



T W E N T Y Y E A R I M P A C T R E P O R T





Dear Friends:

Twenty years ago, the Center for Justice and Accountability launched with a bold idea -- could we hold those responsible for torture, war crimes, and genocide accountable in a court of law?

In our first case in 1998, CJA represented four Bosnian refugees to the United States against the man who had tortured them and was now living in Atlanta, Georgia. The men had faced sheer terror at the hands of Nikola Vukovic, a Bosnian Serb soldier in charge of a detention center during the Bosnian War. Vukovic beat our clients with bare fists and metal pipes, and used a knife to carve symbols into one man's forehead. CJA won that case, and it became part of a cascade of victories against perpetrators of atrocities from Cambodia, Chile, El Salvador, Haiti, Somalia, and beyond. CJA has never lost a case that has gone to trial.

CJA's vision is a world in which justice thrives -- where those who have suffered unimaginable horror and pain chart the course for truth and justice; where courts hold accountable those who commit atrocities; where there is no safe haven anywhere around the globe for perpetrators

to escape justice; and where survivors gain confidence in the democratic institutions necessary for Never Again to mean Never Again.

CJA's success is a remarkable two-decade testament to the unyielding strength of our clients, our fearless community of human rights defenders and in-country partners, our savvy and determined staff, board and volunteers, and to your constant support.

We invite you to review our Twenty Year Impact Report. Take a moment to reflect on what we have accomplished together, and what we can achieve over the next twenty years. The soul-wrenching tragedies in Syria and elsewhere provide a sobering reminder that justice is an unfinished business. Together, though, we will chart a bold path forward for the next twenty years to seek justice and redress for our clients against all barriers.

With the deepest gratitude,

C. Dixon Osburn
Executive Director

Farah Brelvi
Chair, Board of Directors

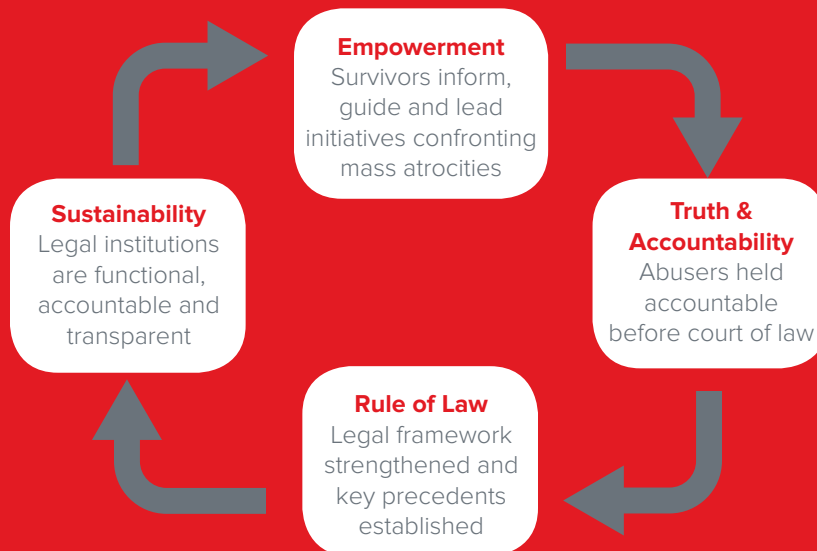
Mission.

CJA's mission is to deter torture, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other severe human rights abuses around the world through innovative litigation, policy, and transitional justice strategies.

Vision.

CJA's vision is a world in which justice thrives – where every nation has the capacity and willingness to prosecute human rights criminals and achieve justice for those most marginalized in society. We believe too that the world's worst human rights criminals should be brought to justice wherever they are found, as we help build the rule of law in the nations where the original crimes occurred.

Theory of Change.



IMPACT

CJA By The Numbers.

265

clients represented by CJA

0 cases
lost at trial

\$29 million

in donated pro bono
legal support (2007-2017)

192 partner
NGOs around the globe

We make law.

