

# MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

## Documentary Heritage on the Resistance and Struggle for Human Rights in the Dominican Republic, 1930-1961 (Dominican Republic)

*Ref: N° 2008 - 20*

### PART A-ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

#### 1 SUMMARY

From 1930 to 1961, for thirty-one cruel years, the Dominican Republic endured one of the most oppressive regimes on the Latin American continent: the dictatorship of Rafael L. Trujillo. Thousands of Dominicans lost their lives, were imprisoned and tortured by the henchmen who served that tyrant. Many survivors remained mutilated for the rest of their lives; some had permanent scars on their bodies and others suffered mental illness.

During this long period of oppression and death, the Trujillo government extended its policy of State terrorism beyond national borders. Notorious examples of Trujillo's reach abroad are the unsuccessful assassination attempt against Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt (1960), the abduction and subsequent disappearance in New York City of the Spaniard Jesus de Galindez (1956), the murder of writer Jose Almoina, also a Spaniard, and crimes committed against Cubans, Costa Ricans, Nicaraguans, Puerto Ricans, as well as United States citizens.

Perhaps one of the most tragic events of that period was the genocide committed against Haitian residents of the Dominican Republic. Personally ordered by Trujillo, the massacre took a toll of more than 10,000 souls.

The Documentary Historic Heritage records such atrocities and contains ample evidence of the Dominican resistance movement and struggles for democracy, freedom, and respect for human rights. Idealistic foreigners died fighting alongside Dominicans, giving rise to international solidarity during the long fight for justice and peace on Dominican soil. The involvement of foreign nationals who put their lives on the line for the Dominican cause is an outstanding case of universal fraternity, worthy of recognition within our country and throughout the world.

A counterpart to that exemplary international solidarity is the amply documented network of complicity between the Dominican despot and the dictatorships of Machado and Batista in Cuba, Duvalier in Haiti, Perez Jimenez in Venezuela, Somoza in Nicaragua, as well as his close ties to Francisco Franco in Spain. Moreover, archival documents provide proof of several assassinations Trujillo ordered against opponents in Cuba, Haiti, Mexico, and the United States. Subsequently, the governments of the respective nations duly investigated these conspiracies.

The universal nature of this heritage is evident in files that document missions of international solidarity organized in exile (1947, 1949, 1958 and 1959) with notable participation of Venezuelans, Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Costa Ricans, Spaniards, Nicaraguans and United States citizens. Consequently, foreigners became targets of Trujillo's repression and many were murdered on Dominican territory.

The three Mirabal sisters, who the regime brutally murdered on November 25, 1960 in reprisal for their leadership in the underground movement to topple the Trujillo regime, became symbols of the struggle against political and gender violence. A United Nations resolution declared the day of their martyrdom, November 25, International Day against Violence to Women.

Documentary evidence of systematic and massive persecution, unlawful arrests, torture, disappearance of persons, racial extermination, establishment of torture centers and murders organized by the dictatorship over the course of 31 years is a valuable heritage. Making this body of documents accessible and informing younger generations about what happened restores a personal and collective right, fosters a policy of historic memory over a conspiracy of silence and oblivion, raises the conscience of young people, and strengthens knowledge of Dominican national history.

It is important to note that nearly forty years after the tyranny came to an end the Dominican government finally is able to sponsor a program of this nature.

In short, this heritage constitutes a valuable educational tool and is a legacy for the formation of new generations and for building a culture of peace based on tolerance, non-discrimination, and respect for human rights. It also represents an important contribution for the region and the world for creating greater consciousness concerning crimes against humanity and the right to truth and justice.

In the Dominican Republic today State and civil society are working together to fortify the democratic system, recover and protect historic memory. The documentary heritage and oral history of that period is an invaluable source of universal values for the construction of genuinely democratic societies. Recognition of this heritage will strengthen the resolve of humankind to prevent such crimes against humanity from occurring ever again.

