

The Guatemalan Chronicle

Cash Luna's Pastor executed in Mexico

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By John L. Russell



Claudio Martinez

They slit his throat, sliced off his penis, and cut off his testicles, while his wife was cooking eggs in the kitchen.

It doesn't happen every day, that a very handsome and wealthy Mexican evangelical pastor, 38 years old, is murdered with impunity in his room. In Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, pastors often get killed because of child abuse, sex with the faithful, fraud, property theft, and jealous envy, among their followers.

Claudio Martinez established his church in May 2006, in the city of Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico, under the sponsorship of Guatemalans Cash Luna and his wife Sonia Luna. By March 2010, Martinez and his wife Luz (Lucy) Margarita Enriquez Martinez, had been certified as a legitimate franchise of CIEM, also owned by Cash Luna.

CIEM (Centro Internacional de Estudios Ministeriales) is the governing body of Cash Luna's franchised churches, providing doctrine and pastor certification in Luna's techniques and image. Duplicated as clones from Casa de Dios, pastors become trained and equipped to "pluck the feathers" of the congregations and commit a whole range of "spiritual misdeeds". Each church pays 10% of their income to CIEM, as a franchise fee, and the churches are closely supervised (by CIEM) to prevent theft of the levied amount.

CIEM only accepts wealthy churches as members. With more than 100 affiliated churches, it is a key source of income for Cash Luna. For example: One wealthy church with 500 members receives around 300 thousand dollars as tithes (600 dollars by member) and this church pays 30 thousand dollars (that is 10%) a month to CIEM. With over 100 churches, CIEM receives at least 3 million dollars a month or 40 million dollars a year tax free.



Claudio and Lucy began with reunions in their house. By September 2008, they managed to swindle enough to build their own luxurious "Community of God", located in Petrolera, the wealthiest neighborhood in the city. Cash Luna and his wife Sonia, arrived in their own private jet (the Westwind) from Guatemala to inaugurate their new franchise, bless the structure, and anoint their chosen ones.

The couple followed Cash Luna's formula; they had powerful politicians and successful businessmen as friends, prestigious cars, luxurious residences, expensive furniture, valuable objects, jewel boxes, and sacks of cash. In their nights of Worship and Miracles, Claudio conjured healings and expelled demons, 'zapping' them with Holy Spirit shaking. Most people believed that Claudio had been possessed by the Guatemalan miracle warrior Paladin, or the actual Mexican personification of Cash Luna. His images would be seen on fences, buses, and videos, and his followers multiplied like uncontrollable Ebola outbreaks.

Claudio was famous in town. In less than 8 years, he had acquired so much economic power, that he was envied equally by Evangelicals, Catholics, and Atheists. He often organized cultural recreation events, with the purpose of promoting himself. He had worked as a middleman for the family of the actress Salma Hayek, and so when he became an evangelical pastor, he had his hands in everything. His most profitable business was his church, but he also owned buses, taxi operation permit plates, and other businesses. Some people regarded him as a Saint, but many despised him as a seducer.

Claudio's biography is a history of numerous sins. He had redeemed some, but most of his neighbors were grateful that God took him away, and set the town free. He openly

seduced minors. The younger the more he liked it. In other words, he was a pedophile. Miss Ada remembers that he would get in a good mood when he was introduced to young girls... he would close his bible and took them for lunch. Sadly, he left this corner of the world without virgins.

On Monday, June 23rd 2013... around 7 am, Lucy was cooking breakfast in the kitchen, when two hooded men entered the house. They threatened her with a knife, tied her feet and hands with industrial tape and gagged her. They went upstairs to the second floor where Claudio was lying and they attacked him with a knife.



Luz (Lucy) Margarita Enriquez Martínez

From the kitchen, Lucy heard Claudio begging for his life, but to no avail. They executed him. They cut his jugular vein, they sliced off his penis, cut off his testicles, and stabbed him 25 times in the genital area. Later, the hooded murderers left the house as they entered, without having cut any fence, forced any lock, broken any window, set off the alarm, or alerted the dog.

Meanwhile Lucy waited until 9 am for the arrival of their maid Evangelina Martinez Porfirio who untied her. They went upstairs, inspected the scene where Claudia lay in an enormous puddle of blood without verifying whether her husband was still alive. Lucy went down to the kitchen, pulled her cell phone out of her purse and called the emergency service.