CJA has developed key legal doctrine that sets standards for international human rights prosecutions.

We uphold truth & dignity.

"When I testified, a strength came over me. I felt like I was in the prow of a boat and there were many, many people rowing behind me - that they were moving me into the moment.... Being involved in the case, confronting the Generals with these terrible facts - that's the best possible therapy a torture survivor can have."

— Dr. Juan Romagoza Arce, CJA client.

We win cases.

CJA has won favorable verdicts in every case that has gone to trial.

"CJA's overall goals are some of the finest examples of effective work for justice and human rights we have today."

— Fr. Stephen Privett, SJ, President Emeritus, University of San Francisco.

"[My mother's] stories about the Nuremberg trials had a big impact on me as I was growing up. Those stories nurtured a sense of outrage at injustice and the conviction that the law could provide a measure of relief."

— Former CJA Executive Director Sandy Coliver, *The Recorder*, August 19, 2002

"Great work!"

— Statement by Dalai Lama to Jerry Gray as he was recognized as one of fifty "unsung heroes of compassion." *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 26, 2006

CJA plays "key role in bringing war criminals to justice."

— *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 16, 2016

"A small San Francisco-based nonprofit organization called the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) works to find a measure of justice - and, just as importantly, truth - for such victims."

— Josh Allen, "Seeking Justice for Victims Across Borders," *Christian Science Monitor*, December 27, 2011

1998

Origins. CJA is launched.

Jerry Gray, Paul Hoffman, Bill Schulz, and Ralph Steinhardt all played critical roles in the founding of the Center for Justice and Accountability. Jerry had founded one of the first torture treatment centers in Northern California. Paul Hoffman was and is one of the leading Alien Tort Statute litigators, former Legal Director of the ACLU of Southern California, and served on the board of Amnesty International where Bill Schulz was Executive Director. Ralph Steinhardt is a law professor at George Washington University specializing in international law and human rights, and served as CJA's first Board Chair.

Jerry recalls the moment he thought something had to be done: "I received a call from San Francisco General Hospital regarding a Bosnian refugee who wanted to see a psychiatrist. The man learned that the guy who had tortured him had moved to the Bay Area. He was pretty agitated. I thought he might kill the guy."

Jerry had heard Paul Hoffman speak about a lawsuit where Paul successfully represented three women from Ethiopia against their torturer. He approached Paul to see whether something more could be done. Paul Hoffman recalls, "No other group was suing individual perpetrators, and there was no money in it for private litigators, but it was critically important work to do."

"Before CJA existed, there was no organization dedicated to persistently bringing litigation against alleged perpetrators of human rights crimes. That was a gaping hole in the human rights arsenal." – Bill Schulz



CJA Founder, Jerry Gray



Bill Schulz



Ralph Steinhardt



Paul Hoffman

"When I think of those early, somewhat tenuous, but exciting days, it all feels borderline miraculous."

– Ralph Steinhardt

1998

The Bosnian War.

CJA's first case addressed atrocities from the Bosnian War. The war had killed 350,000 people. In 1993, the international community had established an international tribunal to address the egregious crimes, including genocide, torture, and other crimes against humanity. Yet, there were perpetrators who had escaped the reach of the tribunal, including those who sought safe haven in the United States.

CJA represented four Bosnian men --- Kemal Mehinovic, Muhamed Bicic, Safet Hadzialijagic, and Hasan Subasic. They were beaten and tortured by Serb prison guard Nikola Vuckovic during the Bosnian War who was found living in Atlanta. Vuckovic knew our clients from before the war because they were neighbors in Bosanski Samac. Several of his victims were friends and even relatives of his wife and sister.



Mehinovic, was a Bosnian Muslim baker at the time he was abducted from his family. He was taking a mid-day nap at home when Serb police and soldiers knocked on his door. They beat him in front of his family, arrested him without a warrant, and then drove him to a police station for interrogation. For the next six months, he was tortured by Vuckovic.

