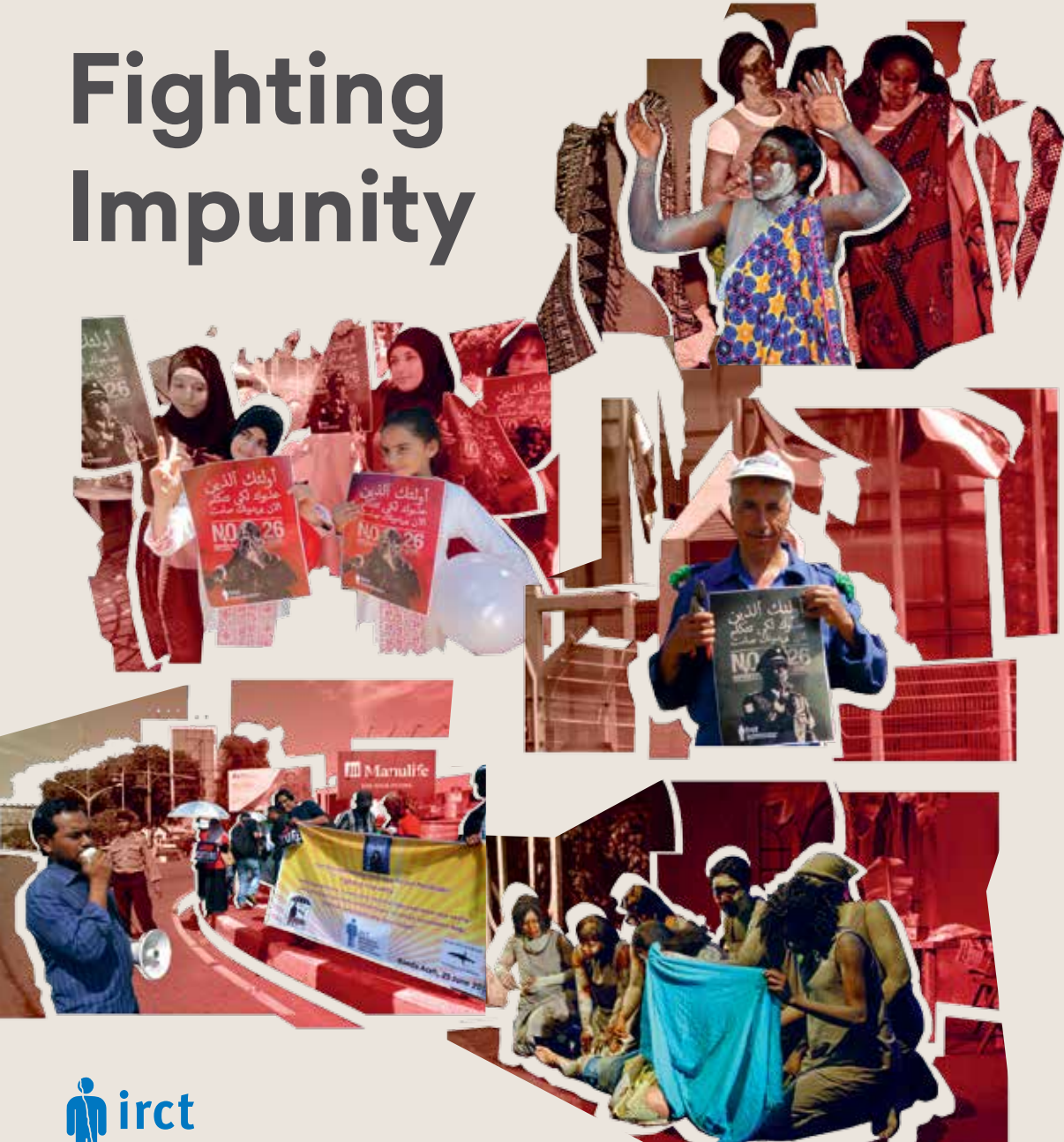


GLOBAL REPORT
on the UN International Day in
Support of Victims of Torture
26 June 2014

Fighting Impunity



**THOSE WHO
TORTURED YOU
TO SPEAK
NOW WANT YOU
SILENT**

**FIGHTING
IMPUNITY**

**26 JUNE
2014**

2014 Global Report on the UN international Day in Support of Victims of Torture

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an independent, international health-based human rights organisation, which promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims, promotes access to justice and works for the prevention of torture worldwide. The vision of the IRCT is a world without torture.

This report has been prepared on the basis of information available at the date of publication. The IRCT does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information in this publication. Some of the organisations mentioned in this report are not affiliated with the IRCT and thus the IRCT does not accept liability for views expressed by those organisations. Listing of organisations in this report does not in any way imply endorsement.

The views expressed in this report can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the below institutions. The country activities portrayed in this report are based on the submission of reports received from campaign participants.



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Foreword

Fighting impunity and promoting a world without torture

The UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June is the day in which people and organisations from around the world commemorate and honour the victims of torture and stand united in the fight against this crime. It is also a day where torture rehabilitation centres, small and large, take the opportunity to share with the world their work and achievements and victims of torture tell their stories to promote awareness.

To the IRCT, 26 June 2014 was a day of optimism. An astounding 110 organisations worldwide took part in marking the day and thousands of people helped share this year's message against impunity.

Everyone has a right to justice and rehabilitation and an important step in ending the suffering of torture victims is to ensure that perpetrators are brought to court. It is just as important that torture survivors receive some form of redress while we take all necessary steps to prevent the violation from happening again.

“The IRCT has for years, through training, advocacy and awareness-raising, worked to promote the value and use of medical documentation of torture in the fight against impunity.”

In this context, Fighting Impunity is something that the IRCT and our members feel very strongly about. In all regions of the world, crimes of torture are committed every day against men, women and children. In most cases, no one is prosecuted and punished for them.

In the days leading up to 26 June and on the day, organisations around the world made it clear that fighting impunity is high on their list of objectives. They all found their unique ways to voice their stance through a string of activities including seminars, lectures, music and theatre performances, sporting events and peaceful protests, all calling on the authorities, the media and the public to take a stand against torture and impunity.

As this report shows, 26 June gave many organisations the opportunity to cast a much needed light on the many cases of impunity around the world and to spread the message that torture should not be tolerated. In many countries, government and

state representatives acknowledged the contribution of anti-torture organisations by meeting with the local communities to discuss what measures can be taken to protect the survivors and to punish the perpetrators.

While we felt encouraged, it was clear from listening to torture victims, member centres, legal and medical professionals and representatives from academia that the anti-torture movement has a long way to go. The IRCT has for years, through training, advocacy and awareness-raising, worked to promote the value and use of medical documentation of torture. Together with other anti-torture organisations around the world we will continue the mission of eliminating impunity and promoting a world without torture.



Suzanne Jabbour

Suzanne Jabbour
President



Victor Madrigal-Borloz

Victor Madrigal-Borloz
Secretary-General

26 June: Global Campaign

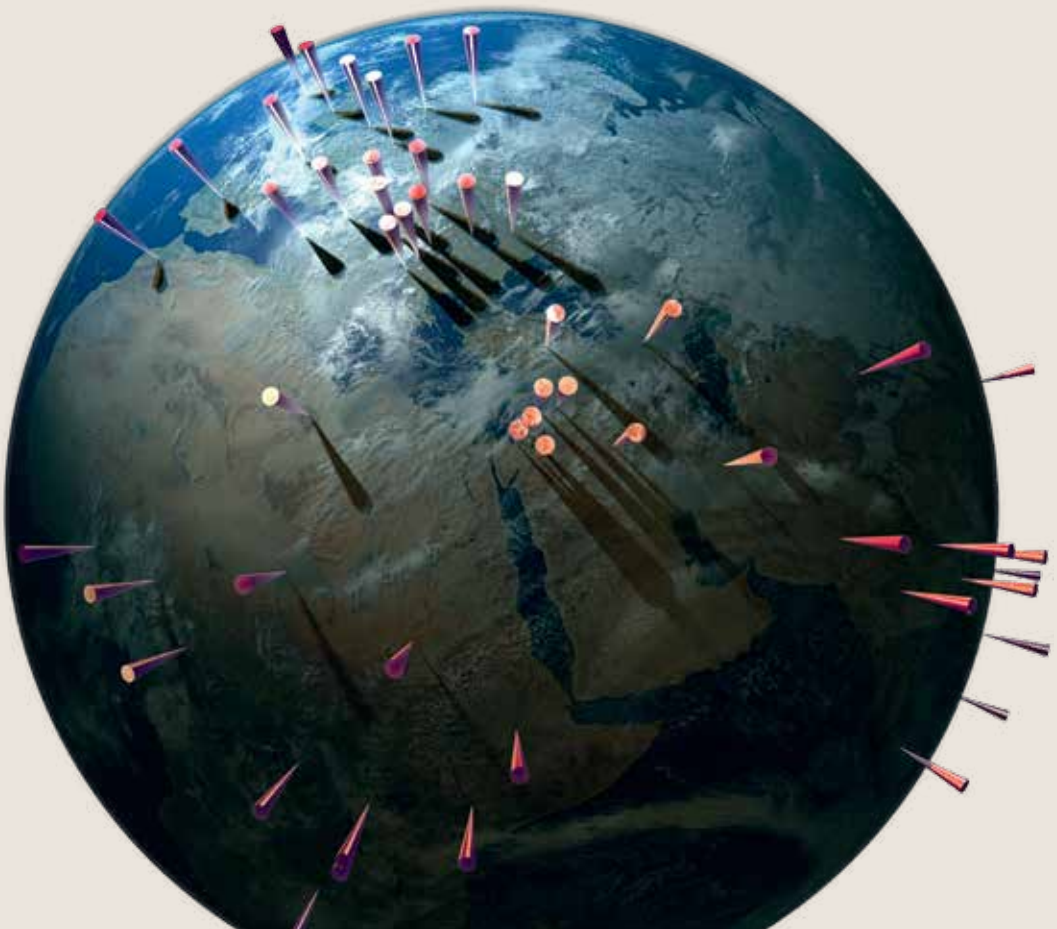
Each year thousands gather across the world to together call for an end to torture.

From the Philippines to Turkey to Venezuela, IRCT member centres and others who join our campaign call for an end to the horrific practice of torture. Some actions are local: organisations highlight the specific ways in which torture takes place in each country and the need for rehabilitation services. Others call on their national gov-

ernments to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and advocate for the rehabilitation for asylum seekers and refugees. The IRCT brings together these voices into a global campaign. The Global Report highlights the stories of those who joined in this cause to end torture, provide justice for the victims and rehabilitate survivors.

Help us to continue our campaign on 26 June by sharing this booklet. Join us next year as well to call for support for the victims of torture worldwide and contribute to the fight against torture.

Thank you. We look forward to working with you next year.



Participants 2014

Asia

BCHRD, Bangladesh
CRTS, Bangladesh
TPO, Cambodia
CCTV, India
CORE H2H, India
TTSP, India
VRCT, India
ALDP, Indonesia
RATA, Indonesia
SIKAP, Indonesia
GOLOS SVOBODY, Kyrgyzstan
CVICT, Nepal
PPR Nepal, Nepal
CDC, Pakistan
HDO, Pakistan
SACH, Pakistan
AMSA, Philippines
MAG, Philippines
GTC, South Korea
KMHC, South Korea
Truth Foundation, South Korea
FRC, Sri Lanka
HRO-Kandy, Sri Lanka
SA, Sri Lanka

Europe

ARCT, Albania
FAVL, Armenia
Vive Žene, Bosnia Herzegovina
RCT Zagreb, Croatia
DIGNITY, Denmark
FIACAT, France
Parcours d'Exil, France
Empathy, Georgia
GCRT, Georgia
BZFO, Germany
Cordelia Foundation, Hungary
SPIRASI, Ireland
VI.TO/CIR, Italy
KRCT, Kosovo
RCTV Memoria, Moldova
iMMO, The Netherlands
MRCT Craiova/iMMO, Romania

IAN CRTV, Serbia
ACPT, Spain
Red Cross Malmö, Sweden
IBJ, Switzerland
ICJHR, Switzerland
SOHRAM-CASRA, Turkey
TIVH/HRFT, Turkey
Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK
London Guantanamo Campaign, UK
REDRESS, UK
RTC, UK

Latin America and the Caribbean

EATIP, Argentina
ITEI, Bolivia
CAPS, Colombia
PRIVA, Ecuador
CPTRT, Honduras
CCTI, Mexico
CAPS, Perú
Foro Penal, Venezuela
Red de Apoyo, Venezuela

Middle East and North Africa

ODVV, Iran
Jiyan Foundation, Iraq
PCATI, Israel
CVT, Jordan
CLDH, Lebanon
Khiam Center, Lebanon
AMRVT, Morocco
GCMHP, Palestine
TRC, Palestine
ACTRVT, Sudan
SNHR, Syria

North America

CCVT, Canada
AACI-CST, USA
AHRC, USA
CVT, USA
FCST, USA
Heartland Alliance, USA
PTV, USA
Survivors of Torture, USA

Pacific

ASeTTS, Australia
STARTTS, Australia
STTARS, Australia
The Justice Campaign, Australia

Sub-Saharan Africa

SAP/GL, Burundi
FEPNET, Cameroon
AJPNV, Chad
ADIAH, DR Congo
AVVDH, DR Congo
CMM-ASBL, DR Congo
GIPROCOME, DR Congo
REMAK, DR Congo
SAVE CONGO, DR Congo
SOS JED, DR Congo
SOVIP, DR Congo
CVT, Ethiopia
CAT, Kenya
CVT Dabaab, Kenya
CVT Nairobi, Kenya
IMLU, Kenya
MATESO, Kenya
LAPS, Liberia
RAL, Liberia
PRAWA, Nigeria
UYISENGA N'MANZI, Rwanda
AfriForum, South Africa
HRMC, South Africa
TCSVT, South Africa
CACIT, Togo
HRC, Zambia

Campaign Materials

Every year the IRCT seeks to support the members and other anti-torture organisations to host their own campaigns by providing them with a comprehensive campaign kit which is available at www.irct.org/26june

Posters and other visual materials

This year's 26 June campaign boasted a wide range of print materials, including a number of colourful campaign posters in different languages. These post-

ers could be used for local printing on t-shirts, badges or stickers or simply downloaded to be used in documents or on social networks.



