

# Global Report on the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture



26 JUNE  
2013



**Torture victims have the right  
to rehabilitation.  
Let's make this right a reality.**

**2013 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.

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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IRCT Communications

IRCT  
Borgergade 13  
P.O. Box 9049  
1022 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

# 26 June: global campaign

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

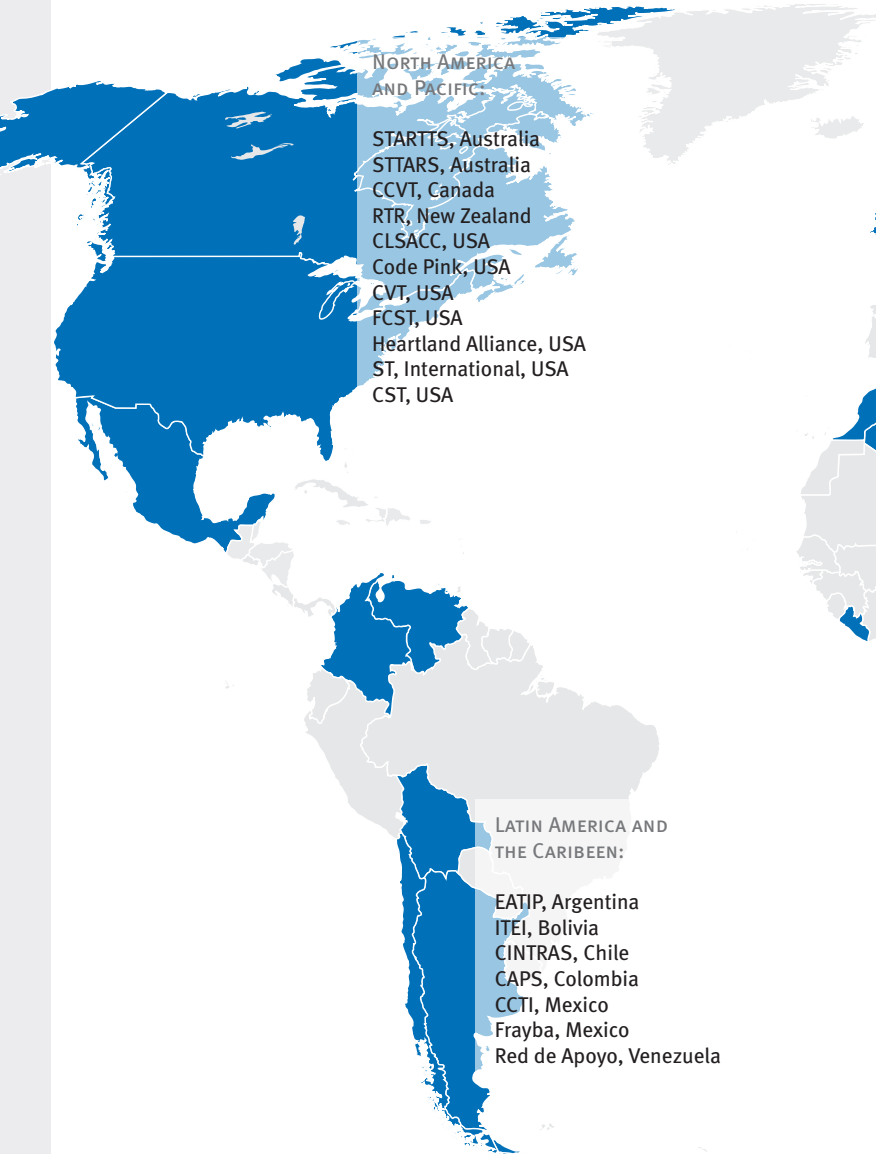
From the Philippines to Russia to Venezuela, human rights defenders call for an end to the horrific practice of torture. Some actions are local: organisations highlight the specific ways in which torture takes place in each country – call on their national governments to ratify the UN Convention against Torture and advocate for treatment for asylum seekers and refugees.

The IRCT brings together these local voices into a global campaign. The Global Report highlights context-specific advocacy, and collates all voices to one call to end torture, provide justice for the victims and rehabilitate victims of torture.

Help us to continue our campaign on 26 June. Join us next year as well call for support for the victims of torture worldwide. Create your own event, tell us your plans. Take a moment to remember those affected. Contribute to the fight against torture.

