

Global Reading 2015

26 June UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

"R2R" — Right to Rehabilitation Now!

Today marks the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Every year, on 26 June, people from around the world come together to remember those who have been tortured, by calling for the prevention of torture and an end to impunity. We hold fast to our vision of a world without torture. This year we come together to remind victims that they have not been forgotten and that the world's governments need to deliver on their right to rehabilitation.

Twenty eight years ago today the UN Convention against Torture came into effect and banned torture and ill treatment. Even though the vast majority of states have promised not to torture or ill treat people under international law, this continues in 141 countries. The promises of almost three decades ago ring hollow with those that can never feel safe in countries in three quarters of the world. Torture and ill-treatment affects entire communities – wreaking damage far beyond the direct victims.

Some victims of torture get the help they need and deserve from rehabilitation centres. Rehabilitation centres across the globe are havens for victims, providing support and expertise to help victims reclaim their lives and rebuild relationships with their families and communities. However, many rehabilitation centres work in challenging conditions, with scant resources and uncertain futures. They cannot continue to do this vital work alone.



More needs to be done to support victims

This 26 June, we come together to listen to survivors and their caregivers. We come together to put a human face to those who survive torture and those who help them to rehabilitate. It is time to stand in solidarity and demand their voices be heard and their need for rehabilitation be met

Under the theme R2R - Right to Rehabilitation Now! our demands are clear - as long as the practice of torture continues, people and communities are entitled to full reparation and this includes the right to rehabilitation. Together, we call on states to meet their obligations to victims, as set out in international law almost three decades ago and further detailed in General Comment 3 by the Committee against Torture.

There is hope and a growing global movement

Torture victims have a right to rehabilitation. Today, with thousands of others around the world, we call on states to make the right to rehabilitation a reality. We call on states to provide the resources to ensure that victims have access to appropriate rehabilitation services.

We stand united with many others and join forces to support victims of torture. Our demands are clear, on 26 June and every other day of the year. We all seek a world without torture and until that day comes we must continue to demand that torture victims get the rehabilitation they need and have a right to.



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2015 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 or completeness 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 non-IRCT member organisations. The 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 institutions listed to the left. The country activities portrayed in this report are based on the submission of reports received from campaign participants.

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Foreword

Right to Rehabilitation Now!

On 26 June each year, people and organisations committed to supporting torture victims to rebuild their lives observe the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. This is the prime occasion to commemorate the plight of victims of torture. Rehabilitation centres spend the day creating spaces for victims to share their stories and experiences with then world, advocating for victims' rights and showcasing their achievements for the year.



Suzanne Jabbour President

Lussiale



Victor Madrigal-Borloz Secretary-General



26 June 2015 coincided with the beginning of a new strategic period for the IRCT, where the effective implementation of the right of torture victims to rehabilitation is the unique focus and objective for the organisation. This is in recognition that rehabilitation is a right in urgent need of realisation and that achieving it will make a significant contribution to the empowerment of torture victims everywhere. Collective action is part of the DNA of the rehabilitation movement and this year's commemoration under the theme, "Right to Rehabilitation Now" was a strong affirmation of this principle.

Under this banner, 88 organisations across the movement marked 26 June with activities, such as victims' testimonies, petitions for legislative change, seminars, theatrical and other art performances, exhibitions, peaceful protests, participation in radio and TV shows, engagement with local journalists, tree planting and events bringing victims, rehabilitation centres, local and international decision-makers together to explore how to make the right to rehabilitation a reality. All over the world, the message was clear that states and all other relevant stakeholders must do much more to ensure that victims of torture and ill-treatment receive the rehabilitation they are entitled to, and urgently need.

The IRCT looks forward to continuing to facilitate the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. In the coming years, we will work towards supporting a commemoration responsive to victim needs in their specific national context, and at the same time create new opportunities for IRCT members to take collective action towards effective implementation.

26 June: Global Campaign

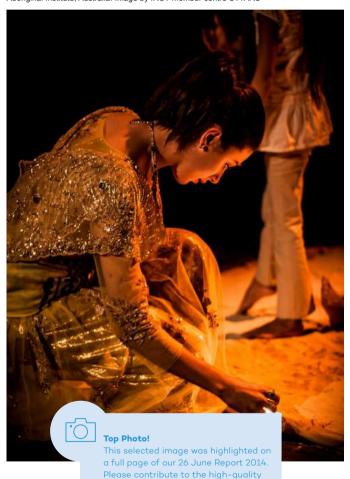
With our 26 June Global Campaign. the IRCT seeks to facilitate action by local actors across the world who work every day to support of victims of torture and ill-treatment. From Mexico to Lebanon to India, IRCT member centres and others who join our global efforts, call for an end to the horrific practice of torture and for full rehabilitation for all victims. Some organisations campaign for their national governments to ratify the UN Convention against Torture or adopt legislation prohibiting torture and guaranteeing the right to rehabilitation and others highlight the specific ways in which torture takes place in their country and the urgent need for implementation of existing legislation to deliver justice and rehabilitation services to victims.

The 26 June Global Report highlights the diverse mix of activities and actions of those who have joined the global fight to provide justice and rehabilitation for victims on all continents.

Thank you for your contributions.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Lighting a candle in a special event at 'Tandanya', the National Cultural Aboriginal Institute, Australia. Image by IRCT member centre STTARS



series of images and take your chance to be on the cover of our next global report! Send us your photographs (min 300dpi) to **26june@irct.org.**

Asia

BCHRD, Bangladesh

TPO, Cambodia

CORE H2H. India

SOSRAC, India

TTSP, India

CCTV, India

VRCT, India

RATA. Indonesia

SIKAP, Indonesia

CVICT, Nepal

TPO, Nepal

MAG, Philippines

CDC, Pakistan

HDO, Pakistan

SACH, Pakistan

HRO-Kandy, Sri Lanka

FRC, Sri Lanka

NPC, Sri Lanka

GTC, South Korea

KMHC, South Korea

Europe

ARCT, Albania

FAVL, Armenia

Vive Žene, Bosnia & Herzegovina

RCT Zagreb, Croatia

DIGNITY, Denmark

Parcours d'Exil, France

BZFO, Germany

Cordelia Foundation, Hungary

SPIRASI, Ireland

VI.TO /CIR, Italy

KRCT. Kosovo

RCTV Memoria, Moldova

MRCT Craiova, Romania

CPT, Russia

TIHV/HRFT, Turkey

SOHRAM-CASRA, Turkey

London Guantanamo

Campaign, UK

Freedom from Torture, UK

Participants 2015

Latin America and the Caribbean

EATIP, Argentina

ITEI, Bolivia

CCCT (AVRE), Colombia

PRIVA, Ecuador

CCTI, México

CAPS, Peru

Foro Penal. Venezuela

Middle East and North Africa

Jiyan Foundation, Iraq

ODVV, Iran

PCATI, Israel

CVT, Jordan

KRC, Lebanon

RESTART, Lebanon

AMRVT, Morocco

GCMHP. Palestine

TRC, Palestine

ACTRVT, Sudan

SNHR, Syria

North America

CCVT, Canada

AHRC, USA

FCST, USA

Survivors of Torture, USA

CVT, USA

CLSACC. USA

Heartland Alliance, USA

The Pacific

STARTTS, Australia

STTARS, Australia

Companion House, Australia

Refugee Trauma

Recovery, New Zealand

Sub-Saharan Africa

TCC, Cameroon

AJPNV, Chad

REMAK, DR Congo

SAVE CONGO, DR Congo

SOS JED, DR Congo

SOPROP, DR Congo

SOVIP, DR Congo

AVVDH, DR Congo

CVT, Ethiopia

IMLU, Kenya

CVT Dabaab, Kenya

CVT Nairobi, Kenya

CAT, Kenya

MATESO, Kenya

Advocacy Center for

Human Rights, Kenya

RAL, Liberia

LAPS, Liberia

Prison Watch, Sierra Leone

TCSVT, South Africa

ACTV, Uganda

CSU, Zimbabwe



*This map does not reflect all the activities in 2015, nor the exact location of the participant centres, but serves as example of the upcoming 26 June online map.



Types of Activities

United by anti-torture efforts, on 26 June centres across the world carry out a variety of activities. These range from political protests urging governments and politicians to take action to combat torture, to cultural initiatives, such as hosting art exhibitions and film screenings.

These are powerful ways to generate space for the voices of victims and communities that have been silenced and deeply affected; and can inspire hope and create change.



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



Awareness Raising & Educational Activities

Conferences, seminars and panel discussions are still very popular 26 June activities, whether to increase awareness and knowledge about how to eradicate torture. to discuss meaningful state action to implement the right to rehabilitation, or to present the activities undertaken by the centres in an effort to provide rehabilitation to survivors of torture. Workshops and lectures have also proven to be an effective way to educate and share knowledge. Other awarenessraising and educational activities include the dissemination of informational material, testimonies by torture survivors, radio quizzes, TV spot contests among university students, film screenings and open houses.



ACTV - African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, Uganda



Art and culture often have the potential to combat human rights abuses (at the personal and collective level), enhance the public's understanding of torture, foster solidarity and social change and can help the healing process.

Many organisations around the world choose to celebrate 26 June with events, such as theatre shows, musical performances, traditional dances and art exhibitions.

