

Human Rights, Health, and the Legacy of Terror in Guatemala



Carmen Valenzuela-Dall, MD

Friday, November 4, 2005

1.00pm

Dunlop Auditorium, Stemmler Hall

Lunch will be served.

Dr. Carmen Valenzuela-Dall served in Guatemala as a physician, professor of pediatrics and public health at Universidad de San Carlos, and president of the Women's Medical Association until 1990, when she had to leave her country after being targeted for persecution by the Guatemalan army for her work with marginalized women and children in poor communities and her opposition to the governing military regime. In 1990, she was abducted by members of the Guatemalan G-2 intelligence unit and was held for eight days in clandestine detention centers. After her release, she went into exile in the United States for ten years. She studied public health at Columbia University and worked for the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). She returned to Guatemala in 2000 and worked there for three years with the Guatemalan Ministry Health on child survival initiatives as a consultant for PAHO, while studying at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She currently lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with her husband Frank and son Diego, and is a consultant on HIV-AIDS and other public health issues, while continuing to advocate for human rights for Guatemalans, torture survivors, refugee women and children, immigrants and other disadvantaged populations.

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