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

## Participating organisations



■ Countries where activities were known to have taken place

EUROPE:

ARCT, Albania  
FAVL, Armenia  
Vive Žene, Bosnia Herze-  
govina  
RCT Zagreb, Croatia  
Empathy, Georgia  
MFH Bochum, Germany  
Cordelia Foundation, Hungary  
SPIRASI, Ireland  
VI.TO/CIR, Italy  
KRCT, Kosovo  
ACAT, Luxembourg

RCTV Memoria, Moldova  
IMMO, The Netherlands  
MRCT Craiova, Romania  
INGO CAT, Russia  
IAN CRTV, Serbia  
Red Cross Malmö, Sweden  
SOHRAM-CASRA, Turkey  
Freedom from Torture, UK  
LGC, UK  
Redress, UK\*  
RTC, UK

ASIA:

CRTS, Bangladesh  
BCHRD, Bangladesh  
TPO, Cambodia  
CCTV, India  
CORE H2H, India  
MRW, India  
SICHREM, India  
TTSP, India  
ALDP, Indonesia  
SIKAP, Indonesia  
RATA, Indonesia  
CVICT, Nepal  
TPO, Nepal  
HDO, Pakistan  
SACH, Pakistan  
Balay, Philippines  
MAG, Philippines  
Trauma Centre, South Korea  
Truth Foundation, South Korea  
HRO Kandy, Sri Lanka  
FRC, Sri Lanka  
SA, Sri Lanka

MIDDLE EAST AND  
NORTH AFRICA:

CNDF, Algeria  
ODVV, Iran  
BFRCT, Iraq  
CVT, Jordan  
Khiam Center, Lebanon  
Restart Center, Lebanon  
AMRVT, Morocco

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA:

SAP/GL, Burundi  
FEPNET, Cameroon  
AJPNV, Chad  
GIPROCOME, DR Congo  
REMAK, DR Congo  
SOPROP, DR Congo  
SAVE CONGO, DR Congo  
CVT, Ethiopia  
CAT, Kenya  
CVT Dabaab, Kenya  
CVT Nairobi, Kenya  
IMLU, Kenya  
MATESO, Kenya  
IRC, Kenya  
ACAT, Liberia  
RAL, Liberia  
PRAWA, Nigeria  
Steps to Life, Nigeria  
YEHRCR, Nigeria  
Amel Center, Sudan  
Al Fanar, Sudan  
ACTV, Uganda

# Making the right to rehabilitation a reality for everyone



As the global umbrella organisation for 144 rehabilitation centres in more than 70 countries, the IRCT has long collaborated with various stakeholders to further a conducive policy environment for the right to rehabilitation, and to develop practical understanding on how this right can be best implemented.

In collaboration with other international NGOs working in the field, the IRCT provided concerted and strategic input to the development of the UN Committee against Torture's General Comment No. 3 on Article 14, clarifying the precise scope of the obligations on states. Our input, reflected in the final document, focused on a victim-centred approach, early access to rehabilitation and the criteria for holistic rehabilitation.

The IRCT also brought together the expertise from rehabilitation centres worldwide, representatives from academia, governments, inter-governmental organisations and civil society in a scientific conference held in Beirut, to explore in detail the way rehabilitation is provided to

torture victims and how states can become accountable for their implementation efforts.

These were important steps to shape the precise scope of the right to rehabilitation, and to gain a shared understanding of what needs to be done by the scientific and professional community to make this right a reality. However, this right will not materialise without a much wider support base.

The 2013 UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June was encouraging. The report you are now reading shows some of the actions taken on the ground by hundreds of organisations and individuals around the world. On 26 June, they honoured the victims and highlighted their rights. Through music and theatre performances, conferences and lectures, peaceful demonstrations and sit-ins, and many other events, the message came out loud and clear.

Many people around the world heard that message, from government representatives to police officers, from prison guards to bloggers and

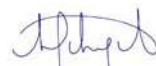
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activists, from legal and medical professionals to mere passers-by. And through the efforts of the IRCT and all the other organisations and individuals who marked the day, this message will keep spreading, echoing until this right be-

comes a reality for everyone, and until the reality of torture survivors becomes another, where through rehabilitation their life becomes whole again.



Suzanne Jabbour  
President



Victor Madrigal-Borloz  
Secretary-General



The poster, downloaded more than 4000 times, was available in ten languages: Arabic, Russian, Danish, Faroese, Polish, English, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish, which was made possible through the help of centres around the world.

