

buses. This may create logistical problems in implementing the public relations campaign on a nationwide basis.

Goals

The primary goal is to establish a viable communications network which will link human rights groups in seven Guatemalan cities with each other, and with a central hub. This will allow the easy transfer of information between regions which is essential to developing trust between the various organisations and government institutions. It will also provide a link between Guatemala and the international community; allowing human right organisations within Guatemala to find out the latest international initiatives, and international organisations to have ease of access to developments in Guatemala. An essential part of this primary goal will be to assist in establishing Guatemala's first Human Rights Centre; this would be the only such centre for Central America outside traditionally democratic Costa Rica.

The secondary goal is to assist, technically and creatively, in developing and implementing a public relations campaign to promote the development of a democratic and civil society.

Implementation

Human Rights Monitoring System

The Human Rights Monitoring Network would link seven cities in the west of Guatemala with Guatemala City; it may also include one city in the east. The population of the focus area is primarily indigenous and has seen the greatest proportion of human rights violations. The east of the country is mainly populated by people of Spanish descent and did not see as many abuses during the war.

The most flexible and appropriate system to link people and organisations in Guatemala is through an e-mail network; groups in the seven (or eight) locations can simply send e-mail to each other to provide updates on what is happening in their region and how it is being handled. They would also send these updates to a central hub, based in Guatemala City.

The hub would have an internet hook-up, as well as e-mail access. One person at the hub would be dedicated to collating the information received from throughout the country and putting it together into a weekly bulletin that would provide a national view. The bulletin would also include pertinent human rights information gathered internationally through the Internet. It would then be sent, as e-mail, back to all the groups which have provided the information, as well as being posted on the Internet as a Web Page, and therefore accessible to the international community.