He beat our clients with bare fists and metal pipes, sometimes hanging them from ropes and beating their genitals. With a knife, he carved a symbol into one plaintiff's face and plunged his head into a latrine. Witnesses testified that Vuckovic often drank with other Serb soldiers and invited them to "help themselves" to the detainees.

In 2002, a district court found Vuckovic liable for torture, war crimes and other abuses and ordered him to pay our clients \$140 million in compensatory damages. Former CJA Legal Director, Shawn Roberts, told 20/20, "People who commit these acts will be caught. No matter where it is that they go, they are going to be tracked down...."



“The memories are still with me. They come back as nightmares. When you hear the sound of a chain moving, you get the chills because you know they’re coming to beat you. The sound of that chain I can still hear at night.” - CJA client Kemal Mehinovic, 20/20 ABC News, January 29, 1999

1999

Pinochet's Caravan of Death.

In 1999, CJA filed a civil suit against Armando Fernández Larios for the murder of Winston Cabello immediately following the Pinochet coup in 1973. In 2003, a Miami jury found him liable for torture, crimes against humanity, and extrajudicial killing and awarded \$4 million in damages to the Cabello family. As *The Miami Herald* reported on November 30, 2003, "The U.S. government did not bring the...case. The case was courageously initiated and developed by the Center for Justice and Accountability...."

Winston Cabello was regional planning director for Atacama-Coquimbo, which is a northern region in Chile, in President Allende's administration. When General Pinochet staged a coup in 1973 and seized control, Winston was one of the many civilians that were tortured and murdered by a military death squad, known as the Caravan of Death.

The Caravan of Death traveled between cities in search of political opponents to the new military regime. They brutally tortured and executed at least 75 Chileans and buried them in unmarked graves in a timespan of several weeks.



Zita Cabello, CJA Client

While under arrest, Winston was falsely told that his file had been reviewed and that he would be released soon. Instead, he was taken to a secluded area with twelve other prisoners and executed by Caravan member Larios, among other members.

It wasn't until 1990 that families were told where to find the bodies of their loved ones. By that time, Larios was living in the United States. The civil lawsuit against Larios was the only means for the Cabellos to achieve accountability.

***"This lawsuit cannot reduce the pain I feel over the death of my brother, Winston. Nothing will ever diminish that pain. But, working with CJA has given meaning to my pain. That is a tremendous gift."* – Zita Cabello**

2002

Salvadoran Civil War: 75,000 Dead.

CJA filed its third case in 1999 against two notorious generals and former Ministers of Defense responsible for some of the worst atrocities during El Salvador's civil war that claimed the lives of 75,000 Salvadorans. In 2002, CJA won civil judgments against both generals.

As former defense ministers of El Salvador, Generals José Guillermo García and Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova presided over the disappearance, killing, and torture of more than 75,000 civilians during the Salvadoran Civil War.

In December 1979, the Salvadoran National Guard detained Neris González—then an 8-month pregnant health care and agrarian reform activist. The guardsmen tortured her continuously for two weeks. While González eventually gave birth, her son died shortly after due to the severity of the injuries she sustained in utero.

A year later, in December 1980, Dr. Juan Romagoza was providing medical care in a rural church clinic when two vehicles arrived carrying Salvadoran National Guardsmen and paramilitary soldiers. The soldiers and guards-

men opened fire on the clinic. The soldiers later arrested Romagoza and detained him at National Guard headquarters for 22 days. He was repeatedly tortured, interrogated, and purposely shot in the left hand, which permanently affected his ability to perform surgery.

CJA successfully represented González, Romagoza and Carlos Mauricio, and the court found Vides Casanova and

Garcia liable, ordering them to pay \$54.6 million in damages.

