What is your innovation?
Our application is a web-based interface written in PHP, JavaScript, and AJAX — capable of working with real-time data updates — to allow users to upload data and also extract data from other online sources automatically. The application can be used to collect a wide range of indicators in English and Spanish, but will be specially designed for collecting data on victims of violence and human abuses. The application will be heavily encrypted to guarantee user anonymity and security.

Who gains the most?
Since our pilot of this application is focused on documenting the experiences of victims in Mexico, we believe that this initiative can help to identify and bear witness to thousands (and possibly tens of thousands) of crime victims that have died, disappeared, or lost loved ones over the last several years. More broadly, this application can help to document and respond to problems of violence that occur in many other places around the world.

Who pays?
Our goal is to use this pilot application to gain longer term support for this and similar ventures. Ideally, once developed through the support of the Social Innovation Challenge, this application will provide a tool for soliciting future grant/donor support for data gathering efforts. Currently, there is great interest in supporting innovative ICT-driven data gathering initiatives from organizations like the Open Society Foundation and the World Bank.

What is your success?
The best metric for this project is will be the information we compile and its use. We will launch the application by August 2014, and hope to identify over 5,000 cases of victims in the first 12 months, at least 20,000 cases over three years, and over 30,000 cases within five years. More important, we hope that this data will inform public policy decisions in the United States and Mexico, as measured by the documented use of this information by officials in both countries (e.g., govt. reports).

How will you do it?
We will spend the first two months of this summer working with a professional coder to design and test the application, we will test and refine a beta version of the application during the month of August, and launch the application by the end of August. We will meet on a weekly basis to have "hack" sessions to work on the application, and we collaborate closely with experts from Justice in Mexico to identify the parameters of the application to test its specific use in the Mexican context.