatemalan prison, an American suddenly intervened to take her away from the torture site.

Ortiz has long cited the presence of

the American at the prison as proof that the embassy was actively collaborating with the torturers, a claim she reiterated and sought to bolster by releasing a sketch of the man drawn from her memory. "This is Alejandro," the name the man used, Ortiz said. "He is not a figment of my imagination; he is real."

Ortiz and her attorneys, Michele Arrington and Jose Perterra, said they suspected that blacked-out paragraphs in several of the released State Department documents contained information about "Alejandro." But an independent source who reviewed the documents at the request of The Washington Post said the withheld material includes "nothing that refers to or describes Alejandro."

Thomas F. Stroock, the U.S. ambassador when Ortiz complained about the torture, denied Ortiz's claim that the embassy did not take her seriously. "I haven't got a clue what happened," but it is not for lack of interest, Stroock said in a telephone interview from Caspar, Wyo. He said Ortiz had clearly been "traumatized" but blamed her for "rebuffing us at every turn" when the embassy attempted to obtain details.

"I would have given half my salary to have had the sketch [released yesterday] then and there," Stroock said.

Ortiz's supporters explain that she initially kept distant from the embassy partly because of her suspicion that it was operating in league with the Guatemalan military. They said that she was unable to provide a full account of the episode at first because some details—such as being raped and forced to stab another prisoner—were simply too traumatic to be recalled.

A November 1989 cable to Washington sent in Stroock's name says that Ortiz's shifting accounts of her treatment led "us to question the motives and timing behind the story. Apparently a debate is scheduled in Congress this week on aid to Guatemala." It accused her of a "devious filling in of gaps in the original" version of her tale after embassy officials began asking questions, and remarked that her escape from Alejandro seemed remarkable given the physical abuse she had received.

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1996

THE FEDERAL DIARY

Retirement Clouds

By Mike Causey

Washington Post Staff Writer

If things have seemed unusually calm lately, prepare for some possibly stormy weather. In the forecast: a potential change in the retirement age, increased payroll deductions for federal workers, and reduced and delayed cost-of-living adjustments for retirees.

Budget blueprints in the works in the House and the Senate could contain some items that federal workers and retirees won't like. The House resolution could be approved this week. The Senate version will come shortly thereafter.

Federal and postal unions are upset with the White House for a proposed change in retirement funding that goes deeper than the one Republicans had proposed. They are also angry at 12 self-styled moderate Democratic senators who have joined forces with 10 Republican senators who met Thursday with President Clinton on their budget plan. This is a departure for unions, which usually reserve their unkind words for Republicans.

The 22 moderates are led by Sens. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) and John Breaux (D-La.). They are supported by Sens. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.), Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and Charles S. Robb (D-Va.). Moe Biller, president of the American Postal Workers Union, said the plan represents a "bipartisan shafting of the entire postal-federal work force. There is nothing 'centrist' about it—it's radical, regressive and grossly unfair."

The Chafee-Breaux group would:

- Raise the retirement age for future hires by up to five years. Currently, civil servants can retire on unreduced benefits at ages 55 with 30 years, 60 with 20 years or 62 with five years. Under the new plan, workers would have to be age 60 with 30 years, 62 with 20 years or 65 with five years to retire without reductions. If that happened, opponents say, it would be only a matter of time before rules were

changed for current employees, too.

- Increase employee retirement contributions by 0.5 percent over several years and continue delaying cost-of-living adjustments for retirees (usually paid every January) until April of each year for the next six years. That three-month delay in the adjustment—enacted several years ago by the Democratic Congress as a "temporary" measure—is designed to expire next year.

- Recalculate the Consumer Price Index to devalue it by one-half of 1 percent within two years, then another three-tenths of 1 percent over the following three years. That would reduce cost-of-living adjustments for federal retirees.

The House Budget Committee will seek even bigger savings by:

- Endorsing an administration proposal to gradually raise federal agency contributions—now 7 percent—to the civil service retirement fund. The Federal Government Service Task Force, a bipartisan congressional commission, says the agency tab eventually would rise to 18.1 percent of salary, making pre-1984 hires under the old retirement plan very expensive to their agencies.

- Setting up a new retirement system for employees hired in the future that would base most benefits on Social Security, employees' participation in 401(k) investment programs and government investments made in their behalf.

The budget resolutions are not binding. But they establish the amount of money that other committees—such as those with jurisdiction over civil service matters—must cut out of programs. While those committees of jurisdiction can, and often do, find other ways to make cuts, a resolution is important. It is like being given a definite amount of money for gas and a limited amount of time to reach a mandatory goal. The driver—in this case, the committee of jurisdiction—can do anything he wants, provided he gets to the goal on time and at or under budget.

Tuesday, May 7, 1996