## 2. AUTHOR OF THE PROPOSAL

### 2.1. Name

Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance, Federation of Patriotic Foundations and General Museum Secretariat of the National Secretariat of Culture of the Dominican Republic

### 2.2. Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

The Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance coordinates the work of government, non-governmental organizations, and individuals that have prepared the nomination for UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. The Museum does so with the conviction that it is important to foster access to all sources related to this period of our recent history and to honor the memory of several generations that suffered lack of freedom, justice and human rights.

Presidential Decree (282-07) created the Museum, the first time in the nearly fifty years since the end of the dictatorship that the Dominican State has sponsored a program of this kind. The Museum's mission is to compile, organize, catalogue, preserve, investigate, disseminate and exhibit the tangible and intangible assets of national heritage related to the facts and consequences of the struggles of several generations of Dominican men and women during the dictatorship of Rafael L. Trujillo.

The museum has its origins in the "Memoria Contra el Olvido" ("Memory Against Oblivion") program. "Memoria Contra el Olvido" is a campaign, recently designed and implemented by the National Secretariat of Culture in conjunction with the Federation of Patriotic Foundations, to reclaim national heritage as a tool to make known and exercise justice with the ultimate objective of establishing the Museum and the National Network of Sites of Conscience.

### 2.3. Contact person(s)

Mrs. Luisa De Peña Díaz, General Director of Museums, National Secretariat of Culture and President

of Dominican ICOM.

Dr. Anulfo Reyes, President of the Federation of Patriotic Foundations of the Dominican Republic.  
Dr. Franklin Franco, Director of Research, Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance.

#### 2. 4. Contact details

Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance.

210 Calle Arzobispo Nouel, Ciudad Colonial, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic Telephone: 809 412 0245 o 809 221 4141, Ext. 302-304.

Fax: 809 686 5378

E-mail: [museodelaresistencia@gmail.com](mailto:museodelaresistencia@gmail.com)

Web Site: [www.museodelaresistencia.org](http://www.museodelaresistencia.org).

### 3. IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

#### 3. 1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

- Memorial Museum of the Dominican Resistance, Federation of Patriotic Foundations, and General Directorate of Museums and National Secretariat of Culture, National Registry of Victims, Tortured and Disappeared Persons. Documentary Foundation on Repression of the Attorney General of the Republic.
- Foundation Heroes of Constanza, Maimon and Estero Hondo  
Archive of documents, publications, photographs, films, newspaper files, letters, records of organizations of exiles, record of imprisonments, photographs of torture, testimonies of extra-judicial firing squads, court records of survivors. Autopsy reports on remains exhumed from mass graves, testimonies of military and civilian, witnesses as well as registries of mass graves and burial sites.
- Mirabal Sisters Foundation– Mirabal Sisters House Museum  
Photographic collection, documents of the resistance plans, as well as Minerva’s thesis that questions the legal system and that Trujillo didn’t allow her to graduate as a lawyer; newspapers, journals, letters, court records, registries of the murder and exhumation of the remains of Mirabal sisters as well as judicial record of the murders.
- May 30 Heroes Foundation:  
Archive containing documents related to the conspiracy to overthrow the Trujillo dictatorship, recordings of torture sessions made by the perpetrators, photographic collection. Court records against the perpetrators, records of the dictatorship’s international crimes and court records related to extra-judicial executions that implicate the Trujillo family.
- Manolo Tavarez Foundation  
A set of documents of the Underground June 14 Movement. Court records related to mass arrests and interrogations of members of the resistance, registries of torture victims. (The 40 and the 9 Centers), photographs and testimonies of survivors and a registry of disappeared persons.
- Archives of the Association of Relatives of the Heroes of Cayo Confite and Luperon, Horacio Ornes Coiscou  
Documentary archive about exile, the Caribbean Legion, the plots to overthrow Latin American dictatorships, photographic and audiovisual collections on exiled persons, publications, records of armed expeditions organized in 1947 and 1949 by Dominican exiles with the assistance of Costa Ricans, Cubans, Nicaraguans, Guatemalans, United States citizens and others against the dictatorship.

### 3. 2. Description

The volumes presented include the files described below.