This year's kit included a number of different posters, a 4-page brochure for background information, a campaign guide, factsheets, a statement for a global reading and an Oscar-nominated documentary for film screening.

The Campaign Guide



The IRCT campaign guide is the result of many contributions from organisations that, over the years, have commemorated 26 June. The guide provides ideas and practical advice from centres that have previously held 26 June events. The guide also helps organisations through the different stages leading up to 26 June, including what kind of events to hold, how to plan and coordinate and how to reach out to the media.

Theme brochure



Organisations were able to download a short 4-page brochure, available in three languages, to find background information on impunity or to use as handout and/or in response to inquiries.

Film Screening



This year, the IRCT had secured the rights to the Oscar-nominated documentary, 'The Act of Killing' by Joshua Oppenheimer. This gave organisations the opportunity to host their very own film screening as part of their 26 June campaign.

Fact-sheets



The IRCT factsheets were created to help increase the understanding and visibility of the problem of torture and a number of related issues. Available in four different languages, they were used by most of the organisations as handouts and/or in response to inquiries.



성상하기 조사자 방문을 환영하는 날

우리의 존경을 표현하는 날

NO IMPUNITY TORTURE

أنت ملك الدين
أنت ملك لكى صكك
أنت ملك سيات
NO 26
2015

Against Torture
&
Ill Treatment
26 June
Fighting Impunity

26 June 2014 Activities

With more than 100 organisations participating in this year's 26 June commemoration, there was an incredibly high number of activities across the world, ranging from educational events to cultural initiatives.



Informational & Educational Activities

Once again, conferences, seminars and panel discussions proved to be very popular with the organisations. Either for the purpose of raising awareness about torture, to present and discuss local means of prevention or to present the activities undertaken for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, workshops and lectures are an effective way to educate and share knowledge. Other informational and educational activities organised for 26 June include distribution of informational material, testimonies by torture survivors, radio quizzes, film screenings and open houses.



Activities for Children

Many schools, youth clubs or children's camps held essay or art exhibitions of works done by their students to encourage them to understand the problem of torture and its impact on people and communities.



Cultural Activities

Many organisations around the world chose to celebrate 26 June with cultural performances such as songs, theatre shows and traditional dances. Often, cultural performances attract great interest from the general public giving more visibility to the message being conveyed.



Film Screenings

This year, the IRCT offered organisations the opportunity to screen the Oscar-nominated documentary, 'The Act of Killing' by Joshua Oppenheimer as part of the 26 June campaign. The screening initiative was a great success with many organisations across the different continents hosting their very own film screening.



Political Activities

This year, some of the political activities taking place included political protests, petition or letter writing campaigns, and distributions of reports urging governments and politicians to take action to combat torture.

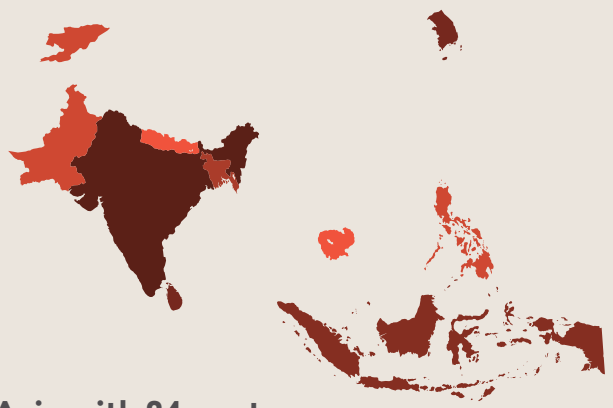


Other Activities

Many other activities were organised in commemoration of 26 June, such as sporting events, matches, races, religious or prayer ceremonies, candle-light vigils, visits to prisons.



In the Global Report, we need more than words to show what happened on 26 June. Many activities take place all over the world, but while their goal is the same, their shape and colour is much different. That's what we want to capture and show. So please do send us your pictures from your June 26 events.



Asia

26 June was a great success in Asia with 24 centres from 10 countries participating.

In the days leading up to 26 June and throughout the day people were able to join training sessions, forums and seminars or simply support the fight against torture on social media.

A member centre in Cambodia hosted their regular radio show to discuss torture, impunity and rehabilitation in the country, reaching hundreds of listeners.

Organisation also found a way of including and engaging with children by organising an art competition for children followed by a discussion and prize giving ceremony.

At one centre in Sri Lanka, nearly 1,000 people took part in the activities with torture survivors present on the day reporting a significant boost to their self-esteem. Another centre successfully reached around 1,600 people across north and eastern Sri Lanka through a range of events and activities.

BCHRD - Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development **Bangladesh**

BCHRD had a two-pronged approach to 26 June this year with a week of Right to Life Protection Training (RLPT) leading up to 26 June, where a public protest took place against torture and organised violence, particularly against women. Over 30 people joined the training sessions from 21-25 June, held to empower young women by making them aware of their human rights. These trainings culminated on 26 June when BCHRD staff and members of the public present-

ed the IRCT materials in a colourful public protest in Dhaka.

“Extrajudicial killings, rape and kidnappings are becoming ways to silence women,” said BCHRD Executive Director Mahbul Haque. “Torture, particularly the ill-treatment of women, has turned into a social disease. This day allows us to begin ridding of the disease of torture and to begin building a torture free society.”



Young girls planting a tree at one of the FRC events in Sri Lanka



IRCT MEMBER

CRTS - Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors Bangladesh

A roundtable conference kicked off the CRTS day, with its topic focusing on torture and its prevention in Bangladesh. Among the attendees was the Honourable Superintendent of the local police force, Saled Mohammad Tanvir, who was the chief guest in the proceedings.

So impressed was Mr Tanvir with the IRCT materials and CRTS's continued effort in fighting torture that in front of the public and journalists he suggested a change to the current Police Act which

would bring in tougher regulations on police officers who think they are above the law and torture detainees.

After the discussion there was an art competition for children followed by a discussion and prize giving ceremony at the Public Library Auditorium. This event, which had the theme of fighting impunity running throughout, was attended by over 300 people and was either broadcast or published in five major national news outlets.



IRCT MEMBER

TPO Cambodia – Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Cambodia

Social media, a radio show and a new published report on torture were the ways in which TPO marked 26 June.

In the days leading up to 26 June, TPO encouraged their friends, staff and Facebook fans to share messages of support for victims of torture across the globe to show the global strive for a torture free world. The participation was much higher than anticipated and actually broke TPO's social media interaction record.

Following this, TPO made recommendations on how to eradicate torture and impunity for inclusion in a new publication by the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights.

On 13 June, staff from TPO hosted their regular radio show on WMC radio to discuss torture, impunity and rehabilitation in Cambodia. The radio show was rebroadcast on 24 June and 27 June and reached hundreds of listeners.



IRCT MEMBER

CCTV - Centre for Care of Torture Victims India

Several programmes marked the day in Hasnabad, West Bengal, on the Indo-Bangladesh border. A team of CCTV staff visited a Border Security Force camp in the week leading up to 26 June, raising with local guards the issues of trafficking, torture and impunity apparent with people crossing the border. The meeting was met positively and further options will be explored in the future. Alongside this CCTV focused on e-campaigning via social media and emails, circulating the IRCT

campaign materials to over 500 people. Finishing the 26 June events was a seminar in Hasnabad High School where attendees included the District Judge, members of the Court and officials from border control. Over 200 students attended the meeting, discussing what more can be done to end torture on a local and global scale.



IRCT MEMBER

CORE – Centre for Organisation Research & Education – Human to Human Transcultural Centre for Trauma & Torture (H2H) India

Staff from CORE-H2H offered a training workshop for those working with victims of torture from 24–27 June to help counsellors, volunteers and human rights defenders tackle any accumulation of trauma they may have as a result of their work.

The training programme included in-house team members of H2H and CORE and psychosocial counsellors from REACH-M and their project 'Humanitarian support to the people affected by conflict in Manipur'.

CORE-H2H also issued a press statement on 26 June calling for an end to torture and impunity, highlighting their progress over the years and how much work is still required going forward: since its inception CORE-H2H has treated over 300 registered survivors of torture, of which 129 continue to receive treatment and rehabilitation services. However, 39 of these were new cases registered from April 2013 to April 2014. Torture is still very much a prevalent issue.



IRCT MEMBER

TTSP - Tibetan Torture Survivors Program Indian

TTSP used posters, banners and t-shirts to spread the message to fight torture and impunity at a public event in Mcleod Ganj, the town in north India where they and the Tibetan Government operate in exile.

At the event, held at the local school, speakers gave presentations on the status of torture across the globe and Tibetan monk Golog Jigme – who recently escaped Chinese torture and captivity in Tibet – told his story to the crowd.

Members of the public were encouraged to take the IRCT campaign materials home with them and to speak with TTSP staff on the day, including TTSP Coordinator Sonam Dolma, about how they can help tackle torture in the future. There was also a group photograph to mark the day.



TTSP used posters, banners and t-shirts to spread the message to fight torture and impunity at a public event in Mcleod Ganj.



IRCT MEMBER

VRCT - Vasavya Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims Indian

A roundtable discussion to increase the participation of NGOs in the rehabilitation of torture survivors and law enforcement in justice proceedings was held on 26 June.

Methods of torture and medical and psychological implications were clarified by Dr. P. Deeksha, Medical Director of VRCT, and Dr. G. Samaram, former

National President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), who explained just how torture impacts on a person. They also advocated the needs for greater investment in the areas of psychosocial support and therapy programmes, and called for further investment in the upgrading of rehabilitation centres.



IRCT MEMBER

ALDP - Alliance of Democracy for Papua Indonesia

“I was tied up in one rope with other friends, like a chain. After that, they commanded us to crawl from the side yard of the house to the front yard while being beaten up by the police and the soldiers.”

That's just one method of torture 48-year-old Salmon Windesi endured at the hands of Indonesian police, arrested alongside five other men in February 2014 for their opposition to the state.

All six men have complained of torture under police interrogation since their arrests. To call for their release in the most powerful manner, ALDP released a press statement on 26 June calling for the Indonesian authorities to uphold their anti-torture obligations and stop the torture of political opponents, such as the six men documented in their release.

At the time of writing, the men still remain in prison.



IRCT MEMBER

RATA - Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims in Aceh Indonesia

Staff from RATA got out into the field for their 26 June activities by visiting mentally disabled clients deprived of their liberties in eight districts, as well as hosting a torture awareness campaign in the city of Banda Aceh on 25 June.

The visits, which took place in the days surrounding 26 June, aimed to provide physical and psychological support to mentally disabled patients who have suffered torture in the Bireuen district in

north-west Indonesia. Staff provided food, assistance in eating and help with shopping and education needs.

With the help of colleagues from nearby NGOs, RATA staff spoke to the public and distributed leaflets and IRCT materials at their 25 June event with the hope that they can use their increased fighting torture knowledge going forward.



RATA staff organised a torture awareness campaign, distributing leaflets and IRCT materials to the public.

SIKAP - Civil Society Alliance against Torture Indonesia

Ahead of the presidential election on 9 July 2014, SIKAP used 26 June to promote the obligations Indonesia has under the UN Convention against Torture and campaigned for the new government to renew their focus on fighting torture and impunity in the country.

On 26 June, alongside a statement to the press

and government officials, 20 activists and staff from the centre declared their commitment to fighting torture and impunity through an event in Medan City, including a theatrical art performance, distribution of IRCT materials containing the fighting impunity theme and speeches to the crowd.



GOLOS SVOBODY organised a football tournament which allowed a range of government representatives to come together to discuss how to tackle torture.



