

Tierraviva goes national

2008 has been quite a year for Tierraviva. It has seen the project working on a national level in several provinces, winning outside funding, being invited to take part in an event organised by UNICEF, establishing its official headquarters, and becoming a legal entity.

The work in the provinces came about through an agreement between the Attorney General's Office (AGO) (Procuración Penitenciaria) and the UPCN (the National Public Servant's Union) allowing two of the trainers, Fernando Bedoya and Rasjid Cesar, to replicate the model of the workshops they run in Ezeiza prison (Buenos Aires) in other areas of the country. Tierraviva's field work thus gained greater institutional impact, and the subject of childhood behind bars has begun to infiltrate the agenda of the institutions involved. In part this is thanks to awareness-raising carried out with female prison guards in the province of Jujuy which has been well-received. Winning a grant from the National Arts Fund will allow the work in Jujuy to continue in 2009.

At the same time Rasjid Cesar's awareness-raising work with mothers incarcerated with their children in Ezeiza's Unit 31, which is funded with grants from three SD nationals, continued and gained new ground. Tierraviva was able to help accelerate and monitor legal processes and obtain benefits such as home imprisonment and psychological care for the inmates.

The presentation given by Rasjid at the UNICEF-organised conference on the "Rights of Pregnant Women or Women with Young Children in Detention" in October meant a recognition of the work of Tierraviva, seeing as he was the only panellist (among deputies, senators, ministers and authorities of the penitentiary services) whose organisation had a concrete strategy and visible results in their approach to this complex problem.

The end of the year saw Tierraviva finally becoming an official legal entity – a relatively complex process in Argentina. This status will open doors for the association in the future, such as a greater facility to request grants from outside Subud and to sign contracts independently. The immediate future is bright, with a new contract with the AGO about to be signed and perspectives for work on a project in the hospital of Tigre for two of Tierraviva's staff and two facilitators trained while Unit 31 inmates.

Nonetheless, although Tierraviva has won grants and contracts for specific programmes, all its administrative overheads still need to be met. The organisation still needs our help, then, to fund its first steps as a fledgling legal entity.

Contact information

Tierraviva
c/o Rasjid Cesar
Gavilán 4263 "2"
1419 ciudad autónoma de Buenos Aires
Argentina
P

Tel: +(5411) 4207-4063
Email: tierraviva.ong@argentina.com