

Task Force Questions for the F.B.I.

- 1) Exactly what is the FBI's role in the murder investigation of the six Jesuits, their cook and her daughter which took place in San Salvador on November 16, 1989?
 - a) What type of assistance has the Bureau provided thus far?
 - b) How did Lucia Barrera de Cerna first come to your attention?
 - c) To whom has the FBI reported on this case?
 - d) Is there any direct reporting to the Salvadoran Government?
 - e) Has the FBI interviewed any Salvadoran military personnel on this case? If so, have any been given polygraph tests by the Bureau?

- 2) When Lucia Barrera de Cerna arrived in Miami on November 23, did anyone explain to her what the FBI's investigation would entail? Was she aware that she would undergo extensive questioning? Did she know in advance that she would be asked to take a polygraph? Did anyone explain to her what a polygraph was?

- 3) Why was she interrogated for four days and given six polygraph tests? Why was she polygraphed so extensively?

- 4) Why wasn't Lucia Barrera de Cerna offered the opportunity to consult with an attorney or, at the very least, to communicate with the Jesuits in the area who were willing to take responsibility for her?

- 5) How many polygraph exams were administered to Lucia Barrera de Cerna? How many were administered to her husband, Jorge Cerna?

- 6) Was Jorge Cerna asked whether he witnessed soldiers entering the premises of the university?

- 7) According to her testimony to the Lawyers Committee, Lucia Barrera de Cerna was asked by one of the investigators "tell us the name of the priest" who told you to make up this story (page 26 of Lawyers Committee for Human Rights Report). Is this true and, if so, were you provided any leads or information by other sources that the church might be involved some way in fabricating this story?

- 8) Does the FBI consider this witness to be "not credible"?
- 9) Was the witness, at any time, threatened -- by any person present or participating in the interrogation -- with deportation or extradition back to El Salvador? Was the possibility of deportation raised at all during the interrogation?
- 10) What efforts were undertaken by the Bureau to insure that the presence of a Salvadoran military officer -- Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia -- did not intimidate or threaten the witness?
- 11) Was information made available to the Bureau concerning Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia's background -- including information pertaining to any ties with the extreme right wing or human rights violations?
- 12) Has the FBI been directly involved with the Salvadoran Government in any previous cases similar to this one, in which it was requested to provide protection to a witness? Specifically, did the Bureau have a role in protecting the key witness in the case involving the murder of the 4 American marines in San Salvador?
 - a) Was that witness given polygraph tests?
 - b) Was that witness treated similarly to Lucia Barrera de Cerna in all other respects?
- 13) Was the entire interrogation/interview of Lucia Barrera de Cerna recorded? Were there any exchanges between Lucia Barrera de Cerna and those questioning her that were not recorded? Was the entire interrogation/questioning of Jorge Cerna recorded? Were there any exchanges between Jorge Cerna and those who questioned him that were not recorded?
- 14) Who decided to make the results of the Lucia Barrera de Cerna's polygraph public knowledge? Did the FBI have any knowledge that the results would be made public? Is it standard FBI policy to reveal the results of polygraph tests?
- 15) The Jesuits were informed by the State Department that the FBI needed to have Lucia Barrera de Cerna in custody for a period of time in order to perform a risk assessment so that the Jesuits would know how much protection the witness and her family needed. Why weren't the Jesuits subsequently made aware of the extensive nature of the Bureau's interrogation?

16) In general, how much time is needed to prepare a witness for a standard polygraph examination? How much time is necessary to administer the examination to insure maximum accuracy? (I am looking for an approximate time-length that it would take for an individual to go through the whole process).

- a) What type and length of training is necessary for an individual to administer such an examination? Is there a minimum requirement?
- b) Was the type of polygraph administered to the Cerna's a typical examination or did it fall within a different category? If it was somehow different, please explain why.

17) Has the FBI assisted in efforts to match fingerprints and ballistic evidence taken from the scene of the crime? If so, please describe the extent of the Bureau's involvement. Does the Bureau know who is currently in possession of the "shell casings"? If so, who?

- a) Does the Bureau know whether any Salvadoran military weapon has been tested ?

18) Please provide the Task Force or the appropriate Congressional oversight committee with the transcripts of the interviews with the Cerna's and their polygraph test results.

19) The Members of the task force would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the two FBI agents who questioned the Cerna family. We would ask that the Bureau arrange such a meeting.