Civil Rights and Restorative Justice
Monthly Bulletin – July 2013
WORLD UPDATES

(UPDATE) 'We're not inventing the dead': Genocide case casts spotlight on Guatemala's past

In the May 2013 Monthly Update, CRRJ, reported that Guatemala convicted former head of state José Efraín Ríos Montt for human rights abuses. On May 10 he was sentenced to 80 years in prison for genocide and crimes against humanity during his time in office from 1982 to 1983. On May 20 the conviction was overturned. While many Ixil doubt that justice will be served, some are grateful that they were able to share their stories at Montt’s trial in Guatemala City. For more on this story click here.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Willie Louis, Who Named the Killers of Emmett Till at Their Trial, Dies at 76

On September 19, 1955, Willie Reed, the son of sharecroppers from Drew, Mississippi, testified for the prosecution in the trial of the men who killed Emmett Till. Reed, who moved to Chicago after the trial, changed his name to Willie Louis and lived in anonymity there as a hospital orderly. Though Till’s murderers were acquitted Reed’s testimony was deemed brave and powerful for it helped to establish that there were multiple men involved in the killing. Reed’s likeness is captured in the documentary film *The Untold Story of Emmett Till* (2005). For more information see the *New York Times*.

STATE UPDATES

Alabama: Pilgrimage to Honor Jonathan Myrick Daniels

In August 20, 1965 Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a student at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts was killed in Haynesville, Alabama. In early 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. asked students and clergy to go to Selma, Alabama to participate in a march to the state capital in Montgomery. Daniels went to the march and remained in Alabama where he tutored children, helped residents apply for government aid, and worked to register voters. Following his arrest for picketing a whites-only store in Hayneville, Alabama, Daniels was shot at the door of a white’s only restaurant by Tom Coleman, an unemployed highway construction worker while he was protecting 16 year old Ruby Sales. Daniels was hit in the right chest and died instantly. Coleman was tried and acquitted. Ruby Sales, now directs *Spirit House* which brings together
diverse people for racial economic and social justice. On August 10 Daniels will be honored. Sales, who is heading the pilgrimage, will visit the store where the shooting occurred. The pilgrimage will end with a holy communion at the courthouse where Coleman was tried and acquitted. For the complete article click here.

CRRJ UPDATES

“The Justice System's Role in the Death of Trayvon Martin”
Professor Margaret Burnham, founder and director of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, wrote an article on the much discussed verdict in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin. Burnham observed that the national government was the critical entity for “punishing violent suppression of constitutional rights.” Offering perspective and insight through the lens of the history of racial violence, Burnham asserts that “Neither Zimmerman nor the investigating police saw Trayvon Martin for what he was: an unarmed black kid being pursued by an armed white stranger.” For more information see article