The authorities arrived at 9:40 am, led by the regional deputy attorney, Jorge Yunis Manzanares. Lucy, being the only witness, said that the attackers had not stolen anything, nonetheless, Yunis Manzanares immediately declared that this kind of crime was typical of the numerous thefts that happened in the city.

Surprisingly, the police did not steal anything. There was money spread all over the place, since the previous day was Father's day, Claudio had received more than 3 million pesos (300 thousand dollars) from his followers, not to mention Lucy's jewels, gold trinkets, and personal diamonds, inside the house.

The next day being a Tuesday, the burial preparation started. Hundreds of faithful, friends and relatives arrived to Comunidad de Dios, to bid the last farewell to the beloved spiritual leader. There wasn't enough room and people settled in the parking area and upon the sidewalks.



Image of the funeral...

Cash Luna arrived early in his private jet, and following CIEM's hierarchy he did the eulogy: "He was a beloved being, dear, a hero in the region... valued.... We must be faithful Christians... the bishops and those who teach the word deserve double honor so community may be an example for the city, the State and the whole of Mexico... have patience until Lucy adjusts... don't be ungrateful and impatient... what is needed now is faith and loyalty. Cash Luna was placing his hands in the fire (on behalf of the deceased pastor).

The plot that was developing, just as Hamlet said when asked where Polonio was, whom he had just murdered. He (Claudio) is not where he eats, but where they eat. A conference of worms is eating him now. We feed creatures to eat them, and we feed ourselves for the worms to eat us when we die... Man fishes with the worm that ate a king and then eats the fish he caught with that worm... That teaches us that a king can go through the bowels of a beggar... I will say no more.

Later... Claudio's coffin left toward Lomas de Paz, with the infidels and the nousey far away. Lucy, dressed as a movie star, climbed into a luxury SUV. Accompanied by her family and several pastors, she faced the multitude and said: "I am so grateful with everybody who shares this sorrow with me. I thank you all for your support... thank you, thank you, thank you.

Chaos reigned outside the cemetery. Only true Christians were allowed to enter. Enormous lines formed at the entrance. Hundreds of cars blocked the streets... everyone in Coatzacoalcos speaks evil of "Comunidad de Dios", they discriminate people... things will go from bad to worse... because we are not rich, yelled the disgruntled people. Since the press was present they finally let everybody in.

At 11:00 am Claudio's coffin arrived to the Mausoleum. Amidst crying, tears and shouts, people sang songs and leaders spoke words promising everybody that Claudio would

protect them from his heavenly abode. Cash Luna, standing next to Lucy, told them to keep on supporting her. No matter what the consequences are, since she was a marvelous preacher, a great mother and an exemplary wife... The intense applause, the white balloons, the flower arrangements and the honor ranks didn't matter to Lucy. She had already withdrawn. The faster she broke links with Claudio, the happier she was.

Friday June 21, 2013 and almost 100 hours after Claudio's murder, Lucy finally decided to appear at midnight under cover of darkness, at the office of the attorney general, to give her first declaration. When she was questioned on her delay, she said "The reason that it took me so long to come is because no one advised me to do so, I was confused and in pain". Her version of the events had been well rehearsed.

The prosecuting attorney, had truly extended Lucy an unusual grace term. Any other citizen in the State of Veracruz, would have been arrested by a platoon of policemen, tortured in the genitals with electric devices before being taken with a confession to the procurement office with legendary courtesy.

Declaration by Lucy Martinez

June 21, 2013

(Impersonal – disconnected from the horrible event).

I stood up as every morning to fix breakfast for my children, I took them to school, I got back and parked my SUV in the garage, I went upstairs where Claudio was asleep since the previous night we celebrated Father's Day at church, I tried to fall asleep but I couldn't, I woke up and went to the market to buy chicken and vegetables to eat, I got back home and when I entered the house I noticed that the door was open.

There I found the presence of two men who when they saw me pounced upon me. They agreed to tie me and one pulled out gray duct tape. Which I saw at the moment they covered my mouth, then they tied my hands and feet, cut my dress with a white pocket knife, a blue flowery dress as a robe that I had on.