## Campaign materials

The IRCT seeks to support the members and other anti-torture organisations to host their own campaigns each year. We want the message of 26 June to reach as many people as possible. Every year, the IRCT offers a wide range of campaign tools at [www.irct.org/26june](http://www.irct.org/26june). The kit includes posters, logos, a campaign guide, a factsheet collection, a statement for a global reading, sample letters and press releases, videos and a game. We strive to offer these tools in as many languages as possible. This year's highlights are:

### The campaign guide

The IRCT campaign guide is the result of many contributions from organisations that, over the years, have commemorated the 26 June. The guide offers practical advice from the centres that have held 26 June events: what kind of events to hold, how to plan and coordinate, how to reach out to the media.

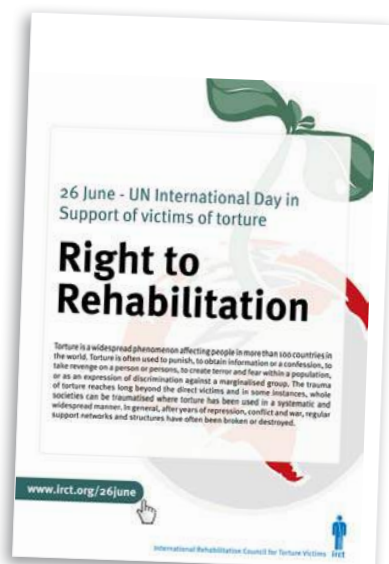
### Factsheets

The factsheets can help increase the understanding and visibility of the problem of torture and were used by organisations around the world as handouts and/or in response to inquiries.

### Logos and other print materials

This year a great number of printable materials were available. Our logo for 26 June was used in creating a poster, banners and badges. All the logos and posters were available for download to use on print materials – such as placards at public marches – or for use on social media networks – such as banners on Facebook or a Twitter profile picture. The 26 June poster included the slogan: Torture victims have a right to rehabilitation. Let's make this right a reality.

This year, we also included a new brochure on Right to Rehabilitation that explains the outcomes of the UN Committee against Torture's General Comment No. 3 and the basics on holistic rehabilitation.





# Types of activities

## Informational/Educational Activities

Conferences and seminars are still among the most popular 26 June campaign activities. Either for the purposes 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/educational activities organised for 26 June include distribution of informational materials, testimonies by torture survivors, radio quizzes, film screenings and open houses.



*“SIKAP, a group of 27 civil society organisations in Indonesia, organised a series of activities to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UNCAT, rehabilitation for victims of torture and access to justice.”*

**Civil Society Alliance against Torture (SIKAP), Indonesia**

## Cultural Activities

Many organisations around the world chose to celebrate 26 June with cultural performances. In general, cultural performances attract great interest from the general public giving more visibility to the message being conveyed.



*“The art display ‘Healing Through Unity’ represents the work of survivors of torture from different culture, religion and backgrounds. Their collage was displayed at the World Refugee Day as a celebration of their accomplishment and milestone in ‘healing.’”*

**Center for Survivors of Torture (CST), USA**

## Political Activities

Some of the political activities organised include “human chains” in front of public buildings and petition or letter-writing campaigns.

## 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.



*“This year, participants enjoyed children’s theatre, clowns and playing game. The children drove, played and received small gifts. Around 300 people received informational material about Vive Žene and the meaning of 26 June.”*

**Vive Žene, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

## Other Activities

Many other activities were organised in commemoration of 26 June, such as sporting events, matches, races, sponsored walks, mobile clinics, moments of silence, religious or prayer ceremonies, tree planting, releasing pigeons/doves, visits to prisons, auctions of donated items, among others.

# 26 JUNE 2013

## Commemorations around the world

The following section shows some of the actions taken on the ground by hundreds of organisations and individuals around the world. On 26 June, they have come out to honour the victims and to highlight their rights. Whether through music or theatre performances, conferences or lectures, peaceful demonstrations or sit-ins, or any other event, the message came out loud and clear.



Women in detention requested that the activities RATA organised continue and are interspersed with a variety of skills training for them. The request has been approved by the authorities as well as the warden at the prison.

### Asia



### Latin America and the Caribbean

### Europe



Vive Žene held a roundtable “story telling” where three camp survivors from different ethnic groups, who shared their personal stories about the time when they were in concentration camps and the present time, when they struggle for their rights.