Time and again, artistic and cultural activities attract a high-level of interest from the general public, generating more visibility and space for anti-torture voices, and creating a sense of excitement and hope. In many cases, cultural activities can be the product of different types of rehabilitation services at centres, such as art or music therapy.



Advocacy Activities

Some of the advocacy activities taking place include meetings with key national decision-makers, political protests, petition or letter writing campaigns or the distribution of reports urging governments and politicians to take action to tackle national and local challenges in realising the right to rehabilitation.

Advocacy activities are also a highly effective way of attracting media attention.



Other Activities

Many other activities were organised in commemoration of 26 June, such as tree planting, art auctions, sports events, religious or prayer ceremonies, candlelight vigils and outreach activities, including visits to prisons, among others.



Activities for Children

Whether at demonstrations, picnics, or other events, involving children is a common approach by centres and other organisations that have planned a 26 June campaign.

Many schools, youth clubs or children's camps are invited to participate in essay contests, sports games, art contests or participatory photography workshops, in order to contribute to a community-wide event and to educate children about the issue of torture from a young age.



Be our eyes!

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 differ greatly. We want to to capture and illustrate this. So please send us high resolution images from your 26 June events to 26June@irct.org.

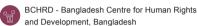
Asia



BCHRD - Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development BANGLADESH

On 20 June, BCHRD organised an awareness raising programme with human rights defenders on R2R Now!, this year's 26 June global campaign theme. More than 100 participants attended the event, which took place in front of the National Press Club. On 23 and 24 June, BCHRD carried out training on health and human rights education in the Dhaka province. The participants, a group of 30 human rights educators, discussed the themes of gender, torture, sexual violence against girls and young women and R2R. Furthermore, BCHRD organised a human chain on 28 June in Dhaka Lalbag.





IRCT MEMBER

TPO Cambodia - Transcultural Psychosocial Organization

CAMBODIA

To mark 26 June, the TPO team hosted a tree planting event and ceremony at Choeung Ek (the Killing Fields) near Phnom Penh. TPO staff, partner organisations, donors, Khmer Rouge victim survivors and monks gathered at Choeung Ek to listen to survivors sharing their experiences and the challenges they have faced and continue to face, to send a message of hope and demand

that R2R becomes a reality for torture survivors in Cambodia and around the world. The group planted a tree of hope and peace as a symbol that rehabilitation works. If we water the tree and look after it, it will grow. If we take care of torture survivors and surround them with love and support, they will also be able to pick up their lives and prosper.

IRCT MEMBER



CORE-H2H launched a report on torture at its office in Imphal entitled, Report of Torture in Manipur 2014- 2015. The centre also issued a press statement calling for the R2R and highlighting the importance of successful forensic investigation to achieve justice and

reparation for victims of torture.

The statement tackled the culture of silence that is imposed and encouraged in society, underlining that it needs to be shaken off by the sustained collective efforts of the people of Manipur.

SOSRAC - Society for Social Research, Art and Culture

INDIA

This year, SOSRAC organised painting and drawing competitions, choir singing and a sack race. A march also took place, where members of the local community and torture victims carried banners and posters to raise awareness about torture and human rights.

Finally, SOSRAC organised an exhibition with handicraft products made by survivors of torture who had participated in their vocational training programme. Local media and community leaders were among the attendees.

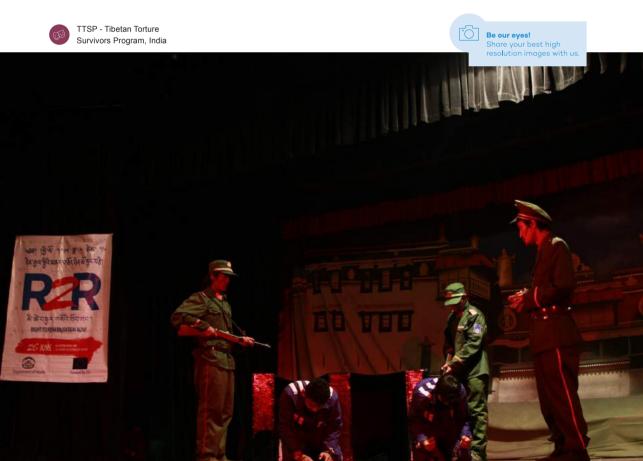
IRCT MEMBER



TTSP - Tibetan Torture Survivors Program

INDIA

TTSP organised a play entitled, "Norbu/ Precious" with actors from the Tibet Theatre. Around 250 people attended, including Tibetan torture survivors, and the event took place at TIPA Hall. The play highlighted the struggles of the Tibetan political prisoners in Tibet and en route to India. The main theme of the play was to create awareness among the public about the living conditions of the Tibetan torture survivors in exile and the ways in which they are being rehabilitated by the Central Tibetan Administration's Health Department.





CCTV Centre for Care of Tortured Victims India

INDIA

On 24 June CCTV organised a meeting at its office along with Maromi, one of its networking partners. Approximately 25 participants attended the meeting and Minakshi Chaudhuri, the Honorary Secretary welcomed the participants. She spoke about various issues, including the current situation for torture victims, the UN Convention against Torture, state obligations and R2R. CCTV also ran an online campaign,

sharing the R2R theme and posters with more than 500 people. Finally, a seminar took place on 3 July at a High School in Hasnabad. Among the dignitaries were representatives of Basirhat Civlk and Criminal Court Bar Association. Some 122 people, including teachers from different schools, students and locals attended the meeting.

IRCT MEMBER



VRCT - Vasavva Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims

INDIA

VRCT organised an interactive meeting at the Government Observation Home for Boys Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, with the juveniles and the Child Welfare Committee in the Krishna district. Some of the boys spoke about how not having parents and the guidance the can give

on what is right and wrong often led to them making bad decisions and getting involved in crime. They expressed their wish for VRCT to provide education and skills training for them and the meeting concluded with their pledge not to repeat their previous mistakes.

IRCT MEMBER



RATA - Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims in Aceh

INDONESIA

To commemorate 26 June. RATA visited the families of victims in remote villages, as well as village leaders and neighbours. RATA provided these victims and their families with psychosocial services and food and clothing. In addition, RATA continued its ongoing litigation against perpetrators of torture, in the hope that through the punishment of perpetrators, victims receive justice and torture is prevented in the future.



RATA - Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims in Aceh, Indonesia



SIKAP - Civil Society Alliance against Torture

INDONESIA

In collaboration with its partners, SIKAP organised a public dialogue to support and campaign for victims of torture in Indonesia, particularly in North Sumatra. The dialogue focused on the right to rehabilitation, in order to strengthen torture victims'access to rehabilitation. More than 100 people

participated, including local government representatives from the Provincial Government of North Sumatra, North Sumatra Local Parliament and North Sumatra Police (Poldasu), torture survivors, and other members of the public, including labourers, students, lawyers, journalists, academics and NGOs.

IRCT MEMBER CVICT - Centre for Victims of Torture

NEPAL

CVICT celebrated 26 June by gathering to express its solidarity for the right to rehabilitation of torture survivors in Nepal and around the world. Staff lit candles for torture survivors

and shouted this year's slogan, "R2R Now!". CVICT also issued a press release for 26 June, stating the need for right to rehabilitation for torture survivors in Nepal.

IRCT MEMBER

TPO Nepal - Transcultural Psychosocial Organization

NEPAL

TPO Nepal staff conducted an interactive session led by a psychosocial counselor and a project team. The speakers addressed the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the current situation in Nepal. Nearly 50 participants took part in the session. Furthermore, in collaboration with a legal aid

lawyer representing the IRCT's Data in the Fight Against Impunity Project, there was a brief presentation about R2R. The participants raised some critical cases, primarily related to armed conflict. Moreover, the roles and responsibilities of the state in addressing the problems of torture victims were also discussed.



TPO NEPAL - Transcultural Psychosocial Organization



IRCT MEMBER MAG - Medical Action Group PHILIPPINES

In collaboration with the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC), MAG commemorated 26 June with the Basta! Run Against Torture (BRAT). In its ninth consecutive year, BRAT is the leading activity in a national campaign against torture in the Philippines. This year, BRAT carried the overarching theme Krimen ang Torture/Torture is a Crime to push for the full implementation of the Anti-Torture Law of 2009, and to demand accountability and effective remedy, as well

as the provision of rehabilitation services for torture survivors and their families. More than 800 advocates gathered in front the office of the Commission on Human Rights. The activity culminated at the Liwasang Aurora, inside the Quezon City Memorial Circle, with different stakeholders joining the symbolic pledge of commitment to continue the co-operation and solidarity by working together to finally end the use of torture in the country.





MAG - Medical Action Group, Philippines

CDC - Cholistan Development Council of Pakistan Bahawalpur PAKISTAN

To raise awareness about health issues among female prisoners, CDC organised a brief health awareness session at a prison in Bahawalpur. CDC distributed health kits and gifts including clothes and other items to 17 detainees. The centre also commissioned a radio programme on Bahawalpur Radio, with a journalist, medical doctor, philanthropist and CDC's executive

director. The programme had tens of thousands of listeners. CDC also ran a a seminar on, "Torture Victims and Our Society" in a village in Bahawalpur, which was attended by 150 people. It's main objective was to create awareness and sensitise people about torture, its implications and the lives of victims.