After the trial, CJA participated in a congressional hearing and promoted the removal proceedings of the generals from the country. Vides Casanova and García were deported back to El Salvador after immigration judges found them responsible for human rights crimes, including the torture of CJA's clients.



Carlos Mauricio, CJA client on courthouse steps demanding justice for El Salvador.

2004

Assassination of Archbishop Óscar Romero.

On March 23, 1980, Archbishop Óscar Romero, a leading figure in the struggle for human rights in El Salvador, delivered a sermon over national radio. The next day, while giving mass, the Archbishop was assassinated by ring-wing extremists.

It was one of the most heinous and shocking political murders of the late 20th century.

Officers of the Salvadoran military and leaders of right-wing paramilitaries conceived of and coordinated Archbishop Romero's assassination. Protected by a broad amnesty law, they evaded justice for over two decades.

On behalf of a relative of the Archbishop, CJA brought a civil suit against one of the architects of the assassination, Captain Alvaro Saravia. In 2004, a U.S. federal court found Saravia liable for extrajudicial killing and crimes against humanity and ordered Saravia to pay \$10 million in damages.

“Romero’s murder remains a dangerous topic.”

– Matt Eisenbrandt, former CJA Legal Director, *The Guardian*, January 19, 2017





“For almost 25 years, I have carried a bag of heavy rocks with me everywhere I go. Today, I have left this bag of rocks with the U.S. system of justice.” - Dr. Francisco Acosta, whose brother’s life was saved by Archbishop Romero

2006

Guatemala Genocide.

More than 200,000 Guatemalans were killed or forcibly disappeared in a civil war that raged from 1960-1996. Of those victims identified by the U.N. sponsored Historical Clarification Commission, 83% were indigenous Mayans. 93% of these human rights violations were carried out by government forces.

CJA joined the Guatemala Genocide case as lead counsel before the Spanish National Court in 2006. Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú and her eponymous foundation had filed a criminal complaint against President General Ríos Montt and other senior officials for the genocide of the indigenous Mayan Ixil community. CJA brought more than

40 indigenous Guatemalans to Madrid to testify about the atrocities they had faced, marking the first time a national court had heard evidence from Mayan survivors of Guatemala's "silent holocaust."

When Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz brought a domestic case against General Montt for the genocide, the Spanish National Court stayed its proceedings, and CJA ensured transfer of witnesses, evidence, and **several** experts to the domestic prosecution. In 2012, a Guatemalan court, with CJA acting as a key advisor, indicted Ríos Montt for torture, genocide, forced disappearances, state terrorism, and crimes against humanity.

The trial resulted in Ríos Montt's conviction and he was sentenced to 80 years in prison. **This was the first time that a former head of state had been convicted of genocide by a national court.** The ruling was also the state's first official acknowledgment that the genocide had occurred.



Rigoberta Menchú Tum.



"Survivors of torture around the world will not be silenced. With the help of CJA we are rising up to hold our abusers accountable under the law. CJA's victories are bringing us closer to a world in which state sponsored torture is unacceptable."

- Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Rigoberta Menchú Tum



2007/8

Making New Laws to Address Atrocities.

CJA's former Executive Director Pamela Merchant testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, chaired by Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), to urge passage of laws that would close gaps in U.S. civil and criminal law that let the worst international human rights criminals slip through the cracks. Senator Durbin's leadership led to the passage of two bills:

“Our promise to hold accountable those who commit the most unspeakable crimes will ring hollow unless we lead the world in punishing those responsible for the gravest human rights violations.” – Dick Durbin, 2009

On December 21, 2007, President George W. Bush signed into law the Genocide Accountability Act that empowers the U.S. Department of Justice to prosecute perpetrators of genocide found in the United States for genocide perpetrated outside the U.S.

On October 3, 2008, President Bush signed into law the Child Soldiers Accountability Act that empowers the U.S. Department of Justice to prosecute military and paramilitary leaders that have recruited and used child soldiers.

