

Dear friends: Blessed Lent!

Here we are one week later. Mother Ines has been interviewed by all possible media in the country: press, tv, radio. There have been meetings with lawyers, with the former president (now the city Mayor), with Congress men, etc.

So many people have shown support towards the work, the nuns, the children of the Hogar Rafael Ayau. So much we were not expecting such defense and such love! Thank you all.

Mother Ines wrote this article which circulated all around! Thanks to Gaby Fontes who translated it into English we are sharing it with you.

This week many legal decisions will be taken and presented as the PGN claiming the Hogar has many illegal actions. We will update you when it is possible. Thank you so much!!! The webpages are being updated constantly (in Spanish).

We pray you had a wonderful Feast of the Annunciation to continue with the last two weeks of Lent.

Please continue to pray for us.

In His love,

Madre Ivonne

#### WHO AM I?

Igumeni Inés Ayau, proud daughter of Dr Manuel Ayau, aka "el MUSO," and Olga García de Ayau

An Orthodox Catholic nun of the Monastery of the Most Holy Trinity in Amatitlan, Guatemala.

WE ARE a Monastery (a group of nuns) of the Orthodox Catholic Church, who in 1996 accepted the invitation of the then President and now Mayor, Alvaro Arzú, to take over the more than 100-year-old residential care home, Hogar Rafael Ayau. At the time, this campus was abandoned, vandalized, demon-possessed, and disgraceful after being mis-managed by previous government administrations. With the help of generous Guatemalans, we rebuilt the facilities. We received a child in need of a home almost daily during the first ten years. We successfully completed over 500 adoptions. The following 10 years, under the CNA [National Council of Adoptions], have been legal torture. Little by little the number of children under our care declined. The babies were the first to be taken by the state ... then the rest. Today we have in our "family" and under our financial responsibility 13 underage children (adolescents) and 14 university students. We continue to be family for all who have graduated.

Today, this "Rafael Ayau Home" in zone one, which contains a large complex and is a garden for the city center -- a greenbelt -- remains a place of charity and mercy. Currently I supervise 11 teenage boys and university males who live there, as well as the people responsible for them. The First Special Education Public School, which serves 80 children, also makes use of the facilities. So, too, does the Municipality Workshop School, which serves 100 young people outside the formal education system by teaching them carpentry, construction, electricity, gardening, blacksmithing, forging, and other skills. Also operating there are the free [of charge]

Rafael Ayau Online University; Colectivo Isla, which manages the Cultural Center for art exhibitions and scholarships for young artists; the Pre-Hospitality Association of Guatemala; and the Center for Mayan Studies Yuri Knorosov.

#### THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM:

Fiscal centralization. ¿?¿?¿ YES. This international recipe to centralize tax money in the Capital [cities] creates monstrous cities, attracting people from the countryside who are seeking better jobs and opportunities. They sever ties with their families, lose their sense of belonging and do not find what they are looking for. The brightest continue north with the same dreams. As a corollary, this system CREATES THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN "DISPLACED" FROM THEIR FAMILIES, thereby destroying families.

This is not a problem of left or right ... of who is going to administer the spoils ... of who is left with the best share, the one that shares out ... it is a problem of substance, of legal plundering. This legalized robbery system does not work, regardless of who manages the spoils.

#### PALLIATIVE and PLACEBO SOLUTIONS of the PAST 10 YEARS

Before the CNA / UNICEF Law we must have had about 500 volunteer residential care homes each serving 15 to 300 displaced children, depending on the size of the facilities, the programs available and the children's ages. We all provided our charity the best we could without it costing a cent to the coffers of the Government. We were all happily under the supervision of the Courts.

But UNICEF / the UN, an international government of non-democratically elected people, which claims a wisdom that must come from outer-space, has become judge and jury, interfering in all the countries of the world, with good intentions ... which they know have paved the way to hell for our governments. They imposed [ADOPTION] LAW 77/2007 by bribing Congress and the government in office.

#### WHO IS GUILTY OF THE [RECENT] MASSACRE of the 42 adolescent girls?

-The "well-intentioned" UNICEF that imposed by means of LAW 77/2007 the [creation of the] CNA (National Center for Adoptions), which thus far has only processed an infinitesimal number of adoptions. This law abolished all volunteer residential care homes, which cost the government nothing. The CNA has had a budget of 175 million quetzales [~23.8 million USD], but after its fiery failure [a mis-managed and abusive orphanage where 42 girls died in a fire] it claims it needs to expand it to 225 million quetzales [~30.6 million USD] ...

-The "well intentioned" government in office in 2007 and SOSEP that promoted the CNA / UNICEF Law 77/2007

-The "well-intentioned" MEMBERS OF CONGRESS in office the year that the Law passed.

-GUATEMALA'S 2007 ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE (PGN), which endorsed the Law

The "well intentioned" people of ten years ago,

And then all those in charge the following 10 years:

All were warned and turned a deaf ear to the warnings.

The good intentions and irresponsibility of UNICEF, the 2007 Government, the 2007 Congress, the 2007 PGN, all produced a macabre outcome: a fire that devoured 42 teenage girls.

Their voluntary and irresponsible deafness sacrificed the 42 teenage girls in a human bonfire.

#### IMMEDIATE SOLUTIONS

#### **-RESTRUCTURE THE RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME "HOGAR DE LA ASUNCION" IN SAN JOSE PINULA AND ALLOW IT TO BE RUN BY VOLUNTEERS**

Three days ago, Attorney General Morfín summoned me to inform me that the President had given her order to re-nationalize the Hogar Rafael Ayau. I suggested they reorganize the Hogar in San Jose Pinula but she replied that that Hogar was "demon possessed" [and therefore unusable] ... that is how all the government institutions end up, demon possessed. And now they want institutions that have already been exorcised and are working, so that we can continue down the same path ...

-HAVE CONGRESS REPEAL LAW 77/2007 IMMEDIATELY AND RESTORE THE CIVIL CODE AS IT WAS PRIOR TO THIS MACABRE LAW, WHILE WORKING ON A MODERN AND FUNCTIONAL LAW THAT ALLOWS THE INVOLVEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS OF GOOD WILL.

**BLOCKING THE SUN WITH A FINGER**

**A message to the President:**

**AN URGENT MATTER:**

**Do not try to cover the sun with a finger. Let well-functioning institutions continue to work, do not ruin them. Do not flood them with the children and youth of the Hogar Seguro.**

**Ask volunteers to take over the Hogar Seguro as is and give them the budget allocated for it. They will turn it into a garden. But let them work.**

**And look for the long-term solution. Support Congress for the annulment of law 77/2007 and the drafting of a humane, not diabolical, law.**