SACH - Struggle for Change, Pakistan

IRCT MEMBER



HDO - Human Development Organization

PAKISTAN

To commemorate 26 June, HDO arranged an event entitled, "Right to rehabilitation of victims of torture and the state's responsibilities" in Haripur Hazara. District-based leaders of different political parties and other stakeholders. including lawyers, teachers, human rights defenders, journalists, doctors, officers from prison and police departments, the Dispute Resolution Council, former parliamentarians and torture victims attended. Speakers asked

the government of Pakistan to honor international commitments it made when ratifying the UN Convention against Torture in 2010 and criminalise custodial mistreatment without further delay. There was also an event at Haripur central prison where juvenile and adolescent inmates arranged poetry and folk music contests in their barracks. HDO also published articles in six Urdu language newspapers.

IRCT MEMBER SACH - Struggle for Change PAKISTAN

A one-day group discussion was held by SACH in Peshawar, with 35 psychologists representing various institutions, service provider organisations, as well as individual practitioners. There is an enormous gap in terms of a deficient knowledge base and practices, especially on the pretext and definition of torture, the effects

on survivors and society in general, the rights of torture survivors and international human rights instruments including the UN Convention against Torture. The participants expressed their interest in practically supporting torture survivors and SACH formed a volunteer task force at the end of the event

HRO-Kandy - Human Rights OfficeSRI LANKA

HRO Kandy held a human rights poster exhibition from 20 to 21 June at St Anthony's National Shrine at Wahakotte Sri Lanka in the Central Province. The exhibition depicted the teachings of the pastoral letter issued by the Sri Lankan Bishops Conference on 8 December 2013 and other posters on human rights. More than 3,500 Catholics, Hindus and Buddhists from all over the country visited the exhibition. It aimed to educate people about their rights and to, "Say No to Torture". Human rights activists, including HRO staff were on hand to explain the posters to each visitor and the reasons why the fight against torture continues.



(<u>1</u>)

HRO-Kandy - Human Rights Office, Sri Lanka

IRCT MEMBER FRC - Family Rehabilitation Centre SRI LANKA

FRC celebrated 26 June in the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka, showcasing the diversity of each district office. In Killinochchi, FRC hosted a drawing competition, while in Mullaitivu there was a talk on, Counselling and Torture. In Vavuniya, a cultural event and tree planting ceremony took place. FRC held a traditional get together for survivors of torture

in Mannar, sharing meals and prayers. In the Ampara District a mobile medical clinic was conducted in one of the worst war affected areas and in Trincomalee an awareness programme provided a better understanding of the regulations of the Gender Based Violence Act and Rights of Torture Survivors, and was followed by a tree planting event.

NPC - National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA

In the Western Province, NPC partnered with the Citizen's Committee Gampaha District to hold an information dissemination workshop. This centred on educating and empowering victims of police torture, their families and the general public on the importance of the newly enacted Victim and Witness Protection Act.

Over 90 people, including victims and their families, law makers and human rights

defenders, civil society representatives and members of the public attended the event held in Gampaha. In Colombo, NPC partnered with the Committee for the Investigation of Disappearances to hold a People's Tribunal for torture victims from Sri Lanka's North and East. The tribunal gave war victims the opportunity to share their stories with the media, civil society representatives and members of the public.

In the Eastern Province in Trincomalee, NPC's partner organisation, the Centre for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held a people's forum, which over 200 people participated in.

They produced an information leaflet to highlight types of war related torture and used forum theatre to share victims' narratives.

IRCT MEMBER GTC - Gwangju Trauma Center SOUTH KOREA

GTC organised a 39 person choir comprised of members of victims' families from the May 18 Democratic Uprising in 1980, as well as GTC staff and volunteers. The song they performed was called, 'Happy to be Alive', delivering a

message of hope for torture survivors around the world. The centre also distributed promotional material to NGOs in Korea and ran a video on a public advertisement board in Gwangju for two weeks.

KMHC - Kim Keun-Tae Memorial Healing Centre

SOUTH KOREA

Pansori, which is a traditional Korean style of singing involving audience participation.

They performed, "Four Seasons of Life", which is similar to a western musical. It was a special opportunity for the torture survivors involved to

KMHC organised several activities, including a

speak and sing in public, something they had never done before. By learning music together in a safe place, the survivors and their family members escaped social isolation and it was clear the 200 audience members were touched by the experience.



TPO Cambodia - Transcultural Psychosocial Organization



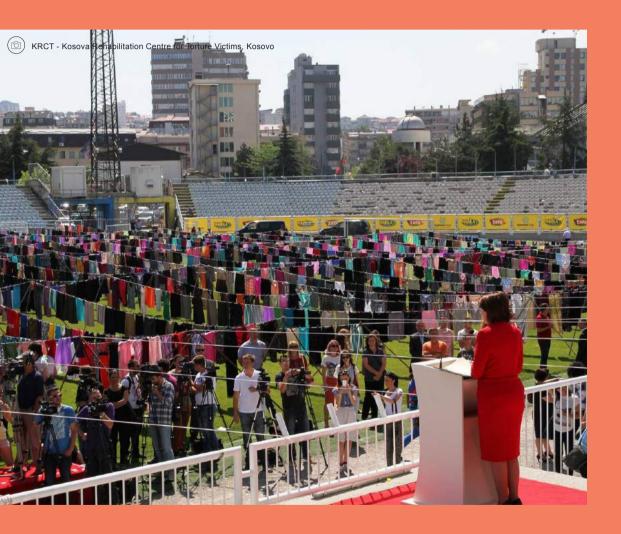




(Q)

FRC - Family Rehabilitation Centre, Sri Lanka

Europe



ARCT - Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma and Torture Victims

AI BANIA

ARCT ran a series of events dedicated to survivors of torture and other atrocities from the previous communist regime under the R2R Now! theme. The centre organised an exhibition on Albania during and after the Holocaust, featuring photographs, events and the names and faces of politically persecuted individuals who were imprisoned and executed without trial. The exhibition ran in youth centres in Tirana to inform young people, students and interested

researchers about the atrocities of the Albanian dictatorship. ARCT also organised focus group discussions with students and researchers. Survivors of political persecution were invited to discuss their stories, expectations and the reparation process in Albania. In addition, ARCT prepared a documentary entitled, Anthology of Wounds featuring the stories of women persecuted in Albania.

IRCT MEMBER

FAVL - Foundation Against the Violation of Law

ARMENIA

A coalition of six leading human rights organisations teamed up for a panel discussion on, "Ending Impunity and the Right of Rehabilitation for Torture Victims" in Yerevan. The primary focus was to raise awareness about torture in Armenia and identify practical steps for bringing perpetrators to justice. Participants presented measures for investigating cases

of torture and discussed the importance of rehabilitation and compensation for victims. A reference was made to the recent police crackdown on protesters against electricity price hikes, as well as the rights of those detained and injured. The organisations also issued a call to action urging the Armenian government to address seven key issues.

IRCT MEMBER

Vive Žene Centre for Therapy and Rehabilitation

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Vive Žene organised various activities in cities across the country in collaboration with their partners, reaching over 1,000 people. The centre ran public debates, activities for children, street fairs, disseminated IRCT campaign material and set up a role-playing event for young people. In Tuzla, 105 people participated in a round table event where survivors described how Vive Žene

supported them when they acted as witnesses during war crime trials. More than 300 people enjoyed a street fair, which involved a primary school choir and Orchestra Balsika. There was also face painting and a chance for children to paint a picture of what they think a world without torture would look like.







DIGNITY - The Danish Institute Against Torture, Denmark



ARCT - Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma and Torture Victims, Albania

IRCT MEMBER RCT Zagreb - Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma

A lecture and a workshop for psychology students were among the activities organised by RCT Zagreb. More than 50 students attended the lecture on torture and society, while 10 postgraduate students took part in a workshop on torture in war, long-term consequences and the psychology of war and reconciliation. The centre also ran a seminar for 35 professionals from government institutions

and human rights organisations about torture survivors among asylum seekers; while staff members from RCT Zagreb attended a conference entitled, "The challenges of dialogue in Vukovar today (after the war of 1991-95 and atrocities)". The event took place in the town of Vukovar, and showcased the post-conflict storytelling method of Israeli psychologist Dan Bar On.

IRCT MEMBER DIGNITY - The Danish Institute Against Torture

DENMARK

DIGNITY celebrated by hosting DIGNITY DAY, a huge day-long concert featuring several famous musicians. The event took place in Copenhagen and around 10,000 people attended. Food from around the world was on sale and the Danish Foreign Minister spoke to the audience about

torture and rehabilitation. The centre also had an information tent highlighting DIGNITY's work, client stories and rehabilitation work in Denmark. In addition, prior to the event almost one million people were reached through an online campaign.



Parcours d'Exil Accompagnement Thérapeutique des Victimes de Torture

FRANCE

The impressive garden of the Chateau de Versailles was the location for a picnic organised for the clients of Parcours d'Exil to mark 26 June. The centre brought a group of torture survivors on a day trip, which included the picnic followed by a tour of the iconic castle and its grounds.