IRCT MEMBER

GOLOS SVOBODY Public Foundation Kyrgyzstan

A football tournament coloured with the IRCT campaign materials and specially printed t-shirts lit up the stadium of the Football Federation of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek.

The purpose of the tournament was to unite employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Penitentiary Service and other legal and government representatives from the region in an activity that was fun but had a serious message: torture must end.

fifty t-shirts, printed with slogans to end torture, were handed to all the participants who played for three hours and exchanged views on how torture can be best tackled in the country.

The tournament received local media coverage and following the day all those who attended were issued with certificates of thanks. There is hope the collaboration with the departments will continue in the future.



IRCT MEMBER

CVICT - Centre for Victims of Torture Nepal

Under the fighting impunity theme, CVICT staff and board members gathered in Kathmandu to express their solidarity and commitment to the anti-torture movement through the production of a large tapestry calling for the end of torture.

Since 1990, CVICT have been advocating for eradication of torture in Nepal and have directly served

43,000 torture survivors with rehabilitation, legal assistance and more through their 24 years of work. Recent surveys from CVICT show that incidences of torture are declining, however there is still a lot of work until this crime is prohibited. CVICT hope their continued support for 26 June will make this prohibition a reality.

PPR Nepal - Forum for Protection of People's Rights Nepal

A rally through central Kathmandu marked the day, with colourful placards and slogans catching the attention of the public. Participants in the rally were torture survivors, human rights activists and youths from Yuba for Change, an organisation of youths who campaign for social change.

An interaction program was also organised which saw rally participants and representatives from other civil society organisations delivering short

presentations depicting the situation of torture in Nepal and the current lack of justice for torture survivors.

Finally a report entitled 'Situation of Access to Justice of Victims of Torture in Nepal' was launched, encapsulating the work of PPR and the continued struggles they face in assuring a world without torture.

CDC - Cholistan Development Council of Pakistan Bahawalpur Pakistan

CDC hosted a seminar at Fatima Hall in Bahawalpur, eastern Pakistan, to discuss torture and impunity on 26 June with an aim to spread knowledge about what torture is, where it exists and how it can be stopped – not just across Pakistan but across the world.

Members of the audience included victims of torture, journalists, members of the police force and members of the public. The seminar was greeted with interest and enthusiasm, so much so that a local radio station offered to record the seminar for broadcast on one of their programmes.

HDO - Human Development Organization Pakistan

Two days of events, two locations – but one message to end torture.

Through a seminar to fight impunity, a walk against impunity, a public petition and activities from imprisoned torture survivors, HDO staff and members of the public across two districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ensured a varied commemoration of 26 June.

The seminar included speakers from a range of backgrounds, many from academia and political activism in Pakistan. Following this seminar a walk was staged including hundreds of members of the public to call for an end to torture.

Meanwhile elsewhere in the district, a public petition for submission to the government quickly gathered signatures and juvenile inmates at the Central Prison in Haripur showed their solidarity with torture victims by playing a game of cricket and presenting a 'living picture' depicting the harsh reality of torture and forced confessions in prisons.



Juvenile inmates showed their solidarity with torture victims by playing a game of cricket.



IRCT MEMBER

SACH - Struggle for Change Pakistan

SACH organised three medical camps in the month of June 2014 in Kot Lakhpat Jail, Lahore, District Jail, Faisalabad and District Jail, Attock in connection with the campaign in support of victims of torture. During these medical camps, a total of 130 inmates consisting of men, women and children victims of torture were provided with free medical assistance and psychosocial counseling for their torture related issues.

There was also a roundtable discussion with the theme of fighting impunity at SACH's Project Office in Islamabad. The event showed support for torture survivors and their families and a number of lawyers from local courts of Islamabad and Rawalpindi participated in the dialogue, expressing their keen interest in helping others speak out against torture.



SACH organised a roundtable discussion at their Project Office in Islamabad.

AMSA - Asian Medical Students' Association Philippines

Thanks to this year's collaboration with the team behind the award-winning documentary 'The Act of Killing', staff and students attended a screening of the film at AMSA's offices.

A group discussion followed the film focusing on how fear and oppression still prevail in Indonesia. The discussion also centered around the com-

plexity of moral corruption in contemporary Indonesia as a result of the atrocities in its history. The participants affirmed that Indonesia's nightmares will persist as the mass killings' perpetrators remain the country's heroes and leaders. The discussion there reflected upon ways in which the government could tackle impunity in the future.



MAG organised a successful forum with government departments and representatives among the participants.

IRCT MEMBER

MAG - Medical Action Group **Philippines**

Three events marked MAG's celebration of 26 June: a forum with government departments and representatives; a roundtable discussion with key government agencies working on the right to rehabilitation; and the annual Basta! Run Against Torture (BRAT).

In partnership with the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, the forum opened with a dialogue between local human rights groups, the Justice and Health departments and armed forces representatives on how to prevent torture in the Philippines. Similarly, the roundtable discussion which included centre staff and the Commissioner on

Human Rights addressed the importance of the right to rehabilitation and allowed solutions for any gaps in this to be put forward.

The 26 June activities finished with the BRAT, organised by different human rights groups that form the United Against Torture Coalition Philippines (UATC), featuring hundreds of similarly-dressed runners sprinting through Quezon City. MAG also joined the 'The Act of Killing' team to screen the award-winning documentary to their staff, which was well-received by all in attendance.

GTC - Gwangju Trauma Center **South Korea**

A range of activities from GTC marked the day, catering to the many torture survivors they encounter which include World War Two survivors of torture, survivors of torture from military detention and the families of victims of torture who work together in support groups.

A small concert from one of GTC's psychiatrists accompanied the presentation of survivors' stories from the families of civilians tortured and

killed during the civil war, followed by an event which showcased a small animation film calling for respect for human rights and democracy. GTC staff also drafted and delivered a 'Letter for Hope' to state representatives, snippets of which were replicated after 26 June across five TV billboards in City Halls through Gwangju to call for the eradication of torture in South Korea.

KMHC - Kim Keun-Tae Memorial Healing Center

South Korea

KMHC organised several events including a presentation of survivors' testimonies, an award ceremony for a notable survivor of torture and a performance by a group of survivors.

Five victims of torture gave speeches about their individual torture experiences and its impact on their lives. Labelled as "reds", a label which means "North Korean spies", the victims had suffered not only from torture itself but also from the extreme

rejection of the whole society. After the dialogue, Lee Seong-Hee, one of the five, was awarded an appreciation plaque.

A group of eleven survivors and their families staged a performance which satirised impunity in the current Korean situation. With around 8,000 in the audience and 180 cameo appearances by the survivors and their supporters, the play aroused massive public empathy.



At the Gwangju Trauma Center, a small concert accompanied the presentation of survivors' stories.

Truth Foundation

South Korea

The Truth Foundation commemorated 26 June by awarding its fourth Truth Foundation Human Rights Award to the late U Win Tin and the Hanthawaddy U Win Tin Foundation of Burma at a ceremony in Seoul.

Mr U Win Tin was imprisoned for 19 years and is the longest serving prisoner of conscience in Burma from its military dictatorship. Released at the age of 80 in September 2008, he continued to wear his prison uniform every day as a message of solidarity to political prisoners all over the world.

Mr U Win Tin died in April 2014 but his posthumous award, and the continuing work of the Hanthawaddy U Win Tin Foundation, marks the important steps organisations such as the Truth Foundation are taking to ensure torture in South Korea is eradicated.



IRCT MEMBER

FRC – Family Rehabilitation Centre Sri Lanka

FRC played an active role in arranging events across Northern Sri Lanka to promote 26 June this year, arranging activities at all of their centres in Vavuniya, Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Jaffna.

Activities on the day strongly featured the IRCT's fighting impunity materials and included community awareness raising of issues related to fighting impunity with a special emphasis on torture, a combination of activities such as trauma survivors'

exposure visit, tree planting and an essay competition and cultural activities among school students.

More than 850 people took part in all the activities and trauma survivors present on the day reported a significant boost to their self-esteem as government officials, schools and community members took their plight and the issues of torture and impunity very seriously.

HRO-Kandy - Human Rights Office Sri Lanka

A people's tribunal was organised by HRO-Kandy at Pushpadana hall, central Sri Lanka, to commemorate, unite and call for the end of torture and impunity in the country.

There were more than 200 participants at the tribunal including torture victims and their families, families of disappeared members of society and members of the public.

The panel of seven heading the debate included police and government representatives who lis-

tened to the stories and questions posed from the audience, many of whom had personal experience with torture.

After the discussion a torture victim and his wife delivered a series of testimonies from torture survivors in order to highlight how prevalent torture is today and to emphasise that much more work is needed to fully eradicate this international crime.



IRCT MEMBER

SA - Survivors Associated (Guarantee) Ltd Sri Lanka

Around 1,600 people across north and eastern Sri Lanka were reached through SA's diverse activities leading up to and including 26 June.

In Kalmunai, centre staff and local children performed a small play on the effects of torture and impunity.

There was another play in Mannar as staff and a local drama group expressed the challenges victims of torture face when reintegrating into society – a performance similar to another arranged by staff in Mullaitivu which attempted to highlight the un-

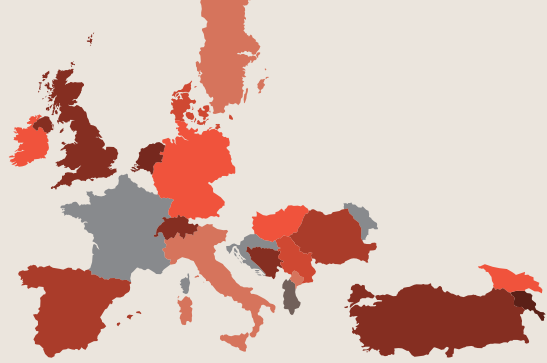
awareness of torture reflected in much of society. This play was also replicated in Pottuvil.

In Kilinochchi, a drawing activity was arranged to allow victims of torture and indirect victims of torture express how torture and ill-treatment have affected their lives.

Finally the areas of Valaichchenai and Tangalle were given information by SA staff on the prevalence of torture, the rights of citizens and the rehabilitation services available to victims of torture.



A man lighting a candle at the people's tribunal at Pushpadana hall.



Europe

This year, 28 centres from 21 countries across Europe joined the IRCT in commemorating and honouring the victims of torture and condemning impunity.

Some organisations hosted seminars, conferences and roundtables while others organised film screenings and dance and theatre performances focusing on the campaign theme, Fighting Impunity. One centre put on a children-themed event which aimed to remind the community of their obligations to oppose torture and offer rehabilitation wherever possible.

In Italy, IRCT member, VI.TO/CIR organised a colourful performance of ‘Mare Monstrum’ in the heart of Rome. The performance featured 15 refugees who participated in a psychosocial rehabilitation theatre workshop.



IRCT MEMBER

ARCT - Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma and Torture Victims Albania

With ARCT being the only source of torture rehabilitation since 1995, it is safe to say torture rehabilitation knowledge in Albania is scarce. Victims of torture from the Communist atrocities pre-1990 are still coming forward today.

ARCT therefore used the 26 June to provide better education on what torture and impunity actually is through two different events in Tirana and Shkodra.

In Tirana, hundreds of former political prisoners stood united alongside journalists, human rights defenders and members of the public in the

‘March of Victims’ which made its way to the front of the Albanian Parliament, calling for reforms in torture rehabilitation provisions.

Simultaneously in Shkodra, ARCT organised their annual convention entitled “Political persecution in Albania - Crimes of the Communist Regimes” in which national partner associations and authorities gathered to discuss the difficulties of political persecution in the country and to establish possible solutions going forward.



FAVL - Foundation Against the Violation of Law Armenia

From trainings to an outdoor rock concert, FAVL's activities to mark 26 June were varied and colourful but also informative and effective.

The day began with a specialised roundtable discussion in Yerevan with FAVL's Executive Director Larisa Alaverdyan, and Civil Society Institute (CSI) President Arman Danielyan among the several experts discussing the issue of torture prevention. FAVL and CSI also issued a joint statement at the event outlining Armenia's shortcomings in regards to the UN Convention against Torture and proposed concrete measures to properly punish perpetrators.

In the evening, nearby Aznavur Square transformed into a stage for a free rock concert. A range of bands captivated the audience for two hours with powerful performances and messages to end impunity.

Across the border, representatives of FAVL also attended a regional training on the Istanbul Protocol in Tbilisi, Georgia.



FAVL's Executive Director Larissa joined a specialised roundtable discussion in Yerevan to discuss the issue of torture prevention.



Vive Zene Centre for Therapy and Rehabilitation Bosnia and Herzegovina

Over 300 people participated in two separate activities on 26 June: a roundtable discussion on the 20 years of work from Vive Zene; and a children-themed event which aimed to remind the community of their obligations to oppose torture and offer rehabilitation wherever possible.

