

Questions for "witness" -- Lucia Barrera de Cerna

- 1) Lucia, can you tell us a little bit about yourself. I'd like to know about your background -- tell us about any education you may have received and about your job at the university and the types of responsibilities you had.
- 2) Lucia, I know it's painful, but if you could recall for us exactly what you saw on the night of November 16 -- it would be extremely helpful for this committee.
- 3) Lucia, have you read or has someone read to you the report of the Lawyers Committee? Do you agree with everything in the report -- is there anything you would want to change?
- 4) When you arrived in Miami, did the men who interrogated you ever explain to you the types of questions they wanted to ask you? Did they ever tell you how long you would be in their custody? Did they tell you in advance that you would have to take a polygraph test? When they hooked you up to the polygraph machine did they ever explain to you what it was?
- 5) Lucia, after the murders, why did you first seek help at the Spanish embassy and not at the US embassy?
- 6) Lucia, I understand that the embassies of Spain and France offered you protection in their countries...Why did you decide to come to the United States instead?
- 7) Did you ever ask to talk with a lawyer or with the Jesuits, while you were being questioned? If so, what was the response?
- 8) Lucia, the press reports state that you changed your stories about what happened on the night of November 16. Can you tell the Committee why you did that?
- 9) The Lawyers Report indicates that some of the men who interrogated you treated you poorly. If I read a list of names -- can you tell me how these men treated you?
 - a) Richard Chidester
 - b) "Doctor" or Lt. Colonel Jorge Rivas Mejia
 - c) Sanchez
 - d) Fred Rivero
- 10) Lucia, have you or your husband ever been threatened or harrassed by the Salvadoran security forces -- prior to the murder of the priests?

Questions for the F.B.I.

1) Exactly what is the FBI's role in this investigation?

a) What type of assistance has the Bureau provided thusfar?

b) How did the witness first come to your attention?

c) Who does the FBI report to in the U.S. 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? *How many have failed?*
WHO IS ADMINISTERING THE TESTS. —

2) When the witness^s 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 have 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 in light of the fact that what she claimed to have seen was entirely consistent with the other reports on this case? In essence, she was being treated as a criminal suspect -- and not as a witness.

4) In light of the sensitivity of this case, why wasn't the witness offered the advice of an attorney or, at the very least, the counsel of the jesuits in the area who were willing to take responsibility for her? Or why wasn't there some attempt to bring in a neutral observer -- outside the scope of the investigation -- as to assure there would be no suspicions about the final results?

5) How many polygraphs were administered to the witness? How many were administered to her husband?

6) Was the husband asked whether he witnessed soldiers entering the premises of the university?

7) Why was the witness so extensively polygraphed? From a law persepective such tests aren't critical.

8) According to her testimony to the Lawyers Committee, she was asked by one of the investigators "tell us the name of the priest" who told you to make up this story (page 26). 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?

9) Does the FBI consider this witness to be "not credible"?

10) Was the witness, at any time, threatened with deportation or extradition back to El Salvador? Were those words used at all during her interrogation?

11) Clearly, it might be understandable, given the tensions in El Salvador, that the witness might be intimidated by the presence of a Salvador security officer. Why was it necessary to have Lt. Col. Jorge Rivas Mejia present? One would think, for the good of the investigation, every step to put the witness at ease would be taken.

12) I know that Lt. Col. Mejia is a Salvadoran army officer assigned to the Special Investigative Unit (SIU) -- but do you know anything else about him? Do we know his background? Any ties to D'Aubuisson or the extreme right?

13) To your knowledge, has the FBI been directly involved with the Salvadoran Government in any previous cases similar to this one. Specifically, didn't the Bureau have a role in protecting the key witness in the case involving the murder of the 4 American marines?

a) was that witness given polygraph tests?

b) was that witness treated similar to Lucia Cerna in all other respects?

14) Was the witness's entire interrogation recorded? Was there any exchanges between the witness and her interrogators that was not recorded?

15) Who decided to make the results of the witness's polygraph public knowledge?

16) Finally, the Jesuits were informed by the State Department that the FBI needed to have the witness in custody for a period of time in order to perform a risk assessment so that the Jesuits would know how much protection Lucia and her family needed. Why weren't the Jesuits made aware of the full extent of your interrogation?