“To prosecute a perpetrator without addressing his or her role in the overall pattern of abuses and repression sends a message of indifference. It also sends a mixed message about our overall commitment to human rights, the sanctity of life, and each individual's right to freedom from state-sponsored abuses.”

- Former CJA Executive Director Pamela Merchant testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee's Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee

2005-2009

Achievements.

2005 CJA wins a case against Memphis resident, Colonel Nicolas Carranza, the former Vice Minister of Defense of El Salvador who oversaw the murder of 10,000 to 12,000 unarmed civilians in 1980. CJA's case marks the first time that a U.S. jury found Command Responsibility for crimes against humanity.



Irma Calderon, CJA client in Chavez V. Carranza

2006 A district court finds former chief of military intelligence, Juan López Grijalba, liable for torture, extrajudicial killings and disappearances while overseeing a notorious Honduran death squad and orders him to pay \$47 million in damages to CJA's six clients.



Zenaida Velásquez, CJA client in Reyes v. Lopez Grijalba

2006 A district court found New York resident Emmanuel "Toto" Constant, the former leader of a Haitian paramilitary death squad, liable for crimes against humanity and torture, including rape and the systematic use of violence by the 1991-1994 military junta.

2007 Jury finds Carl Dorelien, a former member of the Haitian military's high command, liable for torture, extrajudicial killing, arbitrary detention and crimes against humanity including for the Rabateaux Massacre. Dorelian was discovered living in Miami after he won the Florida state lottery.

2008 A U.S. court convicts Chuckie Taylor of torture for his role in the torture and murder of civilians during his father's reign in Liberia, the first and only time the U.S. has prosecuted someone under the Torture Act. He was sentenced to 97 years in prison. CJA deferred filing a civil case against Chuckie Taylor once the government brought criminal charges.

2009 Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori is convicted of human rights violations and sentenced to 25 years in prison. More than 70,000 Peruvians died in its twenty-year conflict. The verdict marked the first time that an elected head of state had been extradited to his home country (from Chile), tried, and convicted of human rights violations. CJA had acted as an international legal advisor to the Fujimori prosecution team since 2007.



2010

Somalia: Siad Barre regime.

A successful businessman living in Hargeisa, Somalia, Bashe Abdi Yousuf was committed to improving his community. However, in 1981, Yousuf was arrested by Somali National Security Service (NSS) agents and taken to a government building. Yousuf did not know why he had been arrested and detained.

On the third night of his detention, government soldiers took him out of his cell and interrogated him about his friends who also worked to support local health care and education. The next time Yousuf was taken out of his cell, he was blindfolded, and driven out of the city through a military checkpoint where he was **subjected to torture, including simulated drowning and electrocution**. They threatened to kill Yousuf if he did not confess to crimes he had not committed and he feared for his life.



*CJA Client Bashe Yousuf in
Yousuf v. Samantar*

After months of horrific abuse, Yousuf was convicted in a sham trial of belonging to an anti-government organization. He was transferred to a top-security prison and confined to a tiny cell for seven years of solitary confinement. Yousuf was eventually released from prison in 1989 and fled Somalia. He arrived in the United States in 1991.

General Mohammed Ali Samantar, Somalia's former prime minister and minister of defense, presided over the killings and torture of countless civilians in the 1980s. In 2004, CJA filed a civil suit against Samantar on behalf of Somali survivors, including Yousuf.

Samantar was found liable for human rights atrocities and ordered to pay \$21 million in damages to our clients. **This historic case established the important precedent that simply having held a government office does not shield perpetrators of human rights crimes from prosecution.**

Although he raised no factual challenge to CJA's case, Samantar petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court claiming immunity for acts he said were taken in his official capacity, and therefore shielded by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. But in 2010, the Supreme Court ruled that the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act does not shield the conduct of individual officials.