Taking place at the Hotel Tuzla, the roundtable analysed the evolution of Vive Zene and presented the psychological consequences of impunity on victims of torture. More than 100 participants from different associations participated in the discussion.

The second event highlighted the effect torture has on children and how important torture rehabilitation is to the young by allowing children, some of whom are related to victims of torture, to draw, play, as well as to receive small gifts for their work. IRCT materials were also distributed at the event where over 200 people were present.



Young girls getting a face paint makeover at the Vive Zene event.



More than 100 participants took part in a roundtable discussion organised by Vive Zene.



 IRCT MEMBER

RCT Zagreb - Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma **Croatia**

Two days of activities marked the RCT Zagreb's commemorations, beginning on Monday 23 June where a lecture at the city university allowed staff to discuss their important anti-torture work and the effects of torture on a person.

On 26 June the centre arranged a small workshop in the Croatian town of Dubica, a town heavily affected by four years of war between 1991-95, where the local population were able to voice their

concerns of torture and rehabilitation. It became apparent that many people still required recognition that torture in the country actually exists before any redress can be found and this tied in brilliantly with RCT's seven-day commercial campaign on RTL television in Croatia which showcased the IRCT campaign materials in an effort to encourage the public to speak out against torture.

 IRCT MEMBER

DIGNITY - The Danish Institute Against Torture **Denmark**

The Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY) arranged a two-hour debate and discussion event including prolific human rights defenders as part of their 26 June activities. Themed on impunity across the globe, the discussion focused on ways to tackle the assumption among security and judicial forces around the world who presume non-punishment for torture is acceptable.

The IRCT's Secretary-General Victor Madri-

gal-Borloz featured on the panel, alongside a wide range of other prominent human rights figures who discussed what more Denmark can do to fight torture across the globe and address the cases of torture survivors in the country.

Also, with the help of Tivoli amusement park, DIGNITY invited torture survivors in treatment to spend a day at the old amusement park.

FIACAT - International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture **France**

In a press release circulated among many French and international media outlets, FIACAT - who fight every day for the abolition of torture - used 26 June to urge all States to prevent torture, con-

demn the act of torture through criminalisation of the act and to support victims of torture and ill-treatment.



IRCT MEMBER

Parcours d'Exil – Accompagnement Thérapeutique des Victimes de Torture **France**

To an audience of more than 35 million people, staff at Parcours d'Exil appeared on Radio France International (RFI) to talk about the importance of 26 June, the challenges human rights organisations face in abolishing torture and what the centre is doing across France to ensure the crime of

torture is prohibited immediately. The three-minute interview was circulated in the news bulletin on 26 June which is broadcast not only in France but many areas of Africa where millions of listeners reside.



IRCT MEMBER

EMPATHY, Psycho-Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Violence and Pronounced Stress Impact **Georgia**

From 22-26 June, in partnership with several international and national organisations in Tbilisi, Georgian medical professionals and centre staff were given training seminars in the Istanbul Protocol and in aiding the identification of policing and security equipment commonly used in torture and ill-treatment.

The training was followed by a Trans-Regional (South Caucasus) Conference entitled 'Torture, the Istanbul Protocol and Fight Impunity'. More than 60 participants took part in the trainings and conference.



IRCT MEMBER

GCRT – Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims **Georgia**

On June 26 GCRT, together with Human Rights House Tbilisi's member organisations, held a press conference at Human Rights House Tbilisi. GCRT's beneficiaries and former prisoners were also invited to listen to staff from the organisations speak about the importance of preventive measures against torture and full investigation of torture cases.

In the evening GRCT presented a new publication – stories of former prisoners, the centre's benefi-

ciaries. The book includes nine stories depicting the cruel and inhuman environment in prisons of Georgia. After the book presentation, volunteers and centre staff stood united and launched sky lanterns on the territory next to Gldani prison to show their support for victims of torture not just in Georgian prisons but across the world.



IRCT MEMBER

Bzfo – Berlin Center for the Treatment of Torture Victims **Germany**

Bzfo resumed their collaboration with one of the leading theatres in Berlin, Schaubühne, who they have worked with across a series of talks since 2000. The monthly public talks are hosted by various people from a range of backgrounds and the talk on 29 June was no different.

Under the theme “Trace of violence –torture in Syria”, a topic which is tied closely to the work of Bzfo, medical doctor Mechthild Wenk-Ansohn

from Bzfo attended the talk to discuss the role of the centre and the IRCT in preventing torture. Other guests on the panel for the talk included Wolfgang Heinz from the German Institute for Human Rights, Ruth Jüttner from Amnesty International and Christoph Strässer, the Federal Government’s Human Rights Commissioner. The event was chaired by journalist and writer Carolin Emcke.



IRCT MEMBER

Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims **Hungary**

The Central European University in Budapest was the location of Cordelia’s 26 June program which included the global reading from the medical director of the Cordelia Foundation and films documenting the horrors of torture and the healing process which is necessary.

Following the reading from renowned human rights activist and centre director Lilla Hárdi, a

short film was shown illustrating the effects severe trauma has on victims of torture and ill-treatment. With the participation of representatives of the UNHCR, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, the Roma Right Centre and the Cordelia Foundation, a discussion followed the film on the topic of impunity and the rehabilitation methods available to torture victims in Hungary.



IRCT MEMBER

SPIRASI - The Centre for the Care of Survivors of Torture **Ireland**

This year SPIRASI hosted a three-hour long event in St Mary’s College Rathmines in Dublin – a significant location as the founding fathers of SPIRASI also established St Mary’s College.

The occasion, attended by approximately 200 people, centred on the use of music, poetry and a key note speech from the current Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald T.D. The Minister spoke very encouragingly and stated that the upcoming Single Procedure Bill, whereby the legal asylum process would in effect be vastly speeded up, is a priority for her. The event also included a testimony from a survivor of torture who spoke movingly about their horrendous experience and made the day very real for everyone there.



Speaking at the SPIRASI event, Minister for Justice and Equality, Frances Fitzgerald confirmed that the upcoming Single Procedure Bill is a priority for her.



'Mare Monstrum' performers in Rome.



 IRCT MEMBER

VI.TO/CIR - Hospitality and Care for Victims of Torture, Italian Council for Refugees

Italy

A conference divided into two sessions was held at the Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI) in Rome. The first session analysed results from a European Commission funded project, of which VI.TO is part, into the level of care available for torture victims, while the second session looked at what measures are in place to prevent torture in conflict zones, particularly in Africa. The highlight of the day was a colourful performance of 'Mare Monstrum' in the heart of Rome. The performance featured 15 refugees who participated in a psychosocial rehabilitation theatre workshop as part of CIR's Together with VI.TO. project.

Alongside this CIR formally launched its new online video campaign, aimed at raising public awareness about torture and about 26 June. Two short adverts have been produced with two different actors, asking the viewer to put into context the use of the word torture.



As part of the 26 June events in Rome, 15 refugees participated in a colourful performance of 'Mare Monstrum'.



KRCT - Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims **Kosovo**

With help from the Office of the Kosovo President and the National Council survivors of sexual violence during the war, KRCT co-organised a screening of the opening of the UK-led 'Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones'. The screening was opened by the Minister of European Integration, Ms. Vlora Çitaku, and UK Ambassador Mr. Ian Cliff. The event was concluded with the short documentary film on torture rehabilitation called 'Hear My Voice', produced by KRCT.

During the days surrounding 26 June, Executive Director of KRCT, Mrs. Feride Rushiti, and Head of the KRCT Rehabilitation Unit, Mrs. Sebahate Pacolli Krasniqi, were interviewed on several televisions and radio stations about the importance of ending torture.

IRCT campaign materials and leaflets from KRCT were also distributed to the public to raise awareness of the support needed by survivors of sexual violence and torture.



RCTV Memoria – Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims **Moldova**

Several events from 14-26 June were organised by RCTV Memoria to intensify efforts to combat torture and fight impunity. Together with Amnesty International Moldova and other NGOs, a 'March Against Impunity' along the main street of Chisinau was organised on 14 June.

A roundtable discussion focusing on impunity and the right to rehabilitation, was also organised on 24 of June, with the support of UNDP Moldova. Almost 70 people attended the discussion, including representatives of international organisations, state institutions and civil society. The topic was

on the effects of torture and how important rehabilitation and redress is to not just help victims overcome their experiences, but also to allow others to fight impunity.

Also, Executive Director of RCTV Memoria, Ludmila Popovici, appeared as a panel member on talk-show 'Dosar Public' (Public File) on TV Moldova to speak about right to rehabilitation, together with Vice Minister of Justice, representatives of the Prosecutor's office, UNDP Moldova, some of beneficiaries and staff members.

iMMO - The institute for Human Rights and Medical Assessment **Netherlands**

The institute for Human Rights and Medical Assessment (iMMO) launched its second newsletter of 2014 on 26 June with an introduction the history and importance of the UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The newsletter reached many media and human rights groups throughout the country and contained not only information on the day but also survivors' stories from iMMO clients. A few days after 26 June, the Advisory Committee on Migration Affairs (ACVZ), an independent

committee, recommended that the Dutch State Secretary install an independent organisation that can examine asylum seekers to establish if they have been tortured. As a result the committee was asked for recommendations by the state secretary on how to implement Article 18 of the Asylum Procedures Directive legislation which states that a medical exam should be provided where indications of past harm are present.



IRCT MEMBER

MRCT Craiova – ICAR Foundation, Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims

Romania

MRCT used 26 June to offer support for torture victims and their families through a one day event where specialised medical services were offered to alleged victims of torture.

Romania still has many torture victims from its Communist past, many of whom have yet to come forward and have their cases registered official-

ly due to fear of reprisals, lack of knowledge about who to turn to, or poverty and lack of resources to make a complaint. 14 new clients came forward on the day, most of them alleging historical cases of torture. After the medical examination there was also an opportunity for those in attendance to exchange their stories.



IRCT MEMBER

IAN CRTV – International Aid Network Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

Serbia

In Belgrade, near the Faculty of Philosophy, IAN CRTV erected a small stand complete with posters, leaflets and other relevant information regarding torture in Serbia.

The central topic was the fight against impunity and centre staff talked with the public about the use of torture in the country and who the main victims and perpetrators are.

Information was available on ill-treatment in closed institutions such as prisons, psychiatric hospitals, institutions of welfare and more and many people who visited the stand were shocked to discover that torture exists in Serbia.

The stand also served to remind people that historical cases of torture, committed during the war 20 years ago, are still unresolved and unaddressed in many cases.

ACPT- Catalan Authority For The Prevention Of Torture

Spain

To mark the day ACPT hosted a roundtable conference addressing torture in Spain and how torture can be effectively tackled across Europe. Participants in the conference included Catalan Ombudsman Rafael Ribó, member of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), Djordje Alempijevic and high-level representatives from the legal and medical fields.

The hour-long discussion touched upon many topics including the impunity that torture survivors face and what more can be done to help survivors of torture in Spain speak out about their experiences of torture, particularly those who were tortured during the Franco-era dictatorship.



IRCT MEMBER

Red Cross Stockholm – The Swedish Red Cross Centre for Tortured Refugees Sweden

To mark the 30th year since the establishment of the UN Convention against Torture staff at the Red Cross Centre in Stockholm put together an event to campaign for a world without torture. They welcomed the public to listen to doctors, nurses and psychologists speak about the effects of torture and how prevalent torture is today.

Turkish doctor Metin Bakkalci visited Sweden and talked about why it is necessary to document the

injuries of torture and how he worked with developing the UN Protocol to investigate torture injuries, the Istanbul Protocol.

During the afternoon the audience of 50 people also discussed the importance of documenting torture injuries, among other things, for the right to asylum, for the ability and the right to rehabilitation and to bring those responsible for the crimes to justice.

IBJ - International Bridges to Justice Switzerland

Supporters of IBJ held their own Interfaith Peace Vigils in cities around the world for the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on or before 26 June. Internationally, supporters gathered with friends and family to light a candle and say a few words in solidarity for the end of torture as an investigative tool in our lifetime.

IBJ received pictures from over 16 different countries and four continents, and participation levels pleasantly surprised staff at the centre who work tirelessly to build a vision of a just and peaceful world where torture is eradicated.



One of the pictures that IBJ received.

ICJHR – The International Centre for Justice and Human Rights Switzerland

The International Centre for Justice and Human Rights used 26 June to highlight the situation of torture in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where torture is used by the police to confiscate freedoms and punish those who raise their voices for greater justice, equality and rights.

These violations are committed in order to extract confessions and condemn the victims and, despite successive appeals in recent months to curb

torture practices and punishment of torturers, the UAE government is still turning a blind eye to what is happening in prisons.

Staff at the centre prepared and released a press statement calling on the UAE government to remember the international human rights obligations it is party to and to open an independent and impartial inquiry about the practice of torture in the prisons of UAE.