BZFO - Berlin Center for Torture Victims, Germany

IRCT MEMBER

BZFO - Berlin Center for the Treatment of Torture Victims GERMANY

On 26 June bzfo joined a number of other organisations at the Amnesty International Germany panel discussion entitled, "Quiet Best Friends? Germany. Economy. Torture States". A second discussion on human rights violations against women also took place and bzfo shared its work on community housing projects for female migrants. To create awareness the centre

issued a press release highlighting 52 incidents of breaches of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights as well as of Article 1 of the UN Convention against Torture reported by its clients. The centre stated that data it had collected showed that violence at external EU borders is not an isolated incident. but a pan-European problem.

IRCT MEMBER

Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims HUNGARY

The focus of the Cordelia Foundation was to reach out to the media, as migration has been the main political issue in Hungary and the representation of refugees and migrants has been problematic in the media. Cordelia ran an event where a more nuanced discussion took place to combat the overwhelmingly negative

manner in which the government and media portrays refugees. The centre also organised a film screening of the documentary, The Act of Killing, followed by a roundtable discussion involving 40 people, many from other NGOs, foreign representations in Hungary and the UNHCR.

IRCT MEMBER SPIRASI - The Centre for the Care of Survivors of Torture

Around 200 people attended this year's SPIRASI event, which featured a number of guest speakers and the screening of special video created by the centre. The guest speakers, torture survivors Jim Auld and Wandile Mbhele, spoke bravely about their trauma and rehabilitation. In his speech, SPIRASI Director

Greg Straton stressed the importance of the right to rehabilitation for all victims of torture. The video, created as part of an awareness raising campaign, featured Irish sports stars, actors, musicians and media personalities reading the words of torture victims as if they were their own.

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

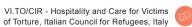
This year, the organisation's celebration took place at the Tsola del Cinema, an impressive spot on a small island on the Tevere river which is the site of an important summer cinema festival in Rome. The performance of the play, Nonostante Tutto/In Spite Of It All featured 20 refugees who participated in the centre's psychosocial rehabilitation workshop through dance and music. In collaboration with three professionals,

the participants created improvisations of theatrical motifs, such as birth and violence. The play was followed by a short video (created by the group of refugees, together with a filmmaker) conveying testimonials of two of the participants of the workshop and meaningful moments of their life inside and outside the workshop.

IRCT MEMBER KRCT - The Kosova Rehabilitation Centre of Torture Victims

KRCT took to the national airwaves and ran an awareness raising video clip in support of victims of sexual violence in Kosovo on the national broadcaster RTK for one week. The centre also ran a final workshop on the status of sexual violence survivors during the liberation war of Kosovo, which was attended by representatives of the office of the president and prime minister among others.

An art installation entitled, "Thinking of You" which was dedicated to victims of sexual violence during the war, was organised in collaboration with various partners. Citizens donated dresses and skirts to the production to convey their solidarity with victims, with donations coming from foreign missions and celebrities, such as singer Rita Ora, Baroness Anelay and Cherie Blair.



RCTV Memoria - Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims MOI DOVA

A range of events took place from 23 June to 2 July, organised by RCT Memoria in collaboration with various other NGOs, including Amnesty International Moldova, Promo-LEX, Moldova 1, the Human Rights Embassy and UN Development Programme Moldova. The group organised a press conference on R2R and RCTV Moldova staff members were interviewed for two TV programmes to discuss the Bill of Rights in Moldova and torture,

and confidentially in the army. The centre was also invited to a roundtable discussion organised by the office of the Ombudsman to discuss torture and ill-treatment in detention and attended the. "Never Alone, Never Forgotten!" marathon. RCTV Moldova also organised a commemorative openair meeting attended by stakeholders and torture survivors and launched a fundraising campaign.

IRCT MEMBER



MRCT Craiova - Medical Rehabilitation Center Craiova Foundation ROMANIA

To mark 26 June the centre offered medical examinations for torture victims of the communist regime and their families. Providing this kind of support was important, as many of the centre's clients have reduced access to medical care, are in a low-income group and retired.

The examinations included checking the blood pressure of clients and various other check ups. A roundtable discussion attended by 28 people was also organised and provided torture survivors with an opportunity to share testimonies of their experiences.



IRCT MEMBER CPT - Committee for Prevention of Torture

CPT organised a series of street pickets in Nizhny Novgorod, Orenburg and Yoshkar-Ola on 26 June. Once again, the centre collaborated with Amnesty International to run a street picket in Moscow, handing out information about the experiences of torture victims to passers-by. CPT also utilised the power of social media by having an online flash mob where people could take a

picture of themselves holding a poster condemning torture and post it online. The stories of victims were brought to light through a documentary produced by the centre entitled 286, the number of the article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation concerning abuse of office.

IRCT MEMBER TIHV/HRFT - Human Rights Foundation of Turkey

HRFT organised a range of events across the country. In Ankara, a report on torture in Turkey for the first six months of 2015 was released at a press conference. Hundreds of people also attended a play about cruelty in the infamous Diyarbakir prison in 1980. On 27 June a seminar on a criminological approach to offender profiling and torturers was held, followed by the screening of a documentary entitled, "Beneath the Blindfold".

In Diyarbakir, HRFT organised a march, disseminated a press release and put up billboards about 26 June across the city. In Istanbul, nearly 500 people, including a number of MPs, gathered for a march, which featured music played by the Mesopotamian Cultural Centre. While in İzmir, HRFT organised a march and a concert by street musicians.

IRCT MEMBER SOHRAM-CASRA - Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment

SOHRAM-CASRA held their annual picnic for victims of torture, Syrian refugees and their families, giving them a chance to forget about their daily struggles for a few hours. Leaflets about the legal rules of detention in Turkey and the legal rights of detainees were handed out and there were musical performances in Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic, Syrian, Armenian, Turkmen and Laz. as well as traditional Kurdish and Arabic folk

dances. Children were also involved in activities and flew kites over the lower wall of Diyarbakir to protest against torture and war, as they do every year. They also wrote down their wishes and released them in the Tigris river. To conclude their schedule of events, the centre organised a seminar on women and children in war and their integration conditions, which was attended by 46 people.





TIHV/HRFT - Human Rights Foundation of Turkey

London Guantanamo CampaignUNITED KINGDOM

For the sixth successive year the London Guantánamo Campaign held a vigil in solidarity with victims and survivors of torture everywhere on 26 June. The silent vigil, held in Trafalgar Square on a busy Friday evening was entitled, "Torture: A life sentence, no judge, or jury". The event was attended by around 40 people

and supported by the Save Shaker Aamer Campaign. Calls for the right to rehabilitation to be recognised were made through placards, banners and the leaflets handed out with information on the issue and the event was covered in both the local and national media.

IRCT MEMBER Freedom from Torture UNITED KINGDOM

Freedom from Torture engaged in a web and social media based campaign to commemorate 26 June. The campaign was led by the Survivors Speak OUT network, which is a network of former centre clients who have re-engaged with the world after rehabilitation.

The centre showcased the journeys of survivors that are part of the network, who have been through the rehabilitation process and now choose to talk about how, "the scars make me stronger for the cause".



Latin America & The Caribbean

EATIP - Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial ARGENTINA

To celebrate 26 June. EATIP collaborated with the Association of Psychiatrists to organise two seminars on issues related to torture at national and international level. The first addressed the topic of, "Palestinian political prisoners" and was led by the Ambassador to

Palestine in Argentina, Mr Husni Abdel Wahed. The second event focused on, "Contributions to the allegation of the trial ESMA: Traumatic and psychosocial consequences" and was chaired by doctors Diana Kordon and Lucila Edelman, both members of the Executive Committee of EATIP.

IRCT MEMBER



ITEI - Instituto de Terapia e Investigación sobre las Secuelas de Tortura y la Violencia Estatal **BOLIVIA**

ITEI marked 26 June with a mix of cultural and awareness raising events. In partnership with a local university and several civil society organisations, the centre organised a candle light event, a silent march where participants carried testimonies of victims of torture, ballet and music performances and an exhibition on torture in La Paz. In Cochabamba, ITEI

ran an exhibition on torture in the city's main square in collaboration with the Foundation for Sustainable Development. The exhibition visually presented the topics of state violence and the importance of regaining historical memory, provoking interesting discussions among those in attendance. A theatre and dance performance also took place.



ITEI - Instituto de Terapia e Investigación sobre las Secuelas de Tortura y la Violencia Estatal, Bolivia





Corporación AVRE and the Colombian Coalition Against Torture COLOMBIA

The Avre Corporation, as part of the Colombian Coalition Against Torture (CCCT), organised a variety of activities to mark 26 June and to call on the Colombian State to address. recommendations issued by the UN Committee against Torture. The group chose the slogan, "In Colombia there is torture and it has many names". On 24 June, CCCT brought together psychosocial teams from four centres in Bogota that work with survivors of torture for a briefing meeting on torture related issues. Several group members were interviewed by a Colombian radio station and CCCT also collaborated with the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) to release a joint statement calling on Colombian authorities to listen to the stories of victims and put an end to torture and impunity.



PRIVA - Fundación para la Rehabilitación Integral de Víctimas de Violencia

FCUADOR

On 26 June PRIVA ran a specialised course on, "Processes of Forensic Psychological Assessment and Reporting" at the Central University of Ecuador. Officials, academics, representatives of the School of Prosecutors of the Attorney General, forensic experts from the National Administration of Justice and various special guests attended. The aim was to train participants on issues related to human rights, gender violence, victimhood, assessment tools and psychosocial interventions, and on how to draft scientific expert reports for judicial decisionmaking processes. President of PRIVA, Dr César Band, urged the members of academia to contribute to the education of psychology professionals that respond to the right to rehabilitation of victims of torture, in the hope that the right to rehabilitation becomes a public policy in Ecuador.