"Justice is everything. Where ever there is no justice, there is no life. Justice is the thing that puts all people together, that makes you friends of your enemy, without taking a gun, without killing anybody, just fighting for your rights in a court."

- Bashe Yousuf



2014

The Khmer Rouge.

Before 1975, Sophany Bay lived a simple life. She grew up lived a simple life. She was a young mother and a school teacher.

Sophany was born in a small Cambodian village. After graduating from college, she worked as a school teacher in Phnom Penh. Bay married her husband, who served in the National Military, and they had three kids.

On April 17, 1975, Sophany and her family were forced to leave their homes and belongings behind. She left the city by foot with her three young children and saw corpses scattered along the road out of Phnom Penh. Sophany was then arrested by the Khmer Rouge and put into a labor camp, where she was forced to dig and plow paddy fields and build dams under inhumane conditions. She witnessed the torture and abuse of many civilians. She was later sent to a “reeducation” camp.

Sophany lost about 100 relatives during the Cambodian genocide, including her three young children. Her daughter fell ill and died shortly after a Khmer Rouge soldier injected an unknown substance into her head. Her other two children died from serious illnesses and lack of medical care. Nearly



Sophany Bay in court.

2 million civilians died during the Khmer Rouge regime, and as many as 800,000 of these deaths were violent. The crimes left the country and its survivors destabilized, traumatized, and in need of justice.

Sophany is one of 45 Civil Parties represented by CJA in Case No. 002 against the two living senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge: “Brother Number Two” under Pol Pot, Nuon Chea, and former Head of State Khieu Samphan. CJA’s clients are all members of the Cambodian diaspora living in the United States, and are all direct victims of the Khmer Rouge regime. During the close of the first trial against the two senior leaders, CJA client and civil party Sophany Bay testified to the harms inflicted upon her and her family during the forced evacuation of Phnom Penh, and the continued impact of these harms on her and her community in the United States diaspora. The court sentenced the senior leaders to life imprisonment and awarded reparations to the 3,867 victims participating in the trial. The court cited Sophany and several other CJA clients in the final judgment against the senior leaders.

Today, CJA is preparing to represent up to 105 Cambodian-American survivors of the Khmer Rouge in Cases 003 and 004, likely the final cases for Khmer Rouge atrocities and perhaps the most consequential as they involve defendants still tied to the current government.



U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum



U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

"Before I die, I want justice." – Sophany Bay, *San Jose Mercury News*, November 20, 2011



2016

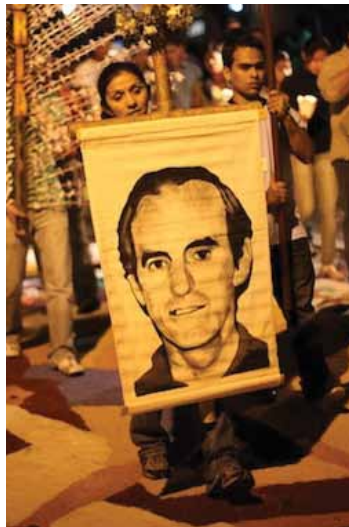
Jesuits Massacre.

In 2016, a North Carolina magistrate judge ruled that Colonel Innocente Montano, the former vice minister of public safety, could be extradited to Spain to face criminal trial for the murder of six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter in 1989. The decision was the culmination of a transnational litigation strategy seeking accountability for one of the most emblematic crimes during the Salvadoran civil war. As former CJA Senior Legal Advisor Patty Blum told *The New York Times* in 2016, “Every rock that was in the path is being thrown to one side.”

On the morning of November 16, 1989, an elite battalion of the Salvadoran Army entered the grounds of the Jesuit University of Central America, with orders to kill Father Ignacio Ellacuría, an outspoken champion of peace on behalf of the poor, and ensure that there were no witnesses. The murders shocked the world’s conscience.

On November 13, 2008, CJA and the Spanish Association for Human Rights filed criminal charges in Spain against the former President of El Salvador and 19 former members of the military for the massacre.