The man who stayed at my side while the other one went upstairs, told me that if I moved he was going to kill me. I was afraid of his threats and I froze, then I saw how the other man went upstairs and I heard my husband's voice, it was a voice of pain and even though we learned personal defense, I couldn't manage to distinguish what he said because I was very afraid and crying, besides Claudio knew that there shouldn't be any resistance at the moment of an assault, a little later the silence was deep and then

the 2 men were already in the common room, that my husband, son and I shared, due to how costly it is when it comes to the light bills.

I saw how the men went down stairs again, I pretended to faint and as one of them walked towards me, I peed on myself. At that moment the other man told him to leave me because someone could come, then they walked to the front door and left. Due to my crying the duct tape came loose and I was able ask for help screaming "Claudio help me" without getting any response. I watched the clock we have in the kitchen advance until the hour came when our maid named Evangelina Martinez Porfirio arrived to work. Then I asked for help, she untied me and we went to the room where we found the Pastor's body.

During the cross examination, several inconsistencies became evident. Lucy knew much more than what she was telling and her story was hard to believe. She never produced any evidence, the torn dress, her stinky and urinated panties. The maid testified that the tape was brown and not gray, Lucy didn't have tape on her mouth when she was found, and there was no piece of tape on the floor. Even harder to believe was the idea that the murderers counted with Lucy going suddenly to the market to buy chicken and vegetables as part of their strategy.

Sunday, June 23 2013, Comunidad de Dios celebrated their first service without Claudio. Lucy arrived in company with Pastor Hugo Lopez, the Cash Luna's right hand man. Dressed in black and without tears she asked the congregation to ignore the nasty rumors and juicy gossip which had been triggered while she continued deceiving her followers with impunity and publicly retelling the differing versions of what happened to gain everyone's pity.

Escorted by her administrators and elders she requested that they take care of her and her family, and she washed their feet in public, in order to purify their souls. The most touching was the letter written by Claudio days before his death, that said that if something happened to him, he would leave the church under Cash Luna's sponsorship, with Lucy in charge, until her children, Brandon and Claudio Jr, became adults and able to lead the prayer services at Church. What a disgrace!

Lucy was already celebrating her new freedom and single widow status. After being subjected to an alcohol test when she was driving, it was found to be over the limit and she received a fine, but her powerful connections managed to keep this from going public in the newspapers. She was also seen in company of her new partner, a topic that began before Claudio was executed (more later).



On June 26, 2013, barely nine days after her husband's assassination, workers supervised by Lucy loaded an enormous truck with her belongings, ignoring completely the tape and signs that established the house as a crime scene. The penal code of Veracruz (code 214) says: "No property act" -- access is prohibited to property owners, holders, auditors, or managers, during the process of a penal case. In other words, she erased all the evidence, and as they say in France: "Every assassin returns to the crime scene".

A few day later, Lucy made the leaders of Comunidad de Dios resign and several people left the church, disgruntled. The five Sunday services were cut to four and as a result, the tithe flow diminished. She sold off her house, the church parking lot and other goods, without caring for the consequences. The office of the state prosecuting attorney became powerless. Protected by her powerful evangelical friends, Lucy did what she wanted, while Cash Luna anointed the doubters, to retain their loyalty (according to trustworthy sources).

All the studies and statistical data point to a passionate motive by someone very close to the victim. Information filtered by the investigators revealed a sexual relationship between Claudio and the very young, tanned, elegant and flirtatious daughter of a high ranking government officer, living in Coatzacoalcos. Infuriated, he confronted Claudio about his behavior and Claudio heatedly responded; "You might have a lot of power, but I have a lot of money". The officer allegedly hired professional killers, who slept inside the house the previous night with the intent of killing Claudio Martinez. They could have killed Lucy, but that clause was not included in the contract, they (the investigators) said. A few days later, Claudio lay in an enormous puddle of his own blood, along with his penis and testicles on the other pillow.

It could be that Lucy conspired with the officer, but it is more likely that Claudio's genital centric execution motive emanated from affection within the family, given that Claudio had a sexual affair with his niece, the very young daughter of Lucy's brother and he got her pregnant. This would have given Lucy a very powerful motive since "hell has no fury like a woman scorned" by her underage niece. Lucy was fed up of Claudio's serial infidelity and she yearned to see him banned from earth.

The more likely sequence of events

It is more likely that the story happened like this: Lucy drugged Claudio early in the morning, when she brought coffee to him. She took the kids to school, while she waited for the drugs to set in, and when she returned, she saw that she needed to wait longer. Without any emotions, she went to the market to buy food, to give the drugs more time to work. Upon returning, she hit him and saw that he didn't react.