IRCT MEMBER

CCTI - Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad

MEXICO

To mark 26 June and the 11th anniversary of the centre, CCTI organised a symposium against torture at the Federal District's Human Rights Commission. The symposium featured panelists from CCTI, Amnesty International, Red Nacional Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos and a torture survivor from Honduras. An art exhibition also took place in parallel with the symposium and included works from Norma Jiménez, Sergio Naranjo and Jacobo Silva, as well as Mexican poet Mardonio Carballo, CCTI also shared the testimonies of survivors and showed videos about their work and the work of other human rights organisations in Mexico. The centre concluded its series of events on 28 June with a theatre performance of "Pedro y el Capitán", attended by university professors, students and the general public.

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

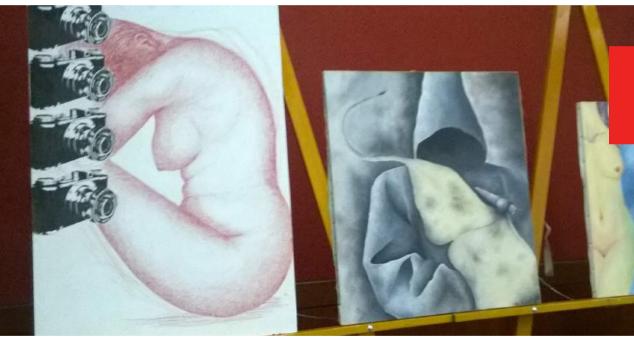
PERU

CAPS once again joined together with a number of institutions as part of the GTCT working group against torture to run a media campaign with the slogan, "Todos podemos ser víctimas de Tortura/All of us could be a victim of torture". The group used the hashtag, #AltoAlaTortura/#WeStopTorture and developed

a banner and infographics about topics, such as the National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) on torture and what constitutes torture, which they used to create awareness about 26 June on Facebook and Twitter. The centre also shared survivor stories and several members of GTCT were interviewed on television and radio.



CCTI - Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad, Mexico



Foro Penal VENEZUELA

To mark 26 June, Foro Penal launched a video called, "Violations of Human Rights in Venezuela". The video featured the testimonies of survivors of torture living in Venezuela. Since 2014, Foro Penal has recorded 135 verified cases of torture in various regions of the country. The video raised awareness that torture continues to be perpetrated in Venezuela.

In addition, the centre's Executive Director, Alfredo Romero, presented a study about the status of prisoners of conscience, victims of torture, and the persecution of human rights defenders by the Venezuelan government at the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva. He was joined by Tamara Suju, the Executive Director of the Casla Institute.

Middle East & North Africa



IRCT MEMBER Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights

In Kirkuk, the Jiyan Foundation collaborated with the General Library to run an event, where more than 50 attendees learned about the rights of torture survivors under international law, as well as about the services provided by the centre. A survivor shared her experiences as a prisoner under Saddam Hussein and another read a poem. In Sulaymaniyah, the foundation, along with two former patients delivered a letter of

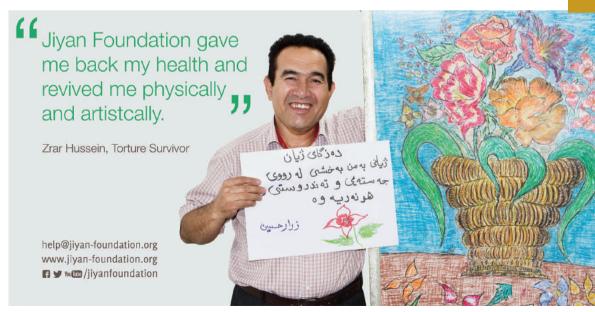
support for survivors to the parliament's office. The letter was sent to Kurdish parliamentarians, NGOs, government departments and the media. A six-day Facebook campaign ran in parallel and attracted a lot of media coverage. A press release which condemned acts of torture committed by the Islamic State and other armed groups, and called on the international community to do more was also released.

IRCT MEMBER

ODVV - Organization for Defending Victims of Violence IRAN

On 28 June, ODVV held an event at the Teheran Peace Museum with the theme, 'The Right to Rehabilitation for Victims of Torture to Return to Normal Life'. The UN Secretary-General's statement for 26 June was read by Mohammad Ali Rahai Moghadam, a representative of the UN Information Centre, calling for victims of torture to receive compensation and rehabilitation

and for the world to stand in solidarity with all affected people. Siavash Rahpeik, Director of ODVV also spoke about the right to rehabilitation while other speakers expressed the importance of promoting humanitarian values in order to prevent future cases of torture. To close the event all participants recited the Oath of Peace.





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



PCATI - The Public Committee Against Torture in Israel

PCATI, in co-operation with the Chaim Herzog Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Diplomacy at Ben Gurion University, held a conference on 25 May entitled, 'From Taqsim Square to Rabin Square: Institutionalised Violence'. Nearly 50 people attended the conference, most of them students from the university. The conference explored the roots

of torture in Turkey and Israel, the issue of police brutality and ill-treatment and their recent use against various groups of Israeli society, such as Bedouins and Ethiopians; and the high levels of impunity afforded to violent police officers. In addition, a short animated film, 'Police Violence can amount to Torture' was launched at the event.

IRCT MEMBER CVT - The Center for Victims of Torture (USA) JORDAN

CVT Jordan hosted a breakfast for local partners and donors, during which attendees heard from representatives of CVT and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and watched a video highlighting 26 June messages from six clients. Both Amman and Zarqa centre clients and staff were invited to write down their 26

June messages on a mural. CVT Jordan later held a candlelight vigil for clients, which included speeches by CVT staff and clients and activities for children. This event concluded with all attendees lighting a floating candle and releasing it into the sky as a symbol of standing against torture and in solidarity with torture survivors.

KRC - Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture

LEBANON

In Beirut, KRC organised a medical day for the mothers of disappeared. Fifteen women participated in a psychosocial session and where needed, received medicine. In Geneva, the centre was involved in three side events on, "Human Rights in Bahrain: Reform of the judiciary in Bahrain", "Detainees in Israel Jails: Detained outside the law" and, "The political prisoners in Europe (France): Arbitrary Detention or a Path of Justice". Other activities included sending written statements to the 29th session of the Human Rights Council in support for prisoners, condemning the arrest of children of Al-Qods and further suppression vis-à-vis the Israeli occupation and against human rights violations in Bahrain and Yemen.

IRCT MEMBER RESTART - Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture

LEBANON

A range of activities marked 26 June, including a one-day event at the Bar Association in Beirut, attended by international and national organisations, representatives of governmental bodies, human rights activists and journalists. The objective was to lobby for the introduction of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and to launch the forensic and psychological unit inside the judicial palace in Tripoli. Suzanne Jabbour, Director of RESTART, Dr Abdel Salam

Sidahmed, Regional Representative from the OHCHR and Ruth Bajada, the Chargé d'Affaires in the EU spoke at the event. In addition, the Bar Association published a booklet on how to conduct visits to places of detention. Awards were also given to the winners of a competition for university students to produce a TV spot with the theme, 'Torture is a Crime'. The winning piece was shown on local TV channels between 20 and 30 June.

IRCT MEMBER

AMRVT - Association Medicale de Rehabilitation des Victimes de la Torture

MOROCCO

In co-operation with the families of missing persons and victims of the committee of the disappeared, AMRVT organised an event to give torture survivors an opportunity to share the experiences they had in a number of detention centres. Many human rights organisations including Families of the Disappeared,

the Alumni Association of the Disappeared of Tazmamert, the Association of 20 June 1981 and the group of Ahermoumou attended.

The event was widely covered on Moroccan Television, as well as by the print and online media. The evening concluded with a reception in honor of all the affected communities.

IRCT MEMBER GCMHP - Gaza Community Mental Health Programme

GCMHP teamed up with the UN Office of the High Commissioner to record a television programme called, "Palestine after joining the anti-torture international agreement." Hasan Zeyadah from GCMHP, Abed Naser Ferwana, a researcher and specialist in prisoners affairs, Sobhia Juma, a lawyer from the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights and Saber El-Nairab from the UN Office of the High

Commissioner discussed issues related to torture during the one-hour programme. The programme was broadcast on three consecutive days on a local TV channel. In addition, eight posters highlighting the suffering of tortured prisoners and the violations committed against them by the Israeli occupation prisons authorities were widely disseminated via various media channels.







Jiyan Foundation for Human Rights, Iraq



TRC - Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Palestine

IRCT MEMBER

TRC - Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture PALESTINE

TRC held its annual national conference with the theme, 'Harmonisation between Palestinian Legislation and the UN Convention against Torture: A Palestinian State without Torture and Inhumane Treatment'. The panel of guest speakers included, Issa Qaraqe, Director of the Palestinian Authority Committee of Detainees and Ex-Detainees and Janet Mikhael, former Mayor of Ramallah. Dr.Bahaa al-Saadi from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Randa

Siniora Executive Director of the Independent Commission for Human Rights and Dr Wahid Juma, Director of Strategic Planning at the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Interior also spoke. The event concluded with the issuance of recommendations calling for the criminalisation of torture, persecution of perpetrators and effective mechanisms for prevention and reparation.



