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Forensic Investigations of Human Rights Abuses in Peru
the Subject of Photo Exhibit and Upcoming Documentary
Fundraiser at Chicago's Architectural Artifacts will support film
about the search for Peru's 14,000 "disappeared."

Chicago, Illinois - July 6, 2009 - 77 International will host a fundraiser for their upcoming documentary, *Among the Living*, on Wednesday, July 15th. The event will occur at Architectural Artifacts (4325 N. Ravenswood, Chicago) from 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m. with a \$10 suggested donation. *Among the Living* will tell the story of a group of Peruvian forensic anthropologists who are attempting to exhume and identify the remains of the nearly 14,000 people who were forcibly "disappeared" during the country's civil war in the 1980s and 1990s. The event will showcase the work of Peruvian photojournalist Domingo Giribaldi, who recently documented the exhumation of Peru's largest mass grave found to date, where 113 villagers were murdered. The photo collection is titled *If I Don't Come Back, Look For Me in Putis*, and has been exhibited at Georgetown University and the University of Colorado.

The Peruvian forensic anthropology team (EPAF) was formed in 1990 by Jose Pablo Baraybar with the goal of shedding light on the crimes against humanity that were committed during the conflict between the government and the Maoist insurgent group known as Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso).

"Though EPAF's work involves quite literally digging up the past, it can have a very real impact on the present," says filmmaker and 77 International co-founder Jason Mojica. "As we saw when Peruvian police clashed with indigenous protesters in June, there is still a very real schism between the government and its citizens. When EPAF identifies the remains of a daughter, brother, or husband who has been missing for decades, they help restore a bit of dignity and provide a sense of closure that is needed if trust is ever to be restored."

But trust remains elusive. On June 5, dozens of people in the Bagua province were killed when protests against the government's plans to open the Amazon to foreign development turned violent. At least 50 people were killed, police and protesters among them. Human rights groups believe hundreds more are missing.

Jim Milak, co-director of the documentary, says that the American public has a limited understanding of the power of forensic anthropology, "It is largely because of television that Americans recognize the power of science to help solve crimes. But few understand that forensic anthropology has the same potential to bring justice to victims of political violence and crimes against humanity."

Among the Living is being executive produced by Steven Livingston, a professor at George Washington University and author of *The Terrorism Spectacle* and *When the Press Fails*. "With dedication, scientific expertise, and a deep commitment to preserving the identity and dignity of people forcibly disappeared, EPAF hold those who committed these crimes accountable. It sheds light on the buried truths of the things that happened to men, women and children who were caught up in a maelstrom of horrendous violence," says Livingston. "This documentary will help EPAF tell their story and keep alive their place among us today in mind and heart."

Stuart Grannen, owner of Architectural Artifacts explained his decision to sponsor the event, "It's a subject very close to my heart, it boggles the mind that this kind of thing can happen in the civilized world. The very least we can do is help provide closure for the families of the deceased."

77 International, a non-profit organization devoted to increasing awareness and understanding of world affairs through popular culture, was started in 2006 by Chicagoans Jason Mojica, Jim Milak, and Ryan Faith. Their first documentary, *Christmas in Darfur?*, took the trio to the Sudan/Chad border to examine the crisis through interviews with rebels, refugees, and aid workers. Since then, 77 International has been developing and producing multi-media programming covering global issues ranging from humanitarian crises nuclear proliferation. Their work is funded exclusively through donations from the general public. To learn more about 77 International and *Among the Living*, visit <http://www.77international.org/> and <http://www.amongtheliving.net/>.

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