#### File N. 1

These documents comprise the period 1930-1961 and are a compilation of the vast number of human rights violations committed during those years. Consequently, we present: Listings of thousands of murders during the years 1930-1961, accredited by documents provided by relatives, foreign press accounts, denunciations in books and brochures printed abroad, statements made by former officials of the dictatorship, original letters from the victims' relatives, and hundreds of press reports after the dictatorship about the crimes from 1961 until today. Freedom of press was not existent in the Dominican Republic during the Trujillo regime. In fact, not one national newspaper reported on these events. Surviving copies of underground periodicals denounced some crimes, such as Juventud Democrática, The Popular, Libertad, the IJ4, and Chispa, but these publications had a short life span.

#### File N. 2

Documents of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic concerning opponents, who were jailed, tortured and frequently killed.

Photographs of many victims accompany this file. It includes information and photos of torture and extermination centers.

In addition:

- a) Documents of State apparatus that carried out repression, such as the Army's intelligence services. Written statements prepared in court by officials of the dictatorship accused of crimes; oral testimony of officials, military personnel, secret service agents, etc.
- b) Documents created by civil society and organizations of exiles that report disappearances and actions of resistance to the dictatorship.
- c) Government documents dating after the tyranny ended since 1961 until today that were drafted in order to clarify many crimes and to initiate criminal cases against lackeys of the regime. Since 2002 the Dominican Republic has a new penal code that includes crimes against humanity.
- d) Documents of civil society prepared after the dictatorship including new denunciations of disappearances and efforts to locate places where hundreds of victims were buried in mass graves. Official records on the search for mass graves, exhumations, autopsy reports, photos and publications about inquests, etc.
- e) Voluminous records with hundreds of files prepared by the regime's secret service agents including photographs and descriptions of persons considered enemies of the regime.
- f) Intelligence service reports written in Dominican embassies in several Latin American countries that confirm acts of espionage, persecution and the work of exiles.
- g) Press Archives (1930-1961) consisting of hundreds of foreign press reports about human rights violations, murders, etc. Due to censorship of the press during dictatorship, chronicles prepared by national press begin as of 1961.

#### File N. 3

Compilation of statements of hundreds of persons who were victims, relatives of disappeared persons, as well as photos of victims seated in the so-called electric chair, while being tortured. It contains oral history files of relatives and witnesses.

#### File N. 4

Written testimonies of the victims' relatives: This file consists of hundreds of documents relatives wrote about family members who had either disappeared or are known to have been murdered, as well as press reports shortly after these events. It also contains Organization of American States (OAS) documents condemning the Trujillo regime for the 1960 failed assassination attempt against President Betancourt and the violation of his human rights. This material confirms the regime's meticulous criminal system.

This file also includes descriptions published in the national press after the end of the tyranny, with statements from victims who had been tortured or unlawfully imprisoned, with photos of prisoners and people who had disappeared or been murdered. Many of these items verify the complicity of the communications media which was totally controlled by the regime and gave distorted accounts of many crimes.

#### File N. 5

Extra-judiciary Executions: This file contains written documentation about the killings of individuals associated with efforts to physically eliminate the dictator Trujillo, with statements by top officials of the regime acknowledging these murders, pamphlets, books, press clippings from the time, etc.

It also includes transfer orders for prisoners involved in plots to assassinate the dictator, including a document written moments before the shooting, and subsequent disappearance of the victims' bodies. Several items offer evidence of the judicial complicity in the crimes.

#### File N. 6

Genocide committed against more than 10,000 Haitian citizens: The file is a compilation of documents of the Pan American Union Committee (predecessor of the OAS) that conducted the investigation of this occurrence. There are documents that show the United States State Department was interested in clarifying these events. The file also contains letters from the Foreign Relations Ministries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic and dozens of foreign press documents about the massacre as well as other documents that denounced these events abroad, including a letter from the Archbishop of Haiti with a report to a high official of the Catholic Church.