Knowing that the moment was now or never, Lucy went downstairs again, pulled the knife that she had chosen and ran again to the second floor. First she cut Claudio's jugular vein, to take him down and disable him. In a fit of uncontrollable rage, she thrust onto Claudio's genitals and she started to stab, stab, stab until she was exhausted.

Each stab was in revenge for a known infidelity. During her frantic attack, she got the idea to slice that nasty and unfaithful penis and realizing how easy it was, she decided to slice his testicles too. Lucy's spectacular vengeance came from a woman, wife and mother who had been serially disdained.

After the execution, she cleaned herself, changed into the flower dress, hid her bloody clothing and the knife, left the main door open, tied herself with tape and sat a while to wait for the maid to come.

Lucy had solved two problems: She had eliminated her husband, that serial underage-girl fornicator, and she was free to continue her unfaithfulness with her bodyguard and driver, whom we will examine later, and with her mentor Cash Luna from whom she had sought spiritual advice about her husband's unfaithfulness.

Felix Lorenzo Hernandez, the Honduran gardener who took care of the couple's shrubs, testified that he had seen many heated fights and heard shouting exchanges between Claudio and Lucy during the last three months and that he was present during the last two fights, one of which had occurred just days earlier. The gardener didn't know anything about the murder since he would arrive to work on Mondays at 10 am, and that morning he was as surprised as everyone else, when he arrived and found out about it.

How did Lucy manage to deflect guilt?

Lucy's diverse stories were sinking her. Claudio's enemies, were now Lucy's friends, because she had done a great favor to many persons. Thus the spiritual leaders of Coatzacoalcos closed ranks to make sure justice in Veracruz would be fast and efficient and at the same time they diverted guilt.

On the other side of Town, the electrician's union was engaged in conflict with the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) on charges of corruption and in the next elections Comunidad de Dios would vote in a bloc, against the then current government.



The four employees accused of murdering Claudio

Four union employees, pointed out as trouble makers were chosen as the scape goats for Lucy: Adrian Zaldivar Valencia, Felipe Vicente Cortes Rodriguez, Roberto Lara Velazquez and Jorge Arturo Jara Garcia. They were kidnapped and taken to unknown places and tortured three days with electric discharges on their genitals and bodies.

During the torture, the four men confessed to having executed Claudio and signed confessions that established they had visited Claudio's house to scare him, without having the intention to kill him or steal something. Armed with this "sound evidence", the four men were presented to Judge Ignacio Ochoa Jimenez, who immediately declared them guilty. The authorities, euphoric with the investigative results, could not believe their good luck. Not to mention Lucy.

In front of the judge, everybody denied the accusations. Jara Gomez accused them of making up the truth: "I have never had the pleasure to meet the Pastor and there was no reason to kill him.... I have been threatened that if I don't follow to the letter those apocryphal declarations I would regret it throughout my life... I fear for my family and my life... I was told that they would return for me. The union blocked the city roads during several days and the families accused the state Attorney General of having exonerated Lucy with scapegoats.

Luckily for everybody, on December 10, 2013, Mexico's federal judge, Fidel Quinones Rodriguez ordered that the state judge, Uriel Dominguez Collo, review the case and ignore all testimonies obtained under torture. Even though justice is slow in Mexico, in June 2014, the accused were finally exonerated, set free and rewarded economically. For Lucy, the exonerated of the scapegoats was disappointing, because the compass pointed to her again.



Luz (Lucy) Margarita Enriquez Martínez

On August 30, 2013, Lucy arrived to the courthouse as a movie star, to update her story and face the four defendants. During five hours, Lucy expanded and rectified her previous testimony. Now she said that theft was the crime motive and that the men had stolen 10,000 pesos from the safe, a watch worth 12,000 pesos, and emergency money from a wallet and she added that she was very impressed by the theft and murder of her husband. Now she recognized the two aggressors by their eyebrows, eyes and gestures. The scapegoats' attorney reminded her that on June 17, she said that there had been 3 aggressors and that now she said there were two and that she had said in public that they had taken the safe away.

Trapped in her web of lies, Lucy tried to deflect the guilt again, when she produced an anonymous and spurious letter, that she said she had received on June 20, 2013, that she did not turn in to the prosecuting attorney until July 1st, 2013, naming Irving Carmona, Diana Torres Estrada, Antonio Alor Solis and Isaac Sosa as responsible for the crime. Nobody bothered to investigate or follow up because nobody believed her.