ODVV - Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Iran



ACTRTV - Amel Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation Victims of Torture

SUDAN

The Amel centre celebrated 26 June with the message that victims have a right to rehabilitation and that states must deliver on this right. The day was also an occasion to reflect on the significant differences between global progress in the fight against torture and the present day reality in Sudan where the prohibition of torture is not implemented.

There are also several regional conflicts and an overwhelming number of internally displaced persons, many of them victims of torture and in need of rehabilitation and security. With the ongoing threat against NGO's in the country, Amel presented the need for more joint work and stronger links with organisations in other countries.

SNHR - Syrian Network for Human Rights SYRIA

A report on the current efforts of SNHR to document and prevent torture was issued on 26 June through various media outlets. The report contained recommendations to the Security Council where the importance of finding effective mechanisms to protect the detainees who being held by the Syrian authorities was underlined, among others. Furthermore, the report called for

the UN Security Council to put pressure on the Syrian government and other relevant parties, to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to enter detention centres and provide support to detainees. The report also stated that almost 11,000 people have died due to torture since the civil war began in March 2011, many of them women and children.

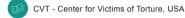
North America











CCVT ran an event where over 140 participants, including survivors, experts, CCVT volunteers and community members came together to discuss the consequences of traumatic experiences, as well as the successes and challenges associated with helping survivors overcome their past. The event included a photo exhibition and theatrical and musical performances. The photo exhibition,

"Life Comes Back to Me Again" by filmmaker Mahboubeh Honarian, portrayed the daily life of Syrians in Lebanese refugee camps through the viewpoints of seven children. Participants also had the opportunity to watch a play by the Tamil Seniors' Group, dance performances by the children from the CCVT Scarborough's Homework Club programme, and to listen to music from Emmanuel Tabi and the Nubians.

AHRC - The American Human Rights Council USA

AHRC launched a publicity campaign for 26 June by issuing a statement condemning torture to thousands of its members, friends and supporters locally in the USA and across

the globe. AHRC released its statement on its website and social media, calling for an end to all forms of torture.

IRCT MEMBER Survivors of Torture, International USA

Staff, clients, and volunteers of Survivors of Torture, International gathered to mark 26 June, to advocate for the right to rehabilitation and call for an end to torture through music and dance. Attendees were inspired by the resilience of the survivors present, despite the horrific acts of torture they have experienced. When asked how she felt about 26 June and her experience

at the centre, one client from Africa said, "I feel today that I am alive." Survivors also advocated for the right to rehabilitation as a community and members of the San Diego mental health, law, medical, religious, and human rights fields shared messages with their friends, families, and colleagues to show their support for torture survivors.







CVT - Center for Victims of Torture, USA

IRCT MEMBER FCST - Florida Center for Survivors of Torture

On 25 June FCST ran a, "Together Against Torture Day", which was attended by more than 90 people. Survivors, community members, agency service providers and FCST staff came together to enjoy a range of events, including a Human Spirit Awards Ceremony, which recognised Dr. Marcie Biddleman, CEO of the Juvenile Welfare Board and Officer Raymond

Croze of the Clearwater Police Department as having made a significant contribution to helping survivors. There were also a number of musical performances and the centre collaborated with a progressive theatre group to run an interactive healing workshop culminating in a community performance involving survivors.

IRCT MEMBER CVT - The Center for Victims of Torture

CVT ran two events, one in St. Paul, Minnesota and one in Washington DC. In St Paul, CVT staff, board members, clients past and current and their families gathered at the St. Paul Healing Center for a dinner to celebrate the resilience of survivors. There was then a short talk with speeches from the Executive Director of the centre Curt Goering, staff and a client. To close the event hand woven bracelets in the CVT colors of red, orange and yellow, were given to

all in attendance. In Washington, CVT hosted a reception on Capitol Hill, where Minnesota Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken spoke about their commitment to CVT and to fighting torture. In addition, CVT's Washington Office Director Annie Sovcik participated in a webinar with the theme #TortureFreeWorld with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Méndez and various partner organisations.

IRCT MEMBER CLSACC - Community Legal Services and Counselling Center

CLSACC combined its celebration of World Refugee Day and 26 June by hosting an event on 9 June in collaboration with My Moments; an NGO that facilitates therapeutic self-expression through expressive digital imagery. The themes for the evening were hope, strength and resilience. Clients used an application to modify images on smartphones and tablets to

express what the themes meant to them on their rehabilitation journey. Many selected symbolic images of hope and renewal and some used pictures of family members they are waiting to be reunited with. Several spoke about the importance of knowing they are not alone in their experiences and found the evening both healing and empowering.

IRCT MEMBER Heartland Alliance - Marjorie Kovler Center

This year, over 150 people gathered at Loyola University in Chicago for the Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center's commemoration of 26 June. Those in attendance included survivors of torture and their families, Kovler Center staff, volunteers, and supporters. The evening opened with an introduction from Kovler Center Director Mary Lynn Everson, a ceremony recognising two

exceptional volunteers and supportive partners. Keynote speaker Joey Mogul, an attorney and tireless advocate for survivors of police torture in Chicago spoke about his experience representing people who have suffered from police and other governmental torture, abuse and misconduct in civil rights cases.





Survivors of Torture, USA

The Pacific



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

AUSTRALIA

With more refugees than ever before, many who have survived torture, STARTTS, in partnership with Amnesty, sought to answer the question of what can be done to support survivors when the need is the greatest, at a panel discussion on 25 June. Topics included the importance but also the challenges of providing rehabilitation

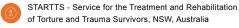
to survivors, the legal ramifications of torture, as well as some powerful descriptions of the experience of providing medical care to survivors, particularly in a detention environment. The discussion concluded with a lively Q&A session with the 40 audience members in the room and those watching a livestream of the event.

IRCT MEMBER STTARS - Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service Inc

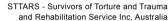
STTARS partnered with the University of South Australia for its annual 26 June event, "Rehabilitation: Co-creating new lives". Thomas Albrecht, Regional Representative for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees gave the keynote address to an audience of almost 300 people. He spoke about the global challenge of protecting refugees, with a specific focus on the importance of providing sustained

support to survivors of violence and torture; using rehabilitation centres like STTARS as an example of what humanity in action means. STTARS Chief Executive Stephanie Miller described how the collaborative aspect of providing trauma-focused services is an integral part of the journey to recovery for survivors, not only in South Australia, but around the world.











Companion House Assisting Survivors of Torture and Trauma AUSTRALIA

Companion House joined forces with researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) to run a lecture entitled, "Torture: Its prevalence, politics, and lessons from working with survivors". The lecture was free, open to the public and attended by more than 70 people. The speakers included Kathy Ragless, Director of Companion House, Associate Professor Christine Phillips

from the College of Medicine, Biology and Environment and Dr Paul Kenny and Dr Nick Cheesman from the Department of Political and Social Change. The sessions covered themes such as, survivors of torture and trauma, a medical perspective on the physicality of torture and torture in Asia today.

IRCT MEMBER Refugee Trauma Recovery

The Refugee Trauma Centre combined its activities for 26 June and World Refugee Day by holding an art workshop in Wellesley College. It was the fifth year the centre ran the workshop. Ten students with refugee backgrounds from Columbia and Myanmar created a number of

colourful pieces that were then displayed at a shopping centre in Porirua. The exhibition, entitled, "The Arrival – What it Means to be a Refugee" was opened by Porirua Councillor Izzy Ford at an event which featured a dance performance from the Columbian community.



STTARS - Survivors of Torture and Trauma and Rehabilitation Service Inc, Australia

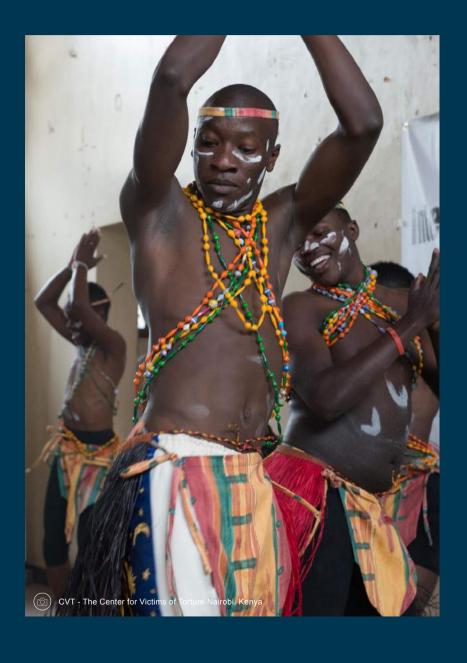






STTARS - Survivors of Torture and Trauma and Rehabilitation Service Inc, Australia

Sub-Saharan Africa



IRCT MEMBER TCC - Trauma Centre Cameroon CAMEROON

This year, TCC ran events for an entire week, providing various health and social services to victims of torture and informing the public about the effects of torture through the distribution of 400 leaflets and positioning of posters and banners in strategic points in the city. The day itself was celebrated at the centre under the theme, "R2R Now!". Activities included a reception, speeches and educating participants

on health issues. Finally, TCC staff engaged directly with torture survivors exploring how they can support each other in the rehabilitation process and advocate against torture and for their right to rehabilitation.