### 4. JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION/ASSESSMENT AGAINST CRITERIA

#### 4. 1 Is authenticity established?

All documentary archives are authentic, their origin is known and official documents are certified by government agencies. Archives belonging to non-governmental organizations were compiled over the course of 50 years and can be traced back to their origin. Archives that originated with the victims' relatives and survivors were preserved largely outside the country and their origin has been authenticated by the permanent commission of expert named by the investigation department of the museum.

#### 4. 2 Is world significance, uniqueness and irreplaceability established?

The documentary archives proposed for nomination are unique, singular and irreplaceable due to the informational and testimonial nature of each one. Within the context of the time and circumstances in which they were developed, they constitute irrefutable evidence of a system of mass repression, unlawful arrests, torture, political and racial extermination, gender discrimination and the forced disappearance of persons. These mechanisms of repression constituted a practice of State policy introduced and maintained by the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo from the day of the coup on February 23, 1930 until 1961.

The archives also bear witness to the actions of resistance, the struggle for truth, justice and respect for human rights during this period of contemporary history. They also include documents generated by international entities such as the Organization of American States.

The Archival, Documentation and Reference Center of the Dominican Resistance Memorial Museum is one of a kind in its concrete proof of a despotic regime that had international implications and allies. The dictatorships of Franco in Spain, Perez Jimenez in Venezuela, Machado and Batista in Cuba, Duvalier in Haiti, Somoza in Nicaragua, beginning in the 1930s and finally ending in the 1960s, formed a league of international State terrorism the likes of which had never been known before. This regime preceded Hitler's regime in Europe and continued unabated in the aftermath of those events, his successors established a second dictatorship from 1966 to 1978. For these reasons; the repression archives were classified until 1978.

Also, testimonies of international solidarity, the attempts on the lives and murders of foreigners, the brutal killing of the Mirabal sisters, who became symbols of the struggle against political and gender violence (commemorated each November 25 by resolution of the UN), the campaign organized in the 1960s by mothers and widows of the organizers of the 1959 quest are all extraordinary examples of courage and determination for human rights movements around the world. Similarly, the Caribbean Legion united in the 1940s with the goal of bringing about the downfall of Central American and Caribbean dictatorships.

#### 4. 3 Is one or more of the criteria of a) time, b) place, c) people d), subject and theme, e) form and style satisfied?

##### *a) Time: 1930-1961*

During those 31 years the Dominican nation was under the dominion and at the mercy of the Trujillo family. Trujillo usurped power through a coup d' état on February 23, 1930, held illegitimate elections in May of that year and immediately began to physically eliminate his opponents. The first crime, committed June 2, 1930, was the murder of democratic leader Martinez Reyna, his pregnant wife and their housemaid Altagracia. Trujillo's regime of terror sowed his own demise on May 30, 1961 when a group of men killed him on the Santo Domingo highway.

##### *b) Place:*

Dominican Republic as well as the United States, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Mexico where the Trujillo regime committed crimes such as abduction and murder against well-known figures viewed as enemies and organizations of exiles that demonstrated against the oppression that affected life in the Dominican nation. The Caribbean Legion or American Liberation Army aimed to bring about the downfall of the region's dictatorships. They were successful in Costa Rica with the Figueres revolution. Remnants of the Caribbean Legion formed the brigade that arrived in the Dominican Republic in 1949. All but five were killed.

*c) People:*

Dominicans were tortured, forcibly disappeared, murdered, exiled, imprisoned and persecuted. Trujillo's tyranny did not stop at persecution and physical elimination of his political opponents. His regime also persecuted opponents' families, in some cases eliminating entire families, carried out racially motivated killings of thousands of Haitians, took over all the country's industries, and randomly chose the daughters or wives of any family for personal pleasure. Those who dared to refuse were killed. Like his Spanish ally, Francisco Franco, Trujillo murdered opponents of his regime and developed a highly effective system of surveillance that served as a model for other Latin American dictatorships.

*d) Subject and theme:*

Resistance against repression, State terrorism, crimes against humanity, and struggle for human rights during the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo 1930-1961.