## Middle East and North Africa



In Morocco, former disappeared described their experiences and thanked AM-RVT for their support and treatment. The evening ended with a tea party.

On the commemoration of 26 June, CINTRAS organised a March to demand an end of torture and for the right to rehabilitation. Several thousand people participated.

With activities such as zumba, drumming, hip hop, interactive circus performances, henna tattoo and face painting, everyone joined in the family atmosphere to mark the journey undertaken by STARS clients.



## North America and Pacific

ACTV, in a coalition of other anti-torture organisations, created a widespread media campaign in the five most common languages in Uganda. They held a press conference with UNHCR, with approximately 50 journalists.

## Sub-Saharan Africa



# Asia

## Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development (BCHRD)

BANGLADESH

BCHRD and Bangladesh Minority Wach (BMW) organised a human chain and street discussion. More than 500 participants joined in the programme at Dhaka University. Some of the victims present had been tortured by police and described the incidents. The speakers mentioned that 2,655 minority people have been tortured from 2009 to May 2013. But the government could not rehabilitate those victims. Although torture in any form is prohibited in the national constitution, police and other state agencies routinely practised torture. However, today torture is not considered as a criminal act in its domestic law. Thus, access to compensation and justice is very limited or even impossible. Mr Mahbul Haque of BCHRD urged the government to take steps to stop torture and to rehabilitate victims. Torture and violence are endemic among the police and other special forces. Mr Adv. Rabindra Gosh, executive director of BMW, said that the main objective of the campaign's programme is to rehabilitate a victim of torture to the point that they can be re-integrated back into society.



## Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors (CRTS)

BANGLADESH

CRTS arranged a rally, children's art competition on torture and a cultural program. About 100 children participated in the competition. After the art competition, a discussion meeting was held on the "Worldwide Importance of Observation of 26 June". Mr Bulbul Khan Mahbub, famous poet and politician, was present. Among others, political activist and Vice President of Public Library Kh Nazim Uddin, newspaper editor Khan Mohammed Khaled, poet and journalist Mahmud Kamal, government pleader and advocate Abdur Rashid, and General-Secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr Shaidulla Kaiser, were present at the discussion. All pledged to coordinate activities with CRTS for the prevention and rehabilitation of torture victims in Bangladesh. After the meeting, prizes were distributed among the winners of the children's art competition. At last, there was a cultural programme by the renowned artists of the city. National dailies covered the occasion.



### Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO Cambodia)

CAMBODIA

TPO drew media attention to the problem of torture, calling on the government to live up to the obligations in the UN Convention against Torture and fight impunity. The IRCT member was joined by Cambodian Human Rights & Development Association (ADHOC), Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC), Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), Cambodian Human Rights & Development Association (ADHOC) and Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee (CHRAC) at a press conference. Around 60 people, including representatives of the government, police, national and international NGOs, participated and called on the state to uphold the standards of the UNCAT. TPO also joined a radio call-in show with Women's Media Centre (WMC) to promote awareness of the 26 June.



### Centre for Care of Torture Victims (CCTV)

INDIA

CCTV attended a seminar organised by one of its networking partners. Focusing on the theme "Right to Rehabilitation," the seminar included speeches in an interactive open session with approximately 30 people. From CCTV's Taki Subcentre, a colourful rally with a band, posters and banners was organised. Campaign materials made people aware about the importance of the day and rights of victims of torture. Around 70 participated in the rally. As both the programmes were held in rural areas, people became more aware about the issue. On top of that, people came to know about the activities of the organisation. New NGOs showed interest to work with CCTV in networking and requested to extend our field of work, so that more people in respective rural areas will receive benefits.



### Centre for Organisation, Research and Education Human to Humane Transcultural Centre for Trauma & Torture (CORE-H2H)

INDIA

The present Manipur society is afflicted by multiple conflicts. Young people, including women, experience untold trauma that often includes both mental and physical torture. Such stress is also often the cause for young persons to take the plunge into substance abuse, anti-social activities and immoral practices. Given this backdrop, CORE-H2H with Shija Hospitals and Research Institute (SHRI), Society for HIV/AIDS and Lifeline Operation in Manipur (SHALOM), Center for Women and Girls (CWG), Manipur Alliance for Child Rights (MACR), Giving Tree Foundation (GTF), Rural Education and Action for Change Manipur (REACH-M), Forum for Indigenous Perspective and Action (FIPA), Human Rights Alert (HRA), Wide Angle (WA) and Community Network for Empowerment (CoNE) organised a workshop, "Promoting well-being and resilience among young persons affected by conflict" from 26-29 June. The workshop focused on practitioners that provide counselling and psychosocial support to victims of conflicts, especially young persons, women and children.