IRCT MEMBER

SOHRAM-CASRA – Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment

Turkey

A string of events had been organised to mark 26 June, beginning on 8 June with a picnic for victims of torture including refugees who have fled conflicts from across the globe. The picnic brought together a range of people from the local area, torture survivors and families of torture survivors alike, who shared their experiences with each other.

Attendees of the picnic were also given leaflets and advice from centre staff outlining the legal

rights of refugees in Turkey, with particular emphasis on the legal rights of those held in Turkish prisons. There was also a selection of musical performances and family games at the picnic.

Ahead of a seminar discussing the effects of war, migration and torture, staff organised a colourful kite flying event as a strong visual protest in Diyarbakir against torture and war.



IRCT MEMBER

TIVH/HRFT - Human Rights Foundation of Turkey

Turkey

The Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT), which has five different treatment and rehabilitation centres in Turkey, organised several press statements together with other civil society organisations and relevant professional bodies in Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir, and Diyarbakır. The main

theme of the press releases was to increase commitment to tackling torture and other forms of ill-treatment, used against people exercising their rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

United Kingdom

Senior Foreign Office Minister, Baroness Warsi, reaffirmed the UK's commitment to combat torture and encouraged states that had not yet done so to ratify the UN Convention against Torture. This accompanied an internal all staff event 'How to Stop Torture: ending a culture of impunity; creating a culture of prevention' with external speakers from the Association to Prevent Torture and

Survivors Speak Out!

Guest blogs on torture prevention were hosted on the FCO website throughout the day and social media was utilised to highlight the role of clear and definite treaty obligations as tools to tackle the global problem of torture and its related impunity.

London Guantanamo Campaign United Kingdom

Dressed in orange jumpsuits, carrying banners and slogans, a large group of campaigners united in London's Trafalgar Square to raise awareness of torture and impunity, particularly the torture being funded across the world by the British public which they have little knowledge of.

The vigil, entitled 'See no evil, speak no evil: No Impunity for Torturers', demanded accountability and justice in cases of torture. The striking campaign – which had an overarching theme of closing Guantanamo Bay prison – was monitored and covered by a string of local, regional and national media outlets.



A large group of campaigners united in London's Trafalgar Square to raise awareness of torture and impunity.

REDRESS United Kingdom

Tribute was paid to the increasing number of survivors who are rising up to demand justice and, in so doing, helping to turn the tide from a culture of impunity.

With assistance from Lawyers for Justice in Libya and the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIG-NITY), REDRESS released a press statement to condemn the continuing acts of torture and other ill-treatment in Libya. Emphasis was placed on the Libyan government to take immediate and effective measures to actively prevent all forms of tor-

ture and ill-treatment in the country.

REDRESS also launched a multi-lingual advertising campaign in community publications in the UK to raise awareness among survivors of their options to seek justice.

Carla Ferstman, Director of REDRESS, said: "We are seeing more survivors rising up from terrible and dehumanising experiences. With their courage, we are beginning to win the fight against impunity."

 IRCT MEMBER

RTC - Refugee Therapy Centre United Kingdom

An annual open day on 21 June marked the upcoming 26 June commemoration, bringing together members of the public, staff at the centre and Members of Parliament (MPs) to speak about the work and learning taking place within the principles strived for, such as a torture free world.

Another aspect of the day was the unity through sharing food and music, dialogue and experience.

While connecting in solidarity to events that are marked internationally, RTC emphasised the good work, expertise and political struggle that is taking place locally to assure refugee rights – a struggle often undermined by changes in domestic and international policy.



Raising awareness at Trafalgar Square.

LA & the Caribbean

Nine centres in 8 different countries organised a wide range of activities in support of torture victims.

Throughout the continent people joined activities and events such as theatre and musical performances, exhibitions and screening of films as well as social media campaigns and different forums.

 IRCT MEMBER

EATIP - Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial **Argentina**

EATIP, together with the Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero and the Argentine Psychiatrists Association (APSA), marked 26 June with a seminar on violence and psychosocial intervention strategies. Psychiatrists, sociologists, medical doctors and other professionals presented their views alongside victims of state violence, offering

the engaged public a combination of theory and real life experiences. The testimonies were powerful and emotional and a fruitful discussion followed. The event was held in Buenos Aires and was attended by more than 100 people, the majority of them health professionals.



The team at EATIP after the 26 June seminar in Buenos Aires.



IRCT MEMBER

ITEI – Instituto de Terapia e Investigación sobre las Secuelas de Tortura y la Violencia Estatal **Bolivia**

For 26 June ITEI Bolivia organised events in La Paz and in Cochabamba. In La Paz, ITEI participated in the popular El Prado festival to encourage public discussion on torture and to promote their work on the prevention of torture. They hung banners, distributed books and handed out leaflets about the day and the organisation, reaching out to more

than 300 people. In Cochabamba, a roundtable discussion on the prevention of torture was attended by more than 30 people who joined the event to listen and to discuss the topic with government representatives, academia and experts from ITEI. An active discussion followed. Several TV and radio outlets covered the day's events.



IRCT MEMBER

CAPS - Centro de Atención Psicosocial **Colombia**

CAPS Colombia arranged events such as theatre and musical performances, exhibitions and screening of films at the 'Parque de los Periodistas de Bogotá' on 26 June.

The activities of the centre included many members of the public and centre staff. All activities

were part of the project of the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) entitled 'Towards implementation and accountability'. The objective of the project is the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Torture.



IRCT MEMBER

PRIVA - Fundación para la Rehabilitación Integral de Víctimas de Violencia **Ecuador**

In partnership with local authorities, teachers and students of the Faculty of Psychology and Law at the Central University of Ecuador, PRIVA embarked on an awareness raising campaign to highlight the scope of impunity in Ecuador and the need for torture rehabilitation, not just for the victim but for the family and the community. Over 800 students attended the different talks and events on the current state of torture and im-

punity over the three-day period of 1-3 July and there was encouraging feedback from all staff and students in attendance who praised the professionalism of PRIVA staff and the way in which complex topics were transformed into digestible, understandable concepts. IRCT materials on the fight against torture and background to the Istanbul Protocol were also distributed.



IRCT MEMBER

CPTRT - Centro de Prevención, Tratamiento y Rehabilitación de las Víctimas de la Tortura y sus Familiares **Honduras**

In conjunction with the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) on torture, CPTRT released a new report documenting torture in Honduras during the period of July 2013 to June 2014 – a report including 57 stories of torture, three of which involved children under 10 years of age.

The report further highlighted the problem of ill-treatment by the police and the majority of the victims identified their attackers as members of the police and the National Bureau of Criminal Investigation (DNIC).

Over 250 people attended the launch event.

 IRCT MEMBER

CCTI - Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad Mexico

Two days of events marked not only 26 June but also a special day for CCTI as they celebrated their 10th year of preventing torture.

Forums were held in Acapulco, Guerrero and Mexico City on 25 and 26 June, with speakers including survivors of torture and their relatives, human rights advocacy staff, social activists and academics.

Fifty people attended the forums in Acapulco and

Guerrero, and 80 people attended the forum in Mexico City. These events were not only an opportunity to discuss the impact of torture and the benefits rehabilitation can have on the individual and their wider social circles, but also the brave work CCTI has completed over the decade. A folder containing IRCT posters, leaflets and information relating to the UN Convention against Torture was also given to those in attendance.

 IRCT MEMBER

CAPS - Centro de Atención Psicosocial (as part of GTCT - Grupo de Trabajo contra la Tortura) Peru

Activities began on 11 June with emails and calls to key congressmen and parliamentary groups influential in an upcoming debate to extend the functions of the designated Peruvian Ombudsman to include the national preventive mechanism (NPM) on torture.

The persistence paid off as, on the same day, the law was approved by 88 votes.

On 26 June, a press conference was held in con-

junction with Amnesty International to emphasise the importance of the passing of the law and to mark the continued importance of a global anti-torture campaign on 26 June.

These activities were well-represented on social media and on national media too as staff appeared on television to talk about the day and the new NPM legislation.



Broadcasting the GTCT and Amnesty International press conference.



At the GTCT and Amnesty International press conference.



Foro Penal Venezuela

Campaigning began on 1 June with a month of awareness raising of torture and impunity on social media, using the 26 June hashtags of #No-MoreImpunity and #NoMasTortura. Participation was registered from over 75,000 people. On 26 June itself the social media campaign continued with posters containing pictures of victims of torture since the wave of anti-government protests swept through Venezuela, which began in February 2014.

 IRCT MEMBER

Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y la Paz Venezuela

A press conference entitled 'Torture Never Again' took stock of the situation of torture in Venezuela. At this conference there was wide distribution of the IRCT global campaign materials to highlight the theme of tackling impunity. There was also dissemination of a report on tor-

Staff also re-launched their free medical and psychological services for those who suffer any kind of abuse by government's security forces related to demonstrations. IRCT campaign materials were also circulated in Spanish to the public and to Foro Penal's contacts of more than 500 lawyers and human rights activists.

ture in Venezuela from 2003 to 2011 and what is being done to treat these torture survivors. A social media campaign also live-tracked the events and encouraged audience participation. Two opinion pieces submitted to two national newspapers also summarised the activities.



Middle East & North Africa

26 June was commemorated by 11 centres in nine different countries. Some organisations opted for conferences and discussions while others hosted exhibitions of artwork by refugees. In Lebanon, an organisation held a solidarity sit-in with the detainees of the controversial makeshift detention center at the Adlieh roundabout in Beirut. The event was a great success with more than 400 people participating. Other activities included workshops and a social media campaign.



IRCT MEMBER

ODVV – Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

Iran

On 1 July staff from the ODVV centre, representatives from the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran (UNIC) and a selection of university students participated in a discussion regarding the global effort to end torture and how plausible such a vision is.

This was followed by a workshop with an expert from the Psychiatric Institute of Iran who described the characteristics a torture survivor may exhibit and how more can be done to identify torture victims. A short question and answer session among all the participants concluded the activity.



IRCT MEMBER

Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights

Iraq

A social media campaign using the Twitter hashtags of #NoMoreImpunity and #SupportTortureVictims accompanied a discussion between different survivors of torture in Kirkuk and a series of performances and art shows produced by survivors of torture in Sulaymaniyah, both located in northern Iraq.

Joining the patients of the Jiyan Foundation in both locations were former political prisoners, police

officers and prison staff, brought together to exchange views on torture, stories of torture and solutions moving forward to tackle torture in Iraq. Supporting Syrian refugees who have survived torture is an important goal for the Jiyan Foundation and the organisation was pleased to see a Syrian refugee among the participants.

PCATI - The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel

Israel

A new report entitled 'Prosecutorial Indifference: Systematic Failures in the Investigation of Soldier Violence against Detainees in the Palestinian Occupied Territory' marked 26 June.

The report examines the failures of the Israeli military in dealing with allegations of torture and the apathy towards the ill-treatment of civilians during operations in Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The report showed that in every case the victims of

torture did not resist arrest or threaten the armed forces in any way, thereby showing arbitrary abuse from the military which violates their code of conduct and international human rights obligations. The report also noted the nonchalance of the Military Police Criminal Investigative Unit (CIU) and the Military Prosecutor Corps (MPC). The report was circulated to the media and the public alongside IRCT campaign materials.



IRCT MEMBER

CVT - The Center for Victims of Torture (USA)

Jordan

CVT Jordan hosted an exhibition of artwork by refugees, with a formal opening in which torture survivors as well as several CVT staff members shared their testimonies through their artwork and poem reciting.

Furthermore, as 26 June coincided with CVT's treatment cycle, selfcare bags containing basic supplies relevant to effective rehabilitation out-

side of the centre were given to over 300 clients. Children received art boxes to enable them to continue to express their emotions through art. Other items included wristbands and a signed card from CVT's CEO Curt Gering which gave an encouraging message for fighting torture going forward.

CLDH - Lebanese Center for Human Rights

Lebanon

In a makeshift detention centre several floors under the busy Adlieh intersection in east Beirut, hundreds of people suffer harsh interrogation and torture.

It is a place unknown to many in terms of location but a place very much present in the minds of refugees in the city, some of whom have spent time in this underground chamber.

To campaign against the torture of migrants and refugees in this facility and across Lebanon, CLDH held a solidarity sit-in with the detainees of the controversial makeshift detention center at the Adlieh roundabout in Beirut.

The event on 18 July attracted over 400 people who joined staff from the CLDH in calling for the closure of the centre.



IRCT MEMBER

KRC - Khiam Rehabilitation Center for the Victims of Torture

Lebanon

A range of activities marked 26 June including a submission to the 26th session of the Human Rights Council campaigning for intensified action against human rights violations in Bahrain and in Palestine, a speech on the human rights situation in Bahrain at a special event in Geneva, and an organised sit-in in front of the United Nations at the Broken Chair Square in Geneva to show solidarity to Lebanese activist George Ibrahim Abdallah who has been imprisoned and tortured for 30 years.