*e) Form and style:*

The collection includes documents, manuscripts, photographs, oral history testimonies videos, audio recordings, audiovisual materials, objects, maps, publications, drawings, and personal objects. Most notable are survivors' testimonies about systems implemented for persecution, abduction, repression and the regime's propaganda apparatus.

4. 4 Are there issues of rarity, integrity, threat and management that relate to this nomination?

Rarity: The documents that comprise this proposal are unique in their genre during the period and circumstances of a dictatorial tyranny. Many testimonial letters are originals. Documents generated by the Attorney General's Office during dictatorship that have never been published are also included, as are denunciations made abroad that were never reported by the Dominican press of the time. Some documentation originates from official agencies of the United States, Cuba, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and other countries. Many of these documents and oral histories were previously unknown in the Dominican Republic.

These documents were compiled under the auspices of the Museum program for the recovery of historic memory. Cooperative agreements have been established with various national archives and those of other countries to exchange information and ease access to documents.

Integrity: All documents are intact, as most were carefully preserved clandestinely. Archives of the Dominican State were preserved as classified documents until the transition to democracy in 1978 when they were declassified for study and to inform the nation. National security agencies preserved a great number of the documents. The victims' relatives preserved many documents they obtained when, during the transition period before the civil war (1962-1965), when they were allowed to enter the torture centers to search for their family members who had disappeared. Repressors hastily abandoned two such detention centers, leaving behind files of documentation, particularly photographs. Other documents were secretly taken from the torture centers during dictatorship. Most of the brave souls who carried out these actions were discovered and killed.

Threat: The documents are in good condition. At present, the grant awarded by the U.S.-based Ambassador Fund for Cultural Preservation has facilitated the computerization of many documents. The project has been guided by the National Archives of the Dominican Republic, however; there are not enough funds to adequately preserve this heritage. Notably, this is the first time the State has initiated a process of this kind. Preservation of this heritage faces potential threats from man-made disasters because none of the individuals identified as perpetrators of these crimes have been convicted in a court

of law. Many continue to live freely in the Dominican Republic today.

## 5. LEGAL INFORMATION

### 5. 1 Owner of the documentary heritage

#### **1. Archives of the Documentation and Reference Center of the Memorial Museum of the Dominican Resistance (1916-1978)**

Owner: Federation of Patriotic Foundations

2000 Torre Naco, apt. 1007

Calle Fantino Falco,

Santo Domingo Dominican Republic

E-mail: [fundacionespatrioticasrd@gmail.com](mailto:fundacionespatrioticasrd@gmail.com)

Category of ownership: Private Non-Profit

Accessibility: Access is limited at the present time but will be open once the Documentation Center is inaugurated.

Copyright status: Memorial Museum of the Dominican Resistance

Responsible Administration: Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance

#### **1. a) Documentary Archive of the Attorney General's Office of the Republic Ownership:**

Dominican government, Attorney General's Office of the Republic Enrique Jimenes Moya Avenue

Heroes of Constanza, Maimon and Estero Hondo Center

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Category of ownership: Public

Accessibility: Access is limited at present but will be open when the Documentation Center is inaugurated.

Copyright status: Copyright has been granted to the Archive and Documentation

Center of the del Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance by agreement with the Federation of Patriotic Foundations.

Responsible Administration: Attorney General's Office of the Republic

#### **2. Documental Archive of the Heroes of Constanza, Maimon and Estero Hondo Foundation**

Ownership: Heroes of Constanza, Maimon and Estero Hondo Foundation

Av. 27 de febrero Esq. Winston Churchill

Plaza Central

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

E-mail: [porfiriori@yahoo.com](mailto:porfiriori@yahoo.com)

Category of ownership: Private

Accessibility: Access is limited at present, but will be open after inauguration of the Documentation Center. Copyright Status: Heroes of Constanza, Maimon and Estero Hondo Foundation Responsible

Administration: Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance

#### **2.a) Archives of Guillermina Miniño Vda. Puigsubirá.**

Ownership: Heroes of Constanza, Maimon and Estero Hondo Foundation.

v. 27 de febrero Esq. Winston Churchill

Plaza Central

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Email: [porfiriori@yahoo.com](mailto:porfiriori@yahoo.com)

Category of ownership: Private Non-Profit

Accessibility: Access is limited at present, but will be open after inauguration of the Documentation Center.