### Minority Rights Watch

INDIA

Minority Rights Watch in Kerala organised a gathering of victims of police torture on 26 June at Ernakulam of Kerala. Victims of different torture cases, anti-torture activists and eminent civil rights activists participated.

### South India Cell for Human Rights Education & Monitoring (SICHREM)

INDIA

SICHREM, with St Joseph's College, organised a three-day campaign. On 24 June, a meeting was held to discuss the issue of torture with students. The next day, organisers held an awareness walk through the campus, displaying posters and singing songs. A petition was distributed demanding the ratification of the UN Convention against Torture, enactment of domestic legislation against torture and establishing a rehabilitation policy for survivors. On 26 June, participants watched a documentary and made collages and posters. After a meeting with leaders from the university and SICHREM, participants walked through the university and held a candle-light vigil in solidarity with torture survivors.

### Tibetan Torture Survivors' Program (TTSP)

INDIA

On 26 June, TTSP under the TVHA commemorated the day as follows: around 300 torture victims plus public gathered at the venue; the executive secretary of TVHA addressed the services of the TVHA towards torture victims; the chief guest addressed the gathering; selected torture victims shared their experience of torture and their association with TVHA; a stage drama was performed by a group on torture and how one can try to come over the trauma.



### Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims in Aceh (RATA)

INDONESIA

RATA, on the night of 26 June, met with Jumbo home residents, who are elderly and many are victims of the conflict, witnesses and family members of the victims. The residents gathered and discussed past experiences. RATA staff presented methods to reduce the impact of loneliness, sadness and to manage emotions. At a correctional institution, or prison, in Bireuen, RATA staff organised activities for 20 women using a religious approach. Staff also provided group and individual counselling. The event was held in cooperation with NGOs RATA, Prison Warden and Asyisisiah Institute, Bireuen. The victims were deeply moved and grateful. In fact, the women in detention requested that the activities continue and are interspersed with a variety of skills training for them. The request has been approved by the authorities as well as the warden at the prison. Both events were published online and in local media like AtjehPost.



*A dancer in North Sumatra, Indonesia performs at People's Stage, an activity organised by SIKAP to promote the anti-torture movement through arts, such as poems and poetry readings, theatrical performances, dances, street music, songs and documentaries.*

## Civil Society Alliance against Torture (SIKAP)

### INDONESIA

SIKAP, a group of 27 civil society organisations in Indonesia, organised a series of activities to advocate for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UNCAT, rehabilitation for victims of torture and access to justice. On the People's State, participants used arts, such as poems and poetry readings, theatrical performances, dances, street music, songs and documentaries to promote the anti-torture message and movement. The National Dialogue was chaired by the Center for Human Rights Studies, State University of Medan (Pusham Unimed) and had as speakers the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM), Protection of Victim and Witness Institution (LPSK) and survivors. Under the theme "The Right to Rehabilitation for the Victims of Torture", the issues discussed were varied such as the importance of the ratification of the OPCAT, human rights-based policing, the military courts and prosecution of perpetrators and rehabilitation for victims of torture. Members of SIKAP visited talk shows and media houses.

TOP  
PHOTO



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. This photo was one of the best we received this year, and because of that we feature it prominently.



## Centre for Victims of Torture (CVICT)

NEPAL

Based on Right to Rehabilitation theme, in a programme held at the National Human Rights Commission, CVICT's programme director spoke about reparations and raised the issue that cash compensation will not be enough for justice and reparation. Long-term support should be a priority. Victims of torture urged the government to prepare policies and address their issue in upcoming torture-related laws. They demanded funding allocation for rehabilitation. All stakeholders were concerned

about impunity; very few perpetrators have been punished so far. The NHRC chairperson urged the state to make new, victim-friendly legislation on torture. This programme was attended by 50 people from the armed police force, the army, the police and civil society organisations. At CVICT's premises the staff created colourful rangolis in support of victims of torture and flew balloons with various messages such as "criminalize torture", "let's work to rehabilitate survivors of torture", "stop impunity", etc.