There was also an open day on 26 June at the Khiam Centre, allowing the public to see what the centre does and to hear from staff what challenges face the centre every day as they strive for a world without torture. Over 100 people attended the event, holding IRCT posters and banners calling for an end to impunity. The event was covered by a range of national broadcast and print media outlets.



Girls holding signs at the Khiam Centre's open day.



 IRCT MEMBER

AMRVT - Association Médicale de Réhabilitation des Victimes de la Torture Morocco

A conference in Casablanca marked 26 June and included key stakeholders in the anti-torture movement in Morocco, focusing on the importance of rehabilitating torture survivors and the challenges which lie ahead in tackling impunity. Speakers at the event highlighted the wide differences between the official discourse of the state, which alleges progress in fighting human rights

violations, and the lack of actual efforts on the ground to prohibit torture particularly in police stations and in situations of social protest. In attendance were many members of the public, social activists, photographers and members of the Moroccan media. The event was broadcast on national television channel 2M, reaching an audience of approximately seven million viewers.

 IRCT MEMBER

GCMHP – Gaza Community Mental Health Programme Palestine

Together with Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights and the UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gaza, GCMHP held a conference on the issue of detention by Israel with the hope that the legality and treatment of prisoners could be discussed. Also the GCMHP united with recent hunger strik-

ers by recapping some of its successes over the last six weeks and participated in solidarity sit-ins at the protest tent in front of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Letters of solidarity addressed to the UN were also distributed to explain the harsh conditions detainees face.



TRC - Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture Palestine

The Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (TRC) held a national conference titled 'Towards a Better Future in which Human Rights are Protected' with the aim to draw national attention towards the rights of victims of torture as per international laws. The conference, held in Ramallah, began with a statement by the esteemed Guest of Honour, Mr. David Geer, the Deputy Representative of the European Union, as well as Palestinian National Authority Minister of Health Mr. Jawad Awad, and Dr. Mustafa al Barghouti of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). At the conclusion of the conference, recommendations were issued and circulated to the media and public, calling for impunity to end in Palestine and for all state forces to recognise the human rights of civilians and the right to rehabilitation for victims of torture.



Speakers gathered at the national conference "Towards a Better Future in Which Human Rights are Protected."



ACTRVT - Amel Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture Sudan

This year, after protests in September 2013 against the regime, campaign activities focused on the commonplace police brutality in the country and the sharp rise in torture cases and deaths since the protests. For the first time in Sudan a national organisation with the aim to protect civilians from torture

and to support detainees was created – a network which ACTRVT is part of alongside 100 other human rights organisations and community leaders. There was also a press conference addressing local media and government offices. A report from this press conference was handed to the local UN Human Rights Officer in Khartoum.

SNHR - Syrian Network for Human Rights Syria

A press statement on the current efforts SNHR staff implement to document torture was issued on 26 June to media outlets across the country. The statement contained information on the number of torture victims encountered and the main groups who are tortured under the rule of Syrian

President Bashar al-Assad, concluding that almost 10,000 people have died due to torture since the Syrian civil war began in March 2011 – many of whom are women and children who have been sexually tortured prior to their death.

North America



North America played an important part in marking 26 June with eight centres across the US and Canada participating.

In San Diego rehabilitation staff organised a beach event while a member organisation in Toronto offered victims of torture and their friends and family profound storytelling and stunning visual performances to mark the day. Other activities across the continent included vigils, rallies and video screenings.

 IRCT MEMBER

CCVT – Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture Canada

In collaboration with Amnesty International Canada, a celebration including moving speeches, profound storytelling and stunning visual performances marked 26 June in Toronto's Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity.

There was a clear theme this year celebrating the work of the anti-movement and discussing what can be done to ensure the fight against torture can be won moving forward. Keynote speaker was

Alex Neve, the Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, who was welcomed by the CCVT Program Manager, Teresa Dremetsikas. A story highlighting the effects of torture was also presented by CCVT client Zohreh Rostami who fled Afghanistan as a young girl following the torture and death of her journalist father at the hands of the Taliban. Over 50 people attended the event.

 IRCT MEMBER

AACI-CST - Asian Americans for Community Involvement – Center for Survivors of Torture USA

To support this year's campaign theme of fighting impunity, AACI-CST created a video that highlights torture survivors' resiliency and strength, even amidst a culture of impunity.

The video aims to promote awareness regarding impunity and to showcase how survivors of torture have overcome their experiences through rehabil-

itation. The video was posted on AACI and CST's Facebook page as well as on the World Without Torture Facebook page.

The day was also commemorated with the annual 26 June picnic, providing a free gateway for torture survivors and members of the public to engage with the topic of torture.

AHRC - The American Human Rights Council USA

AHRC joined the world in observing 26 June by reaffirming the basic human right to live free from torture in a statement released to the media, politicians and the public.

“The use of torture in our world today undermines our combined commitment to uphold the fundamental civil rights for every human being,” said

AHRC Legal Advisor, Mohammed Alomari, Esq. He added “Torture cannot be justified under any circumstances as it is one of the most profound human rights abuses that should not be tolerated.”



IRCT MEMBER

CVT - Center for Victims of Torture USA

Two events in Washington DC and St. Paul, Minnesota, punctuated by CVT's live Twitter chat hosted by UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez, marked 26 June.

In Washington, CVT hosted its annual Eclipse Award presentation. CVT Executive Director Curt Goering presented the Eclipse Award to David Crane, a professor of practice at Syracuse University College of Law. He is the founding Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and founder of Impunity Watch.

In St. Paul, St. Paul Healing Center invited survivors, staff, volunteers and board members to share a meal and commemorate 26 June with formal remarks and a special presentation to a community member who has supported torture survivors in the greater Twin Cities area. The Healing Connections Award was provided to Tom Sengupta of Schneider Drug. Tom has been a community partner with CVT for 29 years, making a profound impact in the recovery and healing of hundreds of torture survivors in the Twin cities.



IRCT MEMBER

FCST - Florida Center for Survivors of Torture USA

The Florida Centre for Survivors of Torture (FCST) held an educational outreach event on 1 July 2014 in partnership with the Miami Dade Library Systems at the St. Francisco Human Rights Park Library.

The event began with a short reception followed by a film screening of ‘Refugee: Caring for Survivors of Torture’ produced by Ben Achtenberg. The film features a historical perspective on those who have suffered persecution and torture from a number of countries. The documentary also focuses on ways in which practitioners can effectively pro-

vide treatment to the victims of torture, who come from a range of backgrounds and contexts.

Following the film, invited panelists Martha L. Vallejo, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Albert J. Perez, Esq., Immigration Attorney and Patricia Andrade, Venezuela Awareness Foundation Founder, presented on their work with survivors of torture. At the close of the presentations a survivor who was directly helped by FCST gave her experience of rehabilitation.



IRCT MEMBER

Heartland Alliance - Marjorie Kovler Center USA

This year the Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center commemorated 26 June at their Marjorie Kovler Center in Chicago in recognition of the strength of survivors worldwide and locally. Those in attendance included survivors of torture and their families, Kovler Center staff, volunteers and supporters. The evening opened with songs by youth members from the Kovler Center and a blessing chosen by Sister Pat Murphy was read by Sister JoAnn Persch, the featured speaker for the evening.

Sisters Pat and JoAnn have been collaborating with Kovler Center for over 20 years, initially providing refuge to countless survivors at the Su Casa Catholic Worker House and, more recently, via their tireless crusade to end the practice of torture and egregious immigration policies. Attendees were offered a global buffet prepared by survivors and community members who continue to dazzle with their culinary gifts.



Clients, staff and volunteers at Survivors of Torture, International commemorated 26 June.





Survivors of Torture, International, marking 26 June with dance and music.

IRCT MEMBER

PTV - Program for Torture Victims of Los Angeles **USA**

Program for Torture Victims (PTV) and Human Rights Watch joined members of Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace at USC United University Church along with PTV Torture Survivor and Human Rights supporters for a rally, vigil, and press conference on 26 June. The rally and vigil, which attracted hundreds of

supporters, aimed to refocus attention on torture in Southern California and highlighted how important torture rehabilitation, justice and redress is – particularly as many brave survivors of torture still tell their stories not just in the US but all over the world.

IRCT MEMBER

Survivors of Torture, International **USA**

More than 50 clients, volunteers and staff commemorated 26 June with a beach event in San Diego, California. The event began with a reading summarising the history of the day and a recap of the theme of ending impunity. A moment of silence followed this to remember those who lost their lives to torture. Clients were then invited to

share their stories, many of which touched those in attendance who did not expect such passionate, revealing stories from the clients. Many expressed their thanks to the staff for their rehabilitation programmes. The event culminated in a picnic.



The Pacific

This year, four centres across Australia marked the 26 June theme of fighting impunity. Social media, conferences and radio broadcasts were the three main outreach methods deployed by IRCT centres and other organisations in the country. As well as commemorating and honouring the victims of torture, both historic and present, the centres also concentrated on the treatment of asylum seekers arriving by boat.

 IRCT MEMBER

ASeTTS - Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors Australia

ASeTTS marked 26 June with a seminar entitled 'The Impact of Torture and Trauma: A Case for National Reconciliation in Sri Lanka', which included speakers from the Human Rights Law Centre, the Sri Lankan community as well as ASeTTS own staff. The speakers addressed the issue of torture

and impunity in Sri Lanka where many migrants – some of whom arrive in Australia by boat – are being returned from Australia. There was also a reading of the IRCT Global Reading and distribution of the campaign materials for this year's campaign.

 IRCT MEMBER

STARTTS - Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, NSW Australia

Why are governments justifying torture in our name? What are the trends of government torture worldwide? What can we do about it? To try to answer some of these questions, STARTTS held a panel discussion bringing together a group of experts who are doing some of the most interesting work in the fields of torture research, rehabilitation and prevention.

STARTTS worked with Amnesty to spark debate and action in Sydney on torture and its place in the world today. Over 100 people attended the debate which included panellists such as Sydney University academic Dr Kiran Grewal and Public Interest Advocacy Centre CEO Ed Santow. STARTTS CEO Jorge Aroche and Project Officer Mohamed Dukuly also joined the debate.



Lighting a candle at the STTARS 26 June event.



STTARS - Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc **Australia**

For 26 June, Amnesty International partnered with STTARS in presenting a keynote speech on tackling torture and impunity at a special event at ‘Tandanya’, the National Cultural Aboriginal Institute. Central to the evening were the stories of three survivors who currently access services at STTARS. Presented as audio pieces and aligned with the themes of ‘Homeland’, ‘Courage and Strength’ and ‘Connection’, the stories were beautifully interplayed with a visual performance which capti-

vated the audience composed of over one hundred people. The event also had wide-reaching public appeal as special radio service SBS National Radio – which broadcasts primarily to those who do not speak English as a native language - featured the event as part of their campaign to expose the continued physical and mental abuses throughout the world 30 years after the drafting of the UN Convention against Torture.



Dance and song performances played a central part of the STTARS 26 June event.



The STTARS 26 June event showcased a string of stunning visual performances.



Experts speaking at the STARTTS panel discussion.



Survivor stories were beautifully interplayed with song and visual performances.

The Justice Campaign Australia

Over the month of June, The Justice Campaign embarked on a social media campaign to raise awareness about issues relating to torture. During the month there were tweets on torture and how it is used throughout the world, producing a devastating impact on families and entire communities. On 26 June, the Twitter campaign stepped up a gear as guest speakers shared their knowledge

and experience of torture. Campaign founder Aloysia Brooks, who has just completed doctoral research into issues relating to torture in the Australian context, was the first guest followed by former Guantanamo Bay inmate, David Hicks, who tweeted some of his experiences whilst in US custody and took questions from the public.



Sub-Saharan Africa

An incredible 26 centres from 12 different countries across the continent organised events and activities to mark 26 June. Many members focused on this year's theme, **Fighting Impunity**, and organised panel discussions and meetings, workshops and presentations to discuss what can be done to bring justice to victims of torture. Many member centres also took a creative approach to the day and organised dance and theatre performances as well as film screenings to convey the message that torture must never be tolerated.

One member centre in Kenya had over 100 people attending their candlelight vigil which was held in honor of victims of torture and ill-treatment who have lost their lives or are still suffering in silence around the globe. Other organisations utilised local radio broadcasts during the day to talk about 26 June and why continued work is necessary to stop torture throughout the world.

 IRCT MEMBER

SAP/GL – Solidarité d'Action pour la Paix/Grand Lacs Burundi

SAP/GL organised two awareness raising events for 26 June, one in the province of Bubanza and one in Kayanza. The events focused on the right to rehabilitation and the fight against impunity and stressed the responsibility of all people in the community in the realisation of these rights: the police, the judiciary, local authorities, SAP-GL and

the local community all have a role to play. Activities included discourses by local authorities, police officials, SAP-GL representatives and the IRCT's Great Lakes project manager, songs and traditional dances by survivor groups, a theatre show and a football match.

