



December 15, 2008

Dear Friends:

Carmen, a pediatrician in her native Guatemala, told us about visiting a respiratory specialist in the United States:

*The first time I went, I wrote in the medical record: "I was tortured for three days, was beaten, had cracked ribs..." and I just gave it to him and waited. Nothing! He didn't even read the damn clinical history!*

An extreme case, maybe, but according to one study, only *three percent* of Latino immigrant clients who had been exposed to political violence in their home countries had ever told their clinician about it, and *none* reported that a physician had ever asked about their experiences.

We interviewed Carmen during a recent visit to the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition in Washington, DC, one of the many programs that are helping us with our documentary video, [REFUGE: Caring for Survivors of Torture](#).

Competent care can't happen without communication. The **Refuge Media Project** believes that physicians, nurses, psychologists and social workers *want* to provide the best possible care to their immigrant patients, but insufficient time and resources, structural barriers, and just plain lack of awareness too often get in the way. We think we can contribute to changing that, and we hope that you will [help by making a tax-deductible contribution today](#).

We were excited to have the chance to participate in a panel at the American Public Health Association's National Conference in October, "*Public Health Without Borders*." We presented 11 minutes of clips from the film-in-progress to an enthusiastic audience of nurses, physicians and public health workers, and talked about research evidence demonstrating the need for more awareness and better training among healthcare professionals. Many viewers asked to screen the film as soon as it is available, and offered to help with our outreach efforts.

Read more about what we have been doing in the [Project Updates](#) section of our website. Check out our [Background](#) and [Resources](#) sections, where you can learn about treatment guides, publications, and internet and video resources, and can view some of the works of [artists and photographers](#) who are exploring issues of oppression, torture, and impunity.

We can't continue this work without your support. Any amount you are able to send will help.

***Please donate now!***

Please share this message with friends, family, and professional colleagues by clicking the "Forward to a Friend" link below.

Best wishes for the New Year...

**Ben Achtenberg**, Producer / Project Director

**Roz Dzelzitis**, Associate Producer

**[www.refugemediaproject.org](http://www.refugemediaproject.org)**