*CVICT staff flew balloons with various messages such as "criminalize torture", "let's work to reha-bilitate survivors of torture", "stop impunity", etc.*



## Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO-Nepal)

NEPAL

TPO Nepal's team planned to conduct community-level programmes on mental health and psychosocial issues to facilitate adequate understanding on psychosocial issues that can be generated as the consequences of tortures, sexual and gender based violence and other kind of violence. This programme was in six VDCs, in two different districts of Nepal. Community leaders such as representatives from women's groups, local government representatives, NGOs workers and political leaders participated to this programme (which corresponded to approximately 150 participants).



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*HDO in Pakistan organised a super six cricket match between the teams of juvenile and adolescent prisoners of Central Prison Haripur Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. The team of torture survivors from juvenile section won this match by 30 runs.*

## Human Development Organization (HDO)

### PAKISTAN

HDO observed the day with the prisoners of Central Prison Haripur Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan, where they arranged an art programme. Detainees, a majority juvenile and adolescents who had faced custodial abuses during detention, participated, and civil society organisations, the media and prison officials attended. A super six cricket match was played between the teams of juvenile and adolescent prisoners. The team of torture survivors from juvenile section won this match by 30 runs. In a poetry contest, two teams presented verses of different poets, and the adolescent prisoners won this contest. The juvenile and adolescent inmates also presented an exquisitely prepared tableau depicting how detainees are subjected to torture. Since the theme was "Right to rehabilitation", the speakers highlighted the universally acknowledged rights of fair treatment and physical and psychosocial rehabilitation of victims of custodial abuses. A similar function was also held in the women's section, where they organised song and dance contest, presented skits in Urdu and Pashto. HDO arranged a free medical camp to over 200 victims. These events were widely covered by local Urdu language newspapers, some TV channels and FM radio.



### Struggle for Change (SACH)

PAKISTAN

This year SACH focused the commemoration in a security threatened province of Pakistan, i.e. Khyber Pakhtounkhwa (KP province). The province has been hosting millions of Afghan refugees for more than 30 years. There was a need to address the expiration of Afghan's Proof of Registration Cards (POR) on 30 June. There was fear within the Afghan communities of widespread arrests or exploitation due to the expiry. This situation caused in an increased vulnerability of Afghan refugees to human rights violations or torture. SACH strategised a two-prong approach: one, to target and sensitise police staff. SACH held a workshop with 22 police personal. The second was an interactive workshop with 27 female Afghan community workers to empower them with enhanced understanding of refugees rights, UNCAT, state obligations regarding UNCAT and other related issues, such as identification of symptoms among survivors of torture and ill-treatment.



### Balay Rehabilitation Center (Balay)

PHILIPPINES

Balay successfully held the Basta! Run Against Torture activity with around 600 participants from civil society and security officials. The run was organised by the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC), wherein Balay Rehabilitation Center is a co-convenor and spokesperson. The run was joined by members of the armed forces, the police, the jail authorities, the local government office, members of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and other government agencies. About a third of the participants were members of civil society and communities where Balay has established a human rights action center. Former detainees and torture survivors were also present. The run started at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani "Hero's Monument" and ended with a programme at the grounds of the CHR. The theme of the activity was "Make Philippines a Torture Free Zone." Major news and TV networks covered the event.



### Medical Action Group (MAG)

PHILIPPINES

In its seventh year, the Medical Action Group joined the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC)-Philippines and various anti-torture advocates in the Basta! Run Against Torture to call on the government to make the Philippines a "Torture Free Zone". The UATC-Philippines mobilised about 300 members of the security forces, who ran alongside of anti-torture advocates in the 3 km route from Bantayog ng mga Bayani ("Hero's monument") to the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHR) compound. MAG emphasised that "effective medical documentation of torture can lessen impunity and help obtain redress for victims of such inhuman act." Also it said health professionals can prevent torture more effectively by using the the Istanbul Protocol. The UATC-Philippines is led by Amnesty International-Philippines, Balay Rehabilitation Center, MAG, and Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP). Other human rights groups also joined the run like the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA), Children's Legal Rights and Development Center Inc. (CLRD), Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) and the Organisation Mondiale Contra la Torture (OMCT) or World Organization Against Torture represented by its Human Rights Adviser Ms Seynabou Benga.