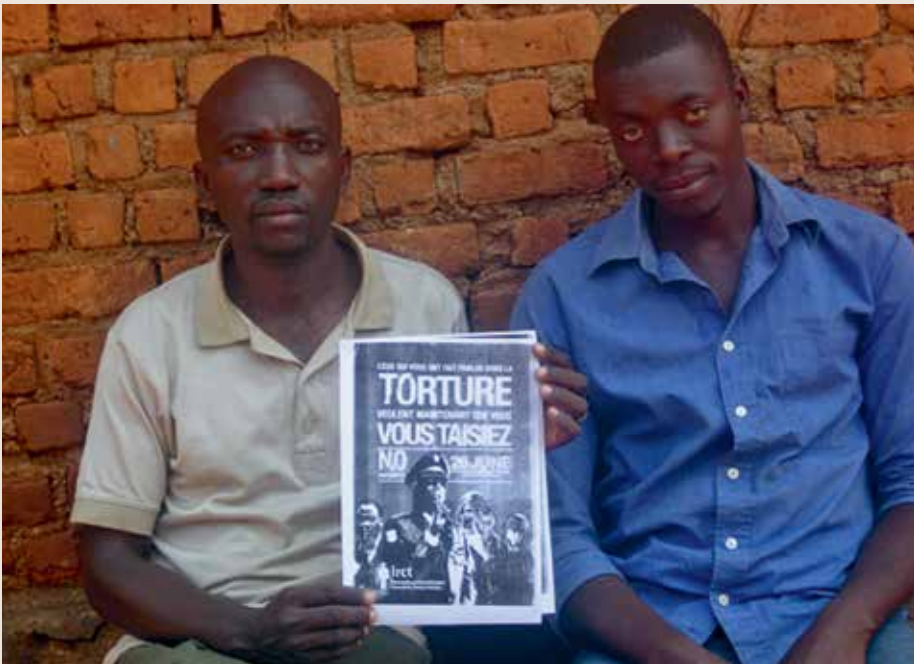
FEPNET - Friends of The Press Network Cameroon

A new report titled "The Endemic Culture of Impunity", focusing on actions that the Cameroonian government should be taking to bring perpetrators of torture to justice, marked 26 June.

The report was sent to a number of key government figures and offices, including the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, urging them to take action.

The report was specially dedicated to the late Afuh Bernard Weriwo, who was set on fire in Kum-

ba by police Inspector Stephen Ngu in 2004 on allegations that he had stolen a bicycle; the Lobe Town women who in April 1998 were subjected to torture by soldiers; the two students, Ngome Kwelngome Herbert and Nchabanu Derrick killed in November 2007 in Kumba by security forces during a demonstration against on campus electricity blackouts; and the over 100 demonstrators who were shot and killed by the security forces in February 2008.



ADIAH and APHA: Promoting the 26 June campaign "Fighting Impunity".

 IRCT MEMBER

AJPNV - Association Jeunesse pour la paix et la Non Violence Chad

A ceremony including the 26 June Global Reading captivated an audience of journalists, students, teachers, politicians, police and religious leaders in the Kamda district. The speech was also covered by a local news television crew.

Following this there was a 900m race between female victims of sexual violence to symbolise how rehabilitation from torture can set you free from your past.

ADIAH - Action pour le Développement Intégral et D'assistance Humanitaire

Democratic Republic of Congo

With the help of the Congolese centre, Action Pour La Promotion de l'habitat (APHA asbl), Action pour le Développement Intégral et D'assistance Humanitaire implemented three weeks of activities held from 26 June onwards to condemn torture and ill-treatment and unite in support of the rehabilitation of torture victims.

Through public forums, door-to-door campaigns delivering the IRCT campaign materials and dis-

cussions on how to end torture with local state officials, 3,400 people were reached through the weeks of activities in the regions of Katana, Kalehe and Mungombe.

A report on the activities was also produced and disseminated to NGOs of interest. The activities of the centre were incredibly significant, signalling one of the first occasions where present day torture was approached in a range of forums.



CMM – Centre Mater Misericordiae

Democratic Republic of Congo

Two days of activities addressed the issue of torture in the Congo region. On 25 June staff from the centre visited the central prison in Kamituga, where donations of food and medicine were de-

livered. On 26 June itself, a conference on torture across the globe and a performance of a play focused on the theme of impunity in Katunga marked the day.

AVVDH - Amis des Victimes des Violations des Droits Humains

Democratic Republic of Congo

A seven-hour discussion involving centre staff, doctors and UN representatives marked AVVDH's 26 June activity. Two presentations punctuated the day, both touching on the objectives of the or-

ganisation and the overall objective to banish torture and ensure accessible, specialised rehabilitation for all survivors of torture.

GIPROCOME - Groupe d'intervention pour la protection de la Mère-enfant

Democratic Republic of Congo

A meeting was held at the Awareness Kavumu centre with members of the organisation ADIPS (Actions for the Integral Development of Damaged People), members of the local Committee on Human Rights, and members of Solidarity for the Empowerment of Women Farmers (PBAS). Attendees reviewed the IRCT campaign materials and entered into deep discussions about how torture affects the people they meet and what more needs to be done by the DRC government to prevent torture in the future.

Staff members also embarked on a door-to-door campaign, handing out leaflets and factsheets to

enlighten nearby residents on the crime of torture and what must be done to stop it.



GIPROCOME:
Promoting the 26
June campaign
"Fighting Impunity."

REMAK

Democratic Republic of Congo

More than 100 guests attended a panel discussion on impunity and torture in the Administrative Supervision Station of Kamituga. Guests in attendance included local police, army and government representatives.

At the discussion, REMAK provided participants with IRCT materials, most notably their summary of the importance of the Istanbul Protocol and the current signatories of the UN Convention against Torture.

Staff also utilised local radio broadcasts during the day, twice broadcasting small talk segments about 26 June and why continued work is necessary to stop torture throughout the world. A tour of the local prison in Kamituga, where some REMAK clients are held, was also made in order to distribute necessary food items.



IRCT MEMBER

Save Congo

Democratic Republic of Congo

Save Congo organised a variety of activities from 24 to 26 June including an open forum in Lubumbashi city, Katanga, a film screening of a Reuters documentary on the realities of violence and torture during recent armed conflict in Congo, and a roundtable discussion with the regional UN High Commissioner on Human Rights and other partner NGOs.

On 26 June there was also a theatre performance in Goma, north Kivu, featuring dances from local traditional dance groups. Almost 300 guests attended the performance, which was also captured live on five local television and radio stations.

SOS JED - SOS JEUNESSE ET ENFANCE EN DETRESSE

Democratic Republic of Congo

On 26 June staff at the centre marked the day with a day of reflection on the resurgence of impunity and its consequences for the victims and the community in the Fizi territory.

There was also a wide distribution of the campaign materials in different offices and in public areas around the town, including displays on caravans and motorcycles which drove 10km displaying the materials throughout the territory.



ADIAH and APHA: Taking part in the 26 June commemoration.

SOVIP - Solidarité avec les Victimes et pour la Paix Democratic Republic of Congo

Composed of teachers, lawyers, sociologists and advocates of human rights, SOVIP was created in December 2004 to fight torture and particularly highlight the injustices women face in education, politics as well as the crimes women are most likely to be victims of, such as sexual violence. During their campaign period from 26 June to 30 June, SOVIP and its diverse team visited prisons in the Fizi and Uvira regions to analyse the treatment of prisoners, particularly female prisoners, many of whom are victims of arbitrary arrests and torture. During these visits fruitful discussions were held with prison custody officers on alternatives to the practices of torture.



SOVIP staff visited prisons in the Fizi and Uvira regions to analyse the treatment of prisoners.

 IRCT MEMBER

CVT - The Center for Victims of Torture (USA) Ethiopia

CVT Ethiopia commemorated 26 June in the Adi Harush and Mai-Aini refugee camps in northern Ethiopia. The camps are home to Eritrean refugees forced to leave their country due to systematic human rights abuses including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and forced and indefinite conscription. CVT staff placed banners to educate residents in the camp about the day and orchestrated events in both Adi Harush and Mai-Aini, with speeches, music and dance performances. One of the highlights in Adi Harush, was a song written and performed by CVT Psychosocial counsellor Meseret about being forced to leave home. In Mai-Aini, youth trained by Jesuit Refugee Services performed a dance.



CVT staff placed banners at refugee camps in Ethiopia to educate Eritrean refugees.

Centre Against Torture Kenya

This year the Centre Against Torture commemorated the global campaign against impunity by holding a two day workshop in Eldoret-Kenya, bringing together victims of torture, human rights bodies, media, various government departmental agencies and others to come up with ideas on how to stamp out impunity in the future.

There was also a procession within Eldoret town against impunity. People in the procession carried banners, fliers and wore t-shirts with messages condemning impunity and calling for the Kenyan government to put in place measures to end torture and impunity.



CVT - The Center for Victims of Torture, Dabaab (USA) Kenya

The CVT Dadaab team organised a half-day of events in northeast Kenya. A variety of performances reflecting the cultural diversity in the camps were the main fixture of the day. One group performed traditional Sudanese dances, there was dance and drama performed by the Congolese

community, and another group performed a dance from the Gambela region in Ethiopia with live music. One of the most emotional moments during the event was a group of Somali women performing a song about how torture destroyed their lives and how CVT helped restore their dignity.



CVT - The Center for Victims of Torture, Nairobi (USA) Kenya

CVT Nairobi conducted conferences and workshops at two universities and one professional college. The presentations discussed the Istanbul Protocol and its international guidelines for documentation of torture and its consequences. The goal was to inform students and professionals

about these guidelines and to sensitise them to the needs of refugee survivors of torture, war and other human rights abuses. Workshops were held at the United States International University, Kenya, Daystar University and at the Kenya Medical Training College.



IMLU - Independent Medico-Legal Unit Kenya

In commemoration of the day, IMLU launched their new report titled '*Guns: Our security, our dilemma – Enhancing accountability for police use of firearms*'.

The report was compiled following extensive research from IMLU into police misuse of firearms,

many incidences of which have been linked to recent allegations of torture and suspicious deaths. The report was delivered to key media and government outlets, as well as to the police force in question themselves.



MATESO - Mwatikho Torture Survivors Organization Kenya

Five days of activities engaged a wide-ranging audience with the issues of torture and impunity in Kenya thanks to a multi-disciplined approach which included a display of banners, an exhibition and a radio show speaking about human rights abuses in Kenya.

A candlelight vigil on 26 June itself was also held in honor of victims of torture and ill-treatment who have lost their lives or are still suffering in silence around the globe. This vigil was held at MATESO's 'Garden of Memory' in Chwele. Over 100 people attended the ceremony.



Speaking about human rights abuses in Kenya.

 IRCT MEMBER

LAPS – Liberia Association of Psychosocial services Liberia

Varied activities ensured that the widest possible audience was aware of the importance of 26 June in Henry Town, Gbarpolu county, Liberia.

A protest through the streets of the town began the day, ending indoors where a series of talks

were held in front of local stakeholders alongside the distribution of IRCT campaign materials. Rounding off this event was a small football match between two communities to express solidarity against torture.



LAPS organised a demonstration through the streets of Henry Town, Liberia.

 IRCT MEMBER

RAL - Rescue Alternatives Liberia Liberia

RAL's one day awareness exercise in central Monrovia reached out to almost every main street in the city, educating individuals and families about the current state of torture, the effects of torture and how Liberia can act to abolish torture.

Speaking on the day, Program Coordinator Sam M. Nimely emphasised the need for members of the National Legislature to consider the passage of the Anti-Torture Bill – a piece of legislation that could have positive effects in the fight against torture in Liberia which was sidelined a few years ago.

At the same time, he used the occasion to call on security personnel throughout the country to stop using torture as a means of attracting information from people during investigation.



Reaching out to the people of Monrovia as part of RAL's one day awareness exercise.



IRCT MEMBER

PRAWA - Prisoners Rehabilitation And Welfare Action Nigeria

PRAWA utilised local media outlets for their 26 June campaign with two live radio broadcasts on the topic of ending impunity and a talkshow held at the PRAWA Conference Hall. Alongside this an art exhibition displaying paintings themed around the suffering caused by torture and impunity was

hosted, as well as a petition campaign – which collected over 100 signatures from students, medical practitioners and legal representatives – calling for tougher measures to fight torture and impunity.



IRCT MEMBER

UYISENGA N'MANZI Rwanda

Civil society organisations, journalists, police representatives, medical staff, survivors of torture and the general public met at the Umubano Hotel in Rwanda for an afternoon of discussion and solidarity around the themes of no more impunity and fighting torture – the first time such a large, revered panel has met to discuss torture perpetrated in the present day.

A joint feeling was that now is the time to approach torture in Rwanda and to learn from the

lessons of the past, particularly surrounding the genocide. At the end of the day all participants worked together to issue a nine point list of recommendations to state organisations including calls for continued reparation for Rwandan Genocide survivors and stronger messages in denouncing torture and impunity.