Copyright Status: Heroes of Constanza, Maimon and Estero Hondo Foundation Responsible

Administration: Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance.



**3. Documentary Archive of the Mirabal Sisters Foundation, Mirabal Sisters House Museum**

Ownership: Mirabal Sisters Foundation.

Carretera de Tenares, Conuco, Salcedo

Dominican Republic

Email: [museo\\_hnasmirabal@hotmail.com](mailto:museo_hnasmirabal@hotmail.com)

Category of ownership: Private Non-Profit

Accessibility: Access is limited at present, but will be open after inauguration of the Documentation Center.

Copyright Status: Mirabal. Sisters Foundation

Responsible Administration: Mirabal Sisters Museum.

**4. Documentary Archives of the Heroes del 30 de Mayo Foundation**

Ownership: Heroes del 30 de Mayo Foundation

Av. José Andrés Aybar No. El Vergel

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Email: [diaz@cadi.com.do](mailto:diaz@cadi.com.do)

Category of ownership: Private Non-Profit

Accessibility: Access is limited at present, but will be open after inauguration of the Documentation Center.

Copyright Status: Heroes del 30 de Mayo Foundation

Responsible Administration: Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance

**5. Documentary Archives of the Manolo Tavarez Foundation.**

Ownership: Manolo Tavarez Foundation

Torre Mirador II, apt. 5, Bella Vista.

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Email: [fundacionmanolotavarez@gmail.com](mailto:fundacionmanolotavarez@gmail.com)

Category of Ownership: Private Non-Profit

Accessibility: Access is limited at present time, but will be open after inauguration of the Documentation Center

Copyright Status: Manolo Tavarez Foundation

Responsible Administration: Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance

**6. Documentary Archives of the Association of Relatives of the Heroes of Cayo Confite and Luperon.**

Ownership: Association of Relatives of the Heroes of Cayo Confite and Luperon

Calle Presidente González No. 20, Apt. 1102, Naco

Santo Domingo Dominican Republic

Email: [iliana0857@hotmail.com](mailto:iliana0857@hotmail.com)

Category of Ownership: Private non-profit

Accessibility: Access is limited at present time, but will be open after inauguration of the Documentation Center.

Copyright Status: Association of Relatives of the Heroes of Cayo Confite and Luperon. Responsible Administration: Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance.

**6 a) Horacio Ornes Coiscou Archives.**

Ownership: Iliana Ornes Rodriguez

Calle Presidente González No. 20, Apt. 1102, Naco

Santo Domingo Dominican Republic

Email: [iliana857@hotmail.com](mailto:iliana857@hotmail.com)

Accessibility: Access is limited at present time, but will be open after inauguration of the Documentation Center.

Copyright Status: Use upon authorization from Iliana Ornes.

Responsible Administration: Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance

## 6. MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 6.1. Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage?

The Historic Documentary Heritage that is presented for nomination is fundamental for the recovery of collective and individual memory of the resistance movement and the struggle to gain respect for human rights, confronting a dictatorship and calling for the right to truth and justice.

Our documentary heritage is scattered among several governmental and private institutions, but the Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance coordinates preservation, value and dissemination management as set forth in Presidential Decree 282-07.

Financial resources come from different sources: the Dominican government, civil society, and international cooperation.

The Management Plan was developed according to the UNESCO documentary heritage guidelines, as well as ICA and ICOM guidelines. National and international experts served as consultants.

The management plan's lines of work are as follows:

#### 1. Recovery

Research, create an inventory and classify the entire documentary heritage existing in the various organizations and institutions, and establish agreements with archives of other countries that have documents related to our theme.

#### 2. Preservation

Identify elements that need preservation and conservation, advise organizations and institutions on preventive conservation methods that should be implemented.