The key message was the need to ensure perpetrators are held accountable and that rehabilitation for victims becomes a reality in Cameroon in the near future.



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

AJPNV brought together the media, NGOs, health and legal professionals, political parties, police, military, traditional, religious and customary leaders, teachers, students, and victims of torture at its headquarters Kamda Ndjamena to celebrate 26 June. In total, 375 people attended the ceremony to claim, "R2R Now!". The ceremony featured a presentation about AJPNV, the IRCT and a global reading,

followed by a press conference where AJPNV President, Nodigoto Charbonnel, expressed concerns about the fact that torture continues to exist in states that have ratified the UN Convention against Torture. The ceremony was covered by Télé-Chad, Radio-Chad, FM Radio FM Liberte, the Journal LA VOIE and several newspapers.

IRCT MEMBER



REMAK - Regroupement des Mamans de Kamituga

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

REMAK undertook a number of activities in support of victims of torture and ill-treatment in the Mwenga province in South Kivu. Activities included the distribution of information material about the criminalisation of torture, participation in a radio show, hosting a conference and visiting detainees at a prison camp. More than 60 people participated in the conference, including

local authorities, prison administration staff, the military, police, torture survivors and civil society organisations. The conference theme was, "R2R Now" and among the key recommendations was to ensure psychological support is available for victims of torture and ill-treatment, as well as sufficient funding for rehabilitation programmes.

IRCT MEMBER Save Congo

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Save Congo organised a specialised roundtable discussion in Lubumbashi, Katanga on 26 June. The event was attended by five civil society NGOs, and four UN agencies - UNICEF, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Population Fund and UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC and focused on torture rehabilitation. In the evening there was a conference on the

right to rehabilitation, which was attended by 100 participants including medical doctors, psychologists and lawyers. A number of music groups captivated the audience for an hour with powerful performances and messages about rehabilitation. Furthermore, Save Congo staff visited the refugee camp in Lubumbashi.

SOS JED - SOS JEUNESSE ET ENFANCE EN DETRESSE

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

This year's 26 June celebration focused on the theme, "Torture is a crime and rehabilitation is a right" and involved survivors, their families, service providers and alleged torturers.

Community leaders and representatives of various state services came together to discuss

the progress of criminalising torture in the country. More than 530 people attended the event, concluding that there is an urgent need to completely eradicate torture and ensure that victims receive the rehabilitation they need.

SOPROP - Solidarité Pour la Promotion Sociale et la Paix

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

This year, SOPROP celebrated 26 June with a conference organised with the Joint UN office and an awareness workshop. The workshop was attended by 100 people including doctors, lawyers, magistrates, students and civil society representatives and focused on improving the documentation and denunciation of torture and ill-treatment. SOPROP also organised two meals in solidarity with victims in Kinshasa and Goma. Some private businesses and individuals brought gifts to SOPROP's three rehabilitation centres for the events. SOPROP also issued recommendations to the government of the DRC to create a fund for compensation for victims of torture and ill-treatment and to ensure civil society involvement in the administration of the fund.





SOVIP - Solidarité avec les Victimes et pour la Paix

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SOVIP jointly hosted an event with the Office of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC. Speakers included representatives of SOVIP, the regional prosecutor and staff from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Members of the national police, the

armed forces, the military police, judges of the military prosecutor, civil court judges, women's organisations, human rights organisations and faith-based organisations participated. Discussions mainly focused on the need for capacity building and awareness raising around anti-torture issues.

AVVDH - Amis des Victimes des Violations des Droits Humains

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AVVDH commemorated 26 June under the theme "R2R Now!". The main event took place at the Centre de Recherches en Hydrobiologie d'Uvira and participants included officers from the security services, the army, civil society organisations, representatives of local communities and women's groups representatives. Among the main issues

addressed was the significant gap between the letter of the law and its implementation in relation to protection against torture and ill-treatment. Among the key recommendations coming from the event was the need to establish a tool for monitoring and reporting instances of torture and ill-treatment and to be more attentive to victim needs when trying to seek justice and reparation.

IRCT MEMBER

CVT - The Center for Victims of Torture (USA)

FTHIOPIA

CVT Ethiopia staff in both the Mai-Aini and Adi Harush refugee camps arranged a day of competitions, music and drama performances for the refugees. At the Adi Harush camp, there was a question-and-answer competition about CVT, torture, Eritrean culture and history, as well as poetry and banana eating competitions. Torture survivors also shared their experiences, while one read a short story from the refugee community about torture experiences. At the Mai-Aini camp, a cycle race took place to raise awareness about 26 June. Nearly 200 participants came together in a newly constructed hall to hear speeches given by ARRA, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and CVT staff. CVT staff had also put up banners to educate residents in the camp about the day.



IRCT MEMBER IMLU - Independent Medico-Legal Unit KENYA

IMLU's campaign this year focused on advocating for the enactment of the National Anti-Torture Law, and the National Coroners Service Bill to provide for comprehensive forensic investigations of torture and unnatural deaths in Kenya. IMLU led a nationwide two-week public campaign to gather signatures for a petition requiring the government of Kenya to prioritise these two bills. A march took place

in Nairobi on 26 June and the petition was delivered to the Attorney General (AG) of Kenya. In his address the AG reiterated the commitment of the Kenyan Government to eliminate torture and ill-treatment and promised that the two bills will be enacted this year. Over 350 participants from government agencies, the private sector, foreign missions, civil society and the general public attended the event.







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

CVT Dadaab ran an awareness raising campaign at its centre in north east Kenya. Centre staff distributed IRCT branded banners and promotional material about 26 June in the local community. There was also a talk involving local counselors who spoke about CVT's work and the significance of 26 June globally.



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

KENYA

Nearly 400 community members attended events organised by CVT Nairobi to celebrate 26 June. A number of dance groups from Ugandan and Congolese communities performed at the event. The UN Secretary-General's 26 June for 2015 was shared with those in attendance, as well as messages from CVT's Executive Director Curt Goering and CVT Kenya board and staff members

IRCT MEMBER Centre Against Torture KENYA

This year the Centre Against Torture marked 26 June with a stakeholders forum in Eldoret. More than 25 participants including journalists, medico-legal personnel, human rights defenders, religious leaders and survivors of torture attended; and focused on devising innovative approaches the centre could implement to lobby various government departments, the legislature, judiciary, citizens and other likeminded actors to enact a national anti-torture law.

Among the strategies emerging were the need for a multidisciplinary approach, direct and public engagement with all relevant actors combined with public education about the need for a law. Other strategies included the insertion of antitorture contents in relevant education curriculum, such as criminal justice and ethics and the development of a clear policy statement and an action plan for all stakeholders.

IRCT MEMBER

MATESO - Mwatikho Torture Survivors Organization

KENYA

This year MATESO held its activities in the 'Garden of Memories', a memorial ground set aside as a meditation site for victims of torture and their families. The centre set up a medical camp where they provided medication, psychaiatric care, social care and counseling. Their efforts were supported by a medical team and approximately 120 clients received support. MATESO also engaged in a number of

activities on the implementation of the right to rehabilitation. This included collaborating with other organisations to send a petition to the Kenyan Attorney General to have the Anti-torture Bill slated for debate and enacted as law. In addition, MATESO participated in a radio show reaching two million people to raise awareness about the Kenyan Bill of Rights.

Advocacy Center for Human Rights

KENYA

In Kenya, the Advocacy Center for Human Rights teamed up with members of the local community and youth groups to commemorate 26 June. The focus this year was the need for the state to make effective use of rehabilitation to offer justice to torture victims and to urge members of the public to support rehabilitation. The centre organised a public forum, where

more than 100 participants discussed the gap in the legal framework on the prohibition of torture and right to rehabilitation in Kenya. Those in attendance also noted that despite the current Bill of Rights, reports by the Independent Police Oversight Authority and Kenya National Commission on Human Rights reveal that cases of torture are 'prevalent and systematic'.

IRCT MEMBER FOR RAL - Rescue Alternatives Liberia

RAL issued a press statement, visited national policy-makers and distributed anti-torture material to mark 26 June. The press statement. which focused on the implementation of the right to rehabilitation, the adoption of an antitorture law and ending the use of torture as an investigation tool, was broadcast on two radio stations in Monrovia. The RAL team visited Col. Adana Paye, Head of the Monrovia Central Prison, Liberia National Police (LNP) Chief of Operation, Col. Prince Mulbah, LNP Zone 1 Commander, Gus Alieu, and the Assistant Minister of Justice for Corrections and Rehabilitation. RAL presented its priorities including the need to end torture in Liberian law-enforcement agencies and discussed how the respective agencies could contribute to achieving this.





RAL - Rescue Alternatives Liberia







LAPS - Liberia Association of Psychosocial Services, Liberia

LAPS - Liberia Association of Psychosocial Services

LIBERIA

LAPS commemorated 26 June by organising a march, a mini female kickball and football league and an indoor programme. LAPS' objective was to educate community members, representatives of the national government, partner agencies, law enforcement officers and other stakeholders

on torture victims' right to rehabilitation and to make them aware of the necessity of a holistic approach to services through medical, psychological and social support, and access to justice and redress.