AfriForum South Africa

AfriForum used 26 June to highlight their new report on farm murders and torture allegedly perpetrated against white farmers in an attempt to push them from their land.

The report was met with warm reception from the Minister of Police, who indicated he would eval-

uate the claims made by AfriForum and discuss measures to halt the torture and the murders. A petition calling for justice in these farm murder cases, signed by 60,000 people, was also submitted to the police.



In Zambia people took to dancing as part of their 26 June celebrations.

HRMC - Human Rights Media Centre South Africa

On 26 June the Human Rights Media Centre held a dialogue at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre to mark the day. The event included participation of survivors of torture from South Africa, DRC and Rwanda who spoke of their harrowing experiences of torture past and present.

All participants in the session wore black ribbons to show their mourning for victims of torture who

died as a result of their treatment. Audience members provided positive feedback following the talks, stating they had learnt much about the crime of torture, the ongoing struggle of victims facing impunity and how torture can destroy the lives of individuals and communities.



IRCT MEMBER

TCSVT - The Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture South Africa

The second in a series of dialogues that sought to focus on stakeholders' understanding of torture in the South African context was held to mark 26 June.

The aim was to provide key figures with adequate information to tackle torture and ensure that fundamental human rights are being upheld in the country.

The venue for this talk was the Manenberg People's Centre, which is significant as Manenberg is a community that is hugely affected by gang violence and torture. Therefore it was important to raise awareness regarding rights and legislation which currently exist, as well as discussing how vulnerable residents could be to torture from both state and non-state actors.

CACIT - Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo

Meetings with doctors, radio broadcasts and television appearances marked 26 June in Togo. Special focus was given on the medical domain and how important medical reports are to document torture and how professional training for medical staff is paramount so that the crime of torture can be identified and treated as soon as possible. Local Metropolis Radio covered the talks, interviewing staff from the centre in the process. Following this broadcast five victims of torture shared their experiences to an engrossed audience in a local café which was decorated with campaign materials to mark the movement against torture.



Commemorating 26 June with customised t-shirts.

HRC - Zambia Human Rights Commission

This year the Zambia Human Rights Commission (HRC) dedicated a month to campaigning, with involvement of other groups including NGOs, government offices and civil society organisations. On 29 May 2014, HRC began the month long commemoration with a launch of a sensitisation programme in Kasama. The platform provided an opportunity for information dissemination urging public authorities, specialised institutions, civil society, children and general public to intensify efforts to combat torture. Approximately 240 people attended the event.

During the month of June other activities across six different provinces included live phone-in radio programmes, TV appearances, community outreach clinics and distribution of information materials on torture. From 13 June to 20 June, the Commission also held community outreach clinics where Civil Society Organisations and government agencies and the Zambia Police participated in interacting with the community. About 660 people were reached.



Speaking out at the June 26 events.

Social Media

Through social media, people from all over the world made their voices heard and shared their support for the victims of torture. We wanted to ensure that those who lived far away from an event, rehabilitation centre or anti-torture organisation could still join in the global call for a world without torture.



IRCT @IRCT • Jun 26

Those who tortured you to speak now want you silent. Join us in the fight against impunity [#NoMoreImpunity](#)

Throughout the whole campaign, the IRCT team used the IRCT and World Without Torture Facebook and Twitter sites to share the fight against impunity message and to unite the community in the fight against torture. By using the hashtags #26June and #NoMoreImpunity we ensured that Twitter once again was flooded with relevant tweets. Together the two hashtags reached more than 150,000 Twitter users.

Furthermore, we ran a competition asking supporters to post a picture of themselves with their

favourite campaign posters. Photos came from all over the world, including Brazil, Bangladesh and Russia, and the lucky winners received a customised tote bag featuring this year's campaign slogan.

This year's social media campaign was not only colourful and insightful, but more importantly the fighting impunity message reached thousands of people and brought together communities and organisations from all over the world.

Links

<http://twitter.com/withouttorture>

<http://twitter.com/IRCT>

<http://www.facebook.com/WorldWithoutTorture>

<http://www.facebook.com/irct.org>

#26June

#StopTorture

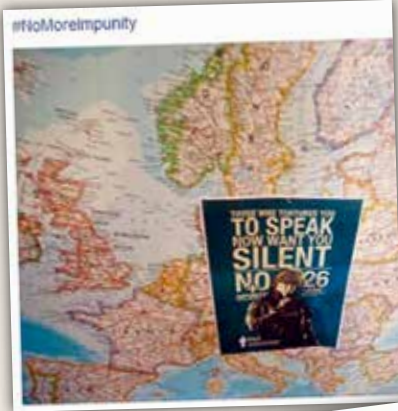
#Ircr

#NoMoreImpunity

#Right2Rehab

#HelpSyriasRefugees

#humanrights



Pax Christi Int'l @PaxChristi_Int · Jun 26
 Today is @UN's International Day in Support of #TortureVictims. This year's theme - Fight #impunity: bit.ly/1muLTP1 @withoutorture
 Expand



Dmitriy D Piskunov with Бабушек Cepей · 24 June · Edited ·
 Members of Russian «Committee Against Torture» (Комитет Против пыток) want to express our support and solidarity with those suffering from and fighting against torture. People worldwide endure unlawful violence at the hands of the government and Russia is not an exception. We thank International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims and World Without Torture for creating and spreading these emotional posters for #26June, UN International Day in support of victims of torture. #NoMoreImpunity!
 See translation



To translate English-Portuguese can be very tricky, but now we can share the campaign also to the Portuguese speakers 😊
 The poster is originally published at Plataforma contra tortura.



IRCT @IRCT · Jun 26
 #26June day against torture is HERE. Follow us and @withoutorture for all the latest updates #NoMoreImpunity pic.twitter.com/0oEQRbMmob

GLOBAL READING

As part of the 26 June campaign the IRCT released its statement in support of victims of torture. By releasing this statement, we provided participating organisations with a global reading that they could use on the day. The reading is also a source of information and a point of reference.

Fighting Impunity:

IRCT statement for a global reading on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June 2014

Today marks the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Every year, on the 26 June, we come together to honour those who have been tortured with a message of support. We come together to show the world that victims of torture are not alone and to renew our vision of a world without torture.

This day also marks 27 years since the UN Convention against Torture came into effect as the prime document in which torture is declared a crime and in which the state is declared responsible.

However, in the last 27 years, as in the last hundreds of years, in all regions of the world torture was committed every day against men, women and children. In most cases no one was prosecuted and punished for those crimes. Those crimes were committed with impunity.

Impunity can be defined as the failure of the state to fully investigate violations; to bring to justice and punish perpetrators; to provide victims with effective remedies; and to take all necessary steps to prevent the violation to happen again.

Impunity also means we have failed the victims of torture. Impunity means that nothing prevents torturers from repeating their crimes. It sends a clear message to torturers that their crimes are tolerable. When torturers are unpunished, there is a risk that torture will grow into a widespread or systematic crime perpetrated by many.



Impunity for the crimes of torture is a major problem around the world today. From the USA to India, from Mexico to Moldova, from Australia to Egypt, human rights organisations have been flagging widespread impunity for years. Yet the problem remains. Impunity remains an important impediment for the prevention of torture.

But there is hope.

We can see the power of this global movement against torture, with hundreds of organisations around the world joining in their support for victims. The 26 June campaign is now bigger than ever. Our movement – the dedication, skills and motivation of those who seek a world without torture – is stronger than ever.

Together, we can remove the obstacles and end impunity: we can create political will to fully investigate crimes of torture and to bring perpetrators to justice; we can advocate for the inclusion of torture as a crime in national penal codes; for the reduction of the use of immunities and statutes of limitations; to encourage the extradition of alleged perpetrators; and to advocate for courts to apply international law and the principles of universal jurisdiction. Together we already achieved the Istanbul Protocol, the leading international instrument for the effective investigation and documentation of torture.

Now more needs to be done.

This year's slogan is: "Those who tortured you to speak, now want you silent." Indeed, silence is a friend of impunity. But today, the global movement against torture is breaking that silence.

Hundreds of events are taking place at this very moment around the world. Peaceful demonstrations, press conferences, concerts, radio shows, panel discussions and many other events are taking place, and thousands of people are, in many languages, finding ways to fight impunity locally. So today, with thousands of others around the world, we raise our voices against impunity for the crimes of torture. Torture survivors have the right to justice. We have the right to a world without torture.

Convention status

United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

26 June is also a day to remind governments of their obligations under UNCAT to provide rehabilitation services and engage in systematic efforts to prevent torture.

States which have ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention

155 States as of 26 June 2014

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Afghanistan | Costa Rica | Indonesia | Morocco | Slovakia |
| Albania | Côte d'Ivoire | Iraq | Mozambique | Slovenia |
| Algeria | Croatia | Ireland | Namibia | Somalia |
| Andorra | Cuba | Israel | Nauru | South Africa |
| Antigua and Barbuda | Cyprus | Italy | Nepal | Spain |
| Argentina | Czech Republic | Japan | Netherlands | Sri Lanka |
| Armenia | Democratic Republic of Congo | Jordan | New Zealand | State of Palestine |
| Australia | Dominican Republic | Kazakhstan | Nicaragua | Swaziland |
| Austria | Denmark | Kenya | Niger | Sweden |
| Azerbaijan | Djibouti | Kuwait | Nigeria | Switzerland |
| Bahrain | Dominican Republic | Kyrgyzstan | Norway | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Bangladesh | Ecuador | Lao People's Democratic Republic | Pakistan | Tajikistan |
| Belarus | Egypt | Latvia | Panama | Thailand |
| Belgium | El Salvador | Lebanon | Paraguay | The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia |
| Belize | Equatorial Guinea | Lesotho | Peru | Timor-Leste |
| Benin | Estonia | Liberia | Philippines | Togo |
| Bolivia | Ethiopia | Libya | Poland | Tunisia |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Finland | Liechtenstein | Portugal | Turkey |
| Botswana | France | Lithuania | Qatar | Turkmenistan |
| Brazil | Gabon | Luxembourg | Republic of Korea | Uganda |
| Bulgaria | Georgia | Madagascar | Republic of Moldova | Ukraine |
| Burkina Faso | Germany | Malawi | Romania | United Arab Emirates |
| Burundi | Ghana | Maldives | Russian Federation | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |
| Cambodia | Greece | Mali | Rwanda | United States of America |
| Cameroon | Guatemala | Malta | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | Uruguay |
| Canada | Guinea | Mauritania | San Marino | Uzbekistan |
| Cape Verde | Guinea-Bissau | Mauritius | Saudi Arabia | Vanuatu |
| Chad | Guyana | Mexico | Senegal | Venezuela |
| Chile | Holy See | Monaco | Serbia | Yemen |
| China | Honduras | Mongolia | Seychelles | Zambia |
| Colombia | Hungary | Montenegro | Sierra Leone | |
| Congo | Iceland | | | |

States which have NOT ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention

42 States as of 26 June 2014 *States that have signed but not ratified, acceded or succeeded UNCAT

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Angola* | Eritrea | Korea | Palau* | Sudan* |
| Bahamas* | Fiji | Democratic People's Republic of Malaysia | Papua New Guinea | Suriname |
| Barbados | Gambia* | Marshall Islands | Saint Kitts and Nevis | Tanzania, United Republic of |
| Bhutan | Grenada | Micronesia, Federated States of | Saint Lucia | Tonga |
| Brunei Darussalam | Haiti* | Myanmar | Samoa | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Central African Republic | India* | Niue | Sao Tome and Principe* | Tuvalu |
| Comoros* | Iran (Islamic Republic of) | Oman | Singapore | Vietnam |
| Cook Islands | Jamaica | | Solomon Islands | Zimbabwe |
| Dominica | Kiribati | | South Sudan | |

How to support the IRCT

We need your support to fight torture and to help torture survivors rebuild their lives. By donating even a small sum, you can assist us to put an end to torture and to ensure that torture survivors and their families receive much-needed treatment and other services.

www.irct.org/donate



By credit card

Please visit www.irct.org to make a donation using a credit card. All transactions are guaranteed safe and secure using the latest encryption to protect your personal information.



By cheque

Cheques made payable to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) should be sent to:

International Rehabilitation Council
for Torture Victims
Copenhagen Europe Center
Vesterbrogade 149, building 4, 3rd floor
1620 Copenhagen V, Denmark



By bank transfer

Danske Bank
Holmens Kanal Branch
Holmens Kanal 2
1090 Copenhagen K
Denmark
SWIFT code: DABADKKK

Danish Kroner (DKK) Account

Registration No. 4183
Account No. 4310-821152
IBAN DK90 3000 4310 8211 52

Euros (EUR) Account

Registration No. 4183
Account No. 3001-957171
IBAN DK69 3000 3001 9571 71

U.S. Dollars (USD) Account

Registration No. 4183
Account No. 4310-005029
IBAN DK18 3000 4310 0050 29

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The international Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an independent international health-based organisation, which promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture survivors and the works for the prevention of torture worldwide.



irct

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