During the confrontation between Lucy and the scapegoats, an uproar arose in the court room when it was discovered that Lucy's attorney and the prosecutor were inducing Lucy to identify two of the scapegoats as responsible for the murder, and in order to obfuscate her acts, Lucy pretended to faint spectacularly. The scapegoat's attorney, Enrique Renteria Zavaleta, declared during their cross examination that Lucy had contradicted her previous testimony so much, that up to that moment no murder motive had been established.

On Tuesday December 3, 2013, it was the maid Evangelina Martinez Porfirio's turn to testify, but she did not appear. On December 10, 2013, they found her mysteriously murdered with a baseball bat or a club in Villahermosa. Nobody has investigated it, but it is very likely that Lucy was in Villahermosa during those days. On December 9, 2013, Lucy's attorneys, Mario Castaneda and Associates, announced that they had ceased providing legal counsel to pastor Lucy and pointed out that they no longer had a relationship with her.

In April 2014, Lucy collected on a life insurance policy worth 3 million dollars for her husband's death and she initiated the probate/inheritance process to keep everything. Judge Jose Luis Guevara Coubert decided in favor of Lucy in less than 15 days, something that in Mexico normally takes a year. Lucy had appropriated and stolen everything. She didn't care about the four electrician's fate, falsely accused of her husband's death.

In June 2014, Pastor Lucy disappeared from Coatzacoalcos and was seen later in Miami, living the high life, before traveling to Guatemala, where she was under the protection of Cash Luna. The author sent a series of detailed questions via email to CIEM (Centro Internacional de Estudios Ministeriales), about his relationship to Pastor Lucy and Comunidad de Dios, but Marly de Armas, spokesperson for the department of communication of Casa de Dios, did not follow up our request.

Cash Luna is not a stupid man and he must suspect deeply that Pastor Lucy murdered Claudio and Evangelina in cold blood. In order to clean up the mud from off of the evangelical's image, he should advise Lucy to turn herself in and admit her crimes. If he doesn't, he is covering up for her and is an accomplice of capital crimes.

I paraphrase: "I am ashamed that "evangelical" criminals, wrapped up with fur coats and silk ties, remain at large, while they drink martinis and enjoy the sunrise. I am indignant, that these pastors believe they are kings, with their jewels, earrings and nose rings, ruling the lives of thousands, from Tierra del Fuego to Paris. Great negotiators, fake healers and haters, deceit and proposal masters. They carry the mantle of decency, all of them unbelievers and thieves of men, speaking in the name of God.

May 9, 2015

Investigation Update

Information received between September 2014 and May 2015 reveal that Lucy's sentimental partner is her bodyguard and driver, Gustavo Martinez Vincent, with whom she was involved much earlier and whom Claudio had expelled from Church. Today they share a love nest, installed by Pastor Lucy in the harbor of Veracruz.

Originally a minor politician from Mexico City and a former police officer of Poza Rica with unpayable debts, Martinez Vincent set up a self-kidnap to fund his economical problems. Later he appeared in Coatzacoalcos and arrived to church in 2012, with his dad, mother and sisters, where he volunteered as security person in charge. He became Claudio's trust man and later he became a headache, conflictive and totally untrustworthy, but not for Lucy.

In April 2013, Lucy traveled to New York to a fashion event and returned to Mexico City, where Martinez Vincent arrived, the body guard. On finding this out, Claudio and the leaders of Comunidad de Dios got together and the conclave concluded very angrily, with women crying and Lucy's fate uncertain,

Months before the murder, Claudio reprimanded Martinez Vincent for borrowing large amounts of money from church members that he should pay back but he didn't. Martinez Vincent demanded Claudio take over the debt and he set June 15, 2013 as deadline. Claudio was murdered on June 17.

Pastor Cande, second in command in Comunidad de Dios under Claudio, knows the truth about the facts, but he left the church and Coatzacoalcos with his family, and received death threats by the closest person to Pastor Lucy.

Martinez Vincent is a key person in the facts and the authorities haven't even called him to declare. The prosecutor Luis Angel Bravo Contreras and the deputy prosecutor Javier Carrillo Almeida, have taken a permanent siesta on this case.

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