#### 3. Dissemination

Facilitate access, computerize all archives and promote them nationally and internationally through the Archival Documentation and Reference Center of the Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance, as well as the Museum's web site, currently being designed.

The Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance has two community outreach centers:

- a) The National Registry Center of Victims, Tortured and Disappeared Persons
- b) The Archival Documentation and Reference Center of the Resistance.

Both centers have departments of research, recovery, inventory and classification, computerization and data bank, and dissemination.

Since its creation the Museum has recovered countless private archives from individuals as well as human rights organizations. It has working agreements with several national governmental agencies and with other countries regarding the recovery of documents. Its Advisory Board also includes the National Archives and the Museum Administration, which provides open and direct access to the heritage archives that are being incorporated into the reference data bank.

The computerization process initiated with international support through the grant awarded in 2006 from the US Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. The staff responsible for this process is in contact with archival preservation experts of the Dominican Republic, Spain and the United States. Computerization will include all existing archives related to the resistance and repression, regardless of

ownership.

The Museum is in the design stage and will be created through the adaptive reuse of a spacious warehouse in keeping with all preservation norms and requirements. Once completed, the museum will offer the service of security deposit boxes for institutions concerned about safe preservation of their archives. These could be made available to the public in computerized format and the original copies maintained in security deposit boxes. The museum will assist those institutions that have a preservation budget in adequate conservation methods and will offer them its computerization services.

In keeping with the presidential decree that establishes memory of resistance as tangible and intangible national heritage, the Museum aspires to create regional and municipal computerized files on historic memory with free public access.

General objectives:

To recover, organize, classify, preserve, research, disseminate and exhibit these objects of documental heritage.

Specific objectives:

To foster responsible historic memory and encourage cultural cooperation through education and knowledge sharing at the service of Peace, commemorate victims recognized as having been persecuted by the State due to ideological motives. Its strategy to create a national conscience includes visits by high school students as part of the Dominican history curriculum, as well as students in special training programs such as the Armed Forces and National Police, as set forth in the presidential decree.

The Museum is a member of the Organization of Historic Sites of Conscience Museums. Its director is a member of the Board of the International Commission of Memorial Museums of the ICOM (ICMEMO). Staff researchers and historians are members of the Dominican Academy of History, while the archival staff are members of ICA and Archivists Without Borders.

The Museum staff believes democratic values can be maintained only through the all-important role of education in the recovery of historic memory and strengthening of a conscience regarding the value of life and freedom as a fundamental right of all human beings. This is a universal right.

## 7. CONSULTATION

The Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance is in constant contact and consultation with the owners and custodians of the documentary elements presented for nomination under the title “DOCUMENTAL HERITAGE ON THE RESISTANCE AND STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 1930-1961. Documentation and Reference Center and the Archives of the Resistance.”

The technical staff for the presentation was comprised of the Dominican Government, and Non-Governmental Organizations, and has had ongoing consultation from the National Memory of the World Commission.

## PARTE B – SUBSIDIARY INFORMATION

### 8 ASSESSMENT OF RISK

The documentation archives are in process of preservation and computerization. See Management Plan.

The recovery, appreciation, and dissemination of these archives take place in the context of a larger

program, the Memorial Museum of Dominican Resistance, which, in turn, represents the culmination of the recent historic memory recovery program, called “Memoria contra el Olvido.” Created by the State Culture Secretariat and implemented together with national patriotic organizations, this program is a response to the deterioration of democratic values that permitted the emergence of thinking that favored repression as a solution to the political, social, and economic problems that affect all developing nations. The preservation and dissemination of documental archives that constitute proof and testimony of the struggle for human rights is fundamental to the recovery of democratic values.

## 9. ASSESSMENT OF PRESERVATION

The documental archives originate from various organizations and the creation of the Resistance Archives (See Management Plan) will guarantee preservation of those archives.

### PARTE C –LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

Lic. José Rafael Lantigua Secretary of  
State for Culture Dominican Republic

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ March 20, 2008