All but one of the defendants lived in El Salvador and were protected by an amnesty law shielding them from responsibility for the Jesuits massacre and other heinous crimes.



Colonel Montano, however, was living outside of Boston, working as a candy-maker. As a result of the indictment in Spain and CJA’s advocacy, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security filed immigration fraud charges against Montano and he was sentenced to 21 months in prison.

As Montano’s sentence drew to an end, the Spanish National Court renewed its extradition request, which the U.S. government supported. At the end of November 2017, Montano was extradited to Spain where he will be the first to face a criminal trial for the Jesuits Massacre. The litigation is being led by former CJA International Attorney Almudena Bernabeu and Guernica 37. As she told *America Magazine*: “the stars are getting aligned to improve justice in El Salvador.”



"My hope is that these men will be judged. Not out of vengeance, but because it's important for the Salvadoran people and for the rest of us. Our humanity depends on justice." - Carlos Martin Baró, brother of slain priest



2016

Victor Jara.

In 2016, an Orlando jury held former Lieutenant Pedro Barrientos Núñez responsible for the murder of Victor Jara, a musician *Rolling Stone Magazine* calls one of the most important protest artists of all time. The verdict was the culmination of a four-decade quest by Victor's widow, Joan, and their children to seek truth, justice and redress for Victor. CJA had filed the case in 2013.

In 1973, Víctor Jara was one of Chile's biggest music stars, famous for his outspoken messages of social equality and the plight of the working class. When the right-wing Pinochet regime seized power in a coup, Jara was one of the first to be singled out.

Just one day after the coup, military troops took control of the university where Jara taught.

Jara, along with hundreds of other students, professors, and staff members, was taken to Chile Stadium, the notorious mass detention center run by the new dictatorship. Jara was interrogated and tortured before being shot 44 times: a warning to those who challenged Pinochet's authority.

CJA spoke with **former** military conscripts who confirmed Barrientos' authority. One testified at trial that Barrientos had repeatedly bragged at the officers club about killing Jara, brandishing the pistol he said he used to murder him.



A Chilean court had indicted Barrientos and other officers alleged to have participated in the killing of Jara. While the other former military officials remained in Chile, Barrientos had moved to Florida, beyond the reach of Chilean courts. But not beyond the reach of the U.S. courts.

The jury declared Barrientos liable for his involvement in Jara's torture and murder. Barrientos was ordered to pay Jara's estate and family \$28

million in compensatory and punitive damages.



“...one of the...most significant legal human rights victories” -The Guardian, 2016 on CJA’s victory in Jara v. Barrientos

2013 - 2017

Achievements.

2013 CJA successfully holds the former investigations chief of the Somali National Security Service (NSS), Colonel Abdi Aden Magan, liable for the torture and arbitrary detention of our client, Professor Abukar Ahmed, a renowned human rights activist and law professor in Somalia. CJA's case is the first time a court of law has held a member of the NSS accountable for **torture, arbitrary detention, and attempted extra-judicial killing** under the notorious Siad Barre regime, whose brutal rule killed tens of thousands of Somalis.

"Justice is universal," Professor Ahmed said after the hearing. "Those who try to torture a human being will be brought to justice any-where he is. That is my message." - Professor Ahmed

2014 Baby Doc Duvalier dies as criminal prosecution is underway in Haiti. CJA had filed an amicus brief with the appeals court to reinstate charges against Duvalier for crimes against humanity.

2015 The American Psychological Association (APA) bans psychologists from national security interrogations based on findings that practitioners participated in torture at Guantánamo and other sites. The APA changes its policy in response to the Hoffman Report which cites CJA's case against Dr. John Leso.

2016 A Peruvian court convicts two soldiers responsible for the Accomarca Massacre, one of the most notorious human rights violations committed by



CJA former international attorney Almudena Bernabeu in Peru.

the Peruvian state during the country's internal conflict. CJA represented two survivors in a suit against soldiers who had participated in the Massacre and fled to the United States to seek safe haven. They were sentenced to 24 and 23 years in jail, respectively.

