

The one organisation which has been mentioned consistently in our research by Canadian NGOs and observers in Guatemala and elsewhere as having widespread national respect for its human rights work is ODHA, the Archbishop's Human Rights Commission. It has perhaps the unique value of being nationwide in its reach. Ambassador Livermore said: "In terms of comprehensive coverage, the Archbishop's commission is the best."

Part of the reason for that is because it is directly involved in local communities through church diocesan offices. Suzanne Rumsey of ICHRLA said: "They work at a very local level and have infrastructure to work at that level. They also have a very strong reputation nationally."

Six of the seven regional centres we have earmarked -- all of which have expressed a strong desire to participate in this project -- are diocesan offices. In the seventh, Solola, we would likely be working through the Mayor's office. There is a new mayor in Solola who is very supportive of human rights organisations and who is also eager to participate in the project.

The only other organisation which does have a national reach is Minugua, the UN organisation in Guatemala. We have three concerns about integrating this project with Minugua. The first is that concentrating on a UN organization means this project would not realize the essential goals developing a vested interest shared human rights monitoring among Guatemalans, and in promoting computer literacy. Secondly, the mandate of Minugua is renewable and close association with them means their future dictates the future of this project. Thirdly, this project would lose its Canadian identity if it were fused with the UN operation.

Our recommendation is that the local NGO facilitator and partner in Guatemala be the Legal Action Centre for Human Rights, CALDH. This organisation, as discussed earlier, is setting up a Human Rights Centre, which, as the hub for our project, will show that the Human Rights Monitoring Network is not tied to the Catholic church. It is particularly important to avoid this alloy this perception in order to encourage some human rights organizations, especially those with other religious affiliations, to participate.

In addition, CALDH is already starting to use new technology including E-mail. It is also, according to Ambassador Livermore and others, one of the few human rights groups which manages to work with other human rights groups and experts, managing to cross the boundaries from its own work, to the ODHA, to the Alliance Against Impunity. In a country where most human rights organisations are still distrustful and territorial it is vital to have a partner who is respected by, and can work with, a large number of organisations and groupings.

**Canada:**