Prison Watch

SIERRA LEONE

Prison Watch spent most of the day providing humanitarian support to women and children in four places of detention; distributing sanitary items, clothes and refreshments. At the detention centres, Prison Watch read the IRCT global reading on the right to rehabilitation and called on the government of Sierra Leone to make

this right a reality for inmates by providing livelihood skills training opportunities. Prison Watch also held a one-hour live radio advocacy discussion programme in Bo City, Southern Region and joined Amnesty international in their commemoration.

TCSVT - The Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture

SOUTH AFRICA

TCSVT produced a booklet explaining what torture is and how to best access rehabilitation services. The booklet was written in Afrikaans and from the perspective of a person's shoes, making it less confrontational and more appealing to the young people it targeted.

TCSVT staff visited the Mananberg community wearing hats with the "R2R Now!" logo and organisation's logo and distributing more than 200 copies of the booklet. Based on the positive reaction from this community, the centre plans to visit other affected communities in the future.







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



MATESO - Mwatikho Torture Survivors Organization, Kenya

IRCT MEMBER

ACTV - African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

UGANDA

ACTV joined forces with the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the National Coalition Against Torture to promote the implementation of the national Anti-Torture Law, which is seen as one of the main vehicles for ensuring torture victims' right to rehabilitation. Activities included a media campaign and press conference, community and public dialogues, a football tournament, a peaceful march and an exhibition by rehabilitated torture survivors. The media

campaign featured survivor experiences and saw more than 50 journalists participate in the press conference. The head of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Uganda led the march along with the police and prison brass bands. The guest of honour was the Head of Delegation of the EU in Uganda. In addition, Ambassador Kristian Schmidt represented the development partners and launched the text of the Anti-Torture Law in four local languages.

CSU - Counselling Services Unit

ZIMBABWE

This 26 June provided the perfect moment for CSU to review the impact of 15 years of providing health-based rehabilitation services to victims of torture, as defined in General Comment 3. Over 400 survivors of torture attended a church service in the Anglican Cathedral, led by the Anglican Bishop, survivors and members of the network of service providers and support structures. Survivors shared their stories about the path they have followed

towards recovery. The event was testimony to the power of collaboration, with over 15 human rights service providers and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission involved. For all Zimbabweans involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of more than 22,000 victims, witnessing the power of the human spirit in recovery was exceptionally moving. The impact of access to rehabilitation and justice was reiterated in each testimony during the service.





IMLU - Independent Medico-Legal Unit, Kenya

Campaign Materials

The IRCT seeks to support its members and other anti-torture organisations in their own campaigns by providing them with a comprehensive campaign kit. This year's kit included logos, a poster, a brochure with background information, a campaign guide and a global reading. The campaign kit was available in a number of languages. The campaign material could be used on locally printed t-shirts, badges and banners or simply downloaded for use in documents or on social media.





Organisations could download a four-page brochure, available in three languages, containing background information on "R2R - Right to Rehabilitation Now!" to use as a handout and/or in response to enquiries.



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 and helps organisations through the different stages leading up to 26 June, including what kind of events to hold, how to plan and coordinate, how to reach out to the media and how to target their audience effectively.



#Torture

#WorldWithoutTorture

#StopTorture

#IRCT

#26June

#RightToRehabilitation

#TortureFreeWorld

#R2R

#IstanbulProtocol

#HumanRights

#Justice

Social Media

By connecting anti-torture voices from around the world through the use of technology and social media tools, the campaign activities generated images and messages that can and have been used for advocacy purposes. These outcomes show the importance of allowing space for creativity and can become a powerful tool; showcasing the reality of affected communities and empowering survivors.

Whether statements are being made in remote villages around the globe, or in a UN conference room in Geneva, social media inspires and unites all of those involved in the 26 June campaign under one call for change.



www.twitter.com/withouttorture www.twitter.com/IRCT

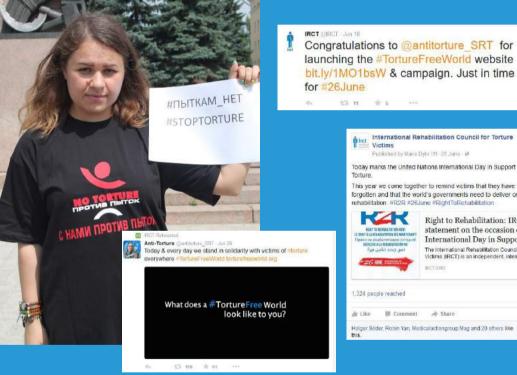


www.facebook.com/ WorldWithoutTorture www.facebook.com/irct.org



www.linkedin.com/company/ international-rehabilitation-councilfor-torture-victims

Check out some of the messages and photos from supporters. Thank you all for joining in the global fight for the rehabilitation of survivors of torture.



4. E3 H 1/2 5 *** International Rehabilitation Council for Torture iret Victims Published by Marie Dybr 191- 28 June - @ Today marks the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of This year we come together to remind victims that they have not been forgotten and that the world's governments need to deliver on their right to rehabilitation. #R2R #26June #RightToRehabilitation Right to Rehabilitation: IRCT statement on the occasion of the International Day in Support of ... The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an independent, international.... BUT DHO 1,324 people reached Boost Post Comment → Share

Holger Söder, Robin Yan, Medicalactiongroup Mag and 20 others like Most Recent •





WorldWithoutTorture @withouttorture - Jun 22

This Friday our friends at STARTTS are hosting a panel discussion in Sydney on torture rehabilitation: on.fb.me/1THocD5 #R2R #26June



WorldWithoutTorture @withouttorture - Jun 11

#26June Campaign: How two survivors of Rwandan Genocide overcame the scars of the past: bit.ly/1Hv8xC6 #RightToRehabilitation #R2R





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, 158 States as of January 2016.

Côte d'Ivoire Afghanistan Albania Croatia Algeria Cuba Andorra Cyprus Antiqua and Barbuda Czech Republic **Democratic Republic** Argentina - of the Congo Armenia **Australia** Denmark Austria Diibouti Azerbaijan **Dominican Republic** Ecuador Bahrain Bangladesh Eavpt El Salvador Belarus Belgium **Equatorial Guinea** Belize Eritrea Benin Estonia Bolivia Ethiopia Bosnia and Herzegovina Finland Botswana France Brazil Gabon Bulgaria Georgia **Burkina Faso** Germany Burundi Ghana Cambodia Greece Guatemala Cameroon Canada Guinea Guinea-Bissau Cape Verde Chad Guyana Chile **Holy See** China Honduras Colombia Hungary Congo Iceland Costa Rica Indonesia

Ireland Israel Italy Japan Jordan Kazakhstan Kenya Kuwait Kyrgyzstan Lao People's Democratic - Republic Latvia Lebanon Lesotho Liberia Libya Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Madagascar Malawi Maldives Mali Malta Mauritania Mauritius Mexico Monaco Mongolia Montenegro Morocco Mozambique

Nepal Netherlands **New Zealand** Nicaragua Niger Nigeria Norway Pakistan Panama Paraguay Peru **Philippines** Poland **Portugal** Qatar Republic of Korea Republic of Moldova Romania Russian Federation Rwanda Saint Vincent and the - Grenadines San Marino Saudi Arabia Senegal Serbia Sevchelles Sierra Leone Slovakia Slovenia Somalia

Namihia

Nauru

South Sudan Spain Sri Lanka State of Palestine Swaziland Sweden Switzerland Syrian Arab Republic Tajikistan Thailand The Former Yugoslav - Republic of Macedonia **Timor-Leste** Togo Tunisia Turkey Turkmenistan Uganda Ukraine **United Arab Emirates United Kingdom of Great**

- Britain and Northern Ireland

United States of America

Uruguay

Vanuatu

Vietnam

Yemen

7amhia

Venezuela

Uzbekistan

South Africa

States which have NOT ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention. 39 States as of January 2016 *States that have signed but not ratified, acceded or succeeded UNCAT

Angola* Bahamas* Barbados Bhutan Brunei Darussalam* Central **African** Republic Comoros* **Cook Islands** People's Republic of

Dominica

Fiji Gambia* Grenada Haiti* India* Iran (Islamic - Republic of) Jamaica Kiribati Korea, Democratic

Malaysia

Marshall Islands Micronesia, Federated States of Myanmar Niue Oman Palau* Papua New Guinea

Samoa Sao Tome and Principe* Singapore

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Solomon Islands Sudan* Suriname Tanzania, United Republic of Tonga **Trinidad and Tobago**

Tuvalu Zimbabwe

How to support the IRCT

Help us to continue our 26 June campaign by sharing this report and joining us next year to call for support for victims of torture worldwide. You can contribute to the fight against torture by joining activities wherever you are in the world and by being a part of the global anti-torture movement.

In addition, by donating even a small sum, you can assist us in putting an end to torture and ensuring that torture survivors and their families receive much-needed treatment and other services.



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 Vesterbrogade 149, building 4, 3rd floor 1620 Copenhagen V Denmark

http://www.irct.org/donate



By Bank Transfer

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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

Thank you.

We look forward to #26June 2016 and to creating an even stronger more unified voice to continue the mission of promoting a #WorldWithoutTorture

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 works for the prevention of torture worldwide.





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