2017 On March 23, 2017, CJA filed a civil suit on behalf of three Haitian citizens who were violently persecuted for challenging corruption and brutality in their local government. Between 2007 and 2009, Jean Morose Viliena—the mayor of Les Irois, a town



CJA attorney Scott Gilmore with Haitian clients

in south-western Haiti—led an armed group of supporters in a campaign of terror against media activists and human rights defenders. Viliena lives outside of Boston, and was driving a school bus and for Uber until our lawsuit.

2016

Syrian War Crimes.

Continuing CJA's legacy to tackle the most difficult and noxious international crimes, CJA filed the first war crimes lawsuit against the Syrian regime in 2016 on behalf of the family of Marie Colvin, one of the most decorated and intrepid war correspondents of her generation.

Marie was killed covering the Siege of Homs in 2011, the first widespread and systematic attacks by the Assad regime against the Syrian civilian population. Reporting from an improvised media office in Homs, Syria, Marie Colvin told CNN's Anderson Cooper that it was "a complete and utter lie that they're only going after terrorists. The Syrian army is simply shelling a city of cold, starving civilians." Hours later, the Syrian army fired a barrage of artillery at Marie's position, killing her along with the French photographer Rémi Ochlik, and injuring others.

Around the world, Syrians honored Marie for her sacrifice. But for years, Marie's family and her Syrian supporters grappled with an unsolved mystery: Who killed Marie Colvin, and why?

After a three-year investigation, CJA unearthed evidence that Marie was deliberately assassinated by Syrian military and intelligence forces. Her murder was part of a broader conspiracy to neutralize Syrian and foreign media through



Marie Colvin reporting in the field.

violence. CJA Attorney Scott Gilmore said, "The [Assad regime] wanted to wage a war without witness.... To do that they needed to neutralize the media."

On July 9, 2016, CJA brought suit against the government of Syria for the murder of Marie Colvin. The case is ongoing.

The Next Twenty Years.

By C. DIXON OSBURN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been more than seventy years since the Holocaust. Yet despite the world's cry of "never again," war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity continue. But justice cannot be denied. The Center for Justice and Accountability proudly carries the torch of the Nuremberg Principles. We believe that some crimes are so egregious that the perpetrators of those crimes should be held accountable wherever they are found.

One might look at the past seven decades with despair. More than 1.7 million people died under the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. The Rwanda genocide killed 800,000 Tutsis in 100 days. In Syria, 470,000 have been killed, and who knows when the bloodshed will end. Srebrenica, Darfur, and so many other places tell the story of humanity's failure to prevent harrowing crimes.

At the same time, from World War II to present, we have witnessed a blossoming of human rights. After the Holocaust, leaders established the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human rights treaties to prevent, mitigate and redress future crimes against humanity. In the wake of the genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia, the international community established international tribunals to hold accountable those who committed unspeakable atrocities. Not every step has been a resounding success, but each has been a step forward.

For our next twenty years, CJA is committed to ensuring that No Safe Haven rings true globally. We believe that every nation should have the capacity, capability and will to prosecute international crimes that occur within their borders.

CJA will enlist partners to map the existing transnational and domestic frameworks for accountability for international crimes and their implementation against international standards. With a global leadership council and partner organizations, we will identify strategies and opportunities for building, expanding, enhancing, and mending the global net of accountability for mass atrocities that incorporates survivor perspectives.

With the partnership of our fearless community of survivors, human rights defenders, policymakers, lawyers, and supporters like you, we will look back twenty years from now, and note once again that there is more justice, not less.

"One fights wanton illegality with the law, not lawlessness." – C. Dixon Osburn, *San Jose Mercury News*, February 1, 2017

1998 - 2017

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