TOP  
PHOTO

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*Gwangju Trauma Centre joined in the social media campaign by holding up signs that state, "Right to rehabilitation." They also held a celebration with survivors and activists called "The most beautiful moment and I in my life", where they offered to take a photo of the elderly survivors.*



### Gwangju Trauma Centre

SOUTH KOREA

The Trauma Centre placed an advertisement billboard for two weeks for the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, which expressed respect for survivors of torture all over the world. They also held a celebration with survivors and activists called "The most beautiful moment and I in my life", where they offered to take a photo of the elderly survivors. To take photos of elderly in Korea traditionally means to make them happier and more beautiful. By taking a photo, the elderly feel warm and happy with their family members and friends. Finally, they held a two-week exhibition of artworks created by their clients, who have participated in flower-therapy and art-therapy.

## Truth Foundation

### SOUTH KOREA

The Truth Foundation of Korea held a commemorative event and awarded its third Truth Foundation Human Rights Award. The recipient of the award is Mr Hong Sung-woo, a lawyer who helped victims of torture speak out and regain their dignity, led the efforts to correct injustices in criminal procedure and contributed to the spreading of truth by preserving records and being a faithful witness. The event, held in Seoul, concluded with a performance of Beethoven's Piano Trio No. 7 ("Archduke"). Park Won-soon, Mayor of Seoul, gave the congratulatory remarks at this year's ceremony.



## The Family Rehabilitation Centre (FRC)

### SRI LANKA

FRC in northern Sri Lanka celebrated with activities, including: community awareness of issues related to human torture; and an art competition among the school students on the topic of "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and psychosocial well-being" as well as exhibition of drawings. Point Pedro (Jaffna) team organised a drawing competition with a group of 80 children, including children from trauma survivors. Community

awareness sessions, an art exhibition, access to social services and information and referral pathway was also organised by FRC in the north. Around 90 community members and government officials received information on torture and the needs of survivors. The programme has strengthened coordination among the government stakeholders and FRC.



*In addition to other activities described above, Family Rehabilitation Centre staff also donated blood for 26 June to the General Hospital Trincomalee.*

## Human Rights Office (HRO-Kandy)

SRI LANKA

HRO Kandy organised a special commemoration on 23 June at Nawalapitiya along with a legal clinic. The Human Rights Office highlighted the court decision in the case of S Umadevi of Imbulpitiya Nawalapitiya, who was raped, tortured and murdered on 12 September 2001. Finally, in September 2012, justice was served in the High Court of Kandy, sentencing the two accused for 20 years of imprisonment. On the 23 June, the children, youth and the adults were taken separately in groups and made aware of the need to voice against torture, rape, murder and all human rights violations, and follow the process until justice is delivered. This was followed by a legal clinic. Leaflets, in Sinhala and Tamil, highlighting the judgment in the case of S. Umadevi were distributed to people who gathered at the church premises and also in streets of Nawalapitiya.



## Survivors Associated (SA)

SRI LANKA

To honour 26 June, the eight regional offices of SA held special therapy sessions to bring together torture survivors. The Mannar and Madu Regional Offices conducted a special art therapy activity on the right to rehabilitation. Tangalle, Kalmunai, Valaichchenai and Pottuvil Regional Offices held a drama therapy activity, and the torture survivors group discussed issues, including: who are survivors; the situation of survivors and their needs, getting help to fulfill their needs and who provides them; right to fulfill their needs; process and ways of rehabilitation; improvement in torture survivors and their families; the theme of the 2013 torture survivors day – right to rehabilitation. Kilinochchi and Mullaithevu Regional Offices held group therapy activities, such as working with animals and creating puppets. A total of 61 people attended.



# Europe



## Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma and Torture (ARCT)

ALBANIA

ARCT dedicated the 26 June to awareness activities in Shkodra, a city in the north and a symbol of the communist atrocities during dictatorship. Albania is a country that has not resolved the status of the former political persecuted. According to ARCT data, during 1945-1990 in Albania: 17,900 persons were politically sentenced, 7,367 of them were women; executed, with or without a trial, for political reasons - 5,577 men and 450 women; died in prison - 952; died in deportations - 7,022 persons of all age groups; killed on the border — more than 100 persons only in 1990; deported for political reasons - 30,383 in 23 prisons and 48 concentration camps throughout the country; mentally disabled because of tortures - 408. At the University of Shkodra, former political persecuted and representatives from the local authorities met and shared stories and suffering to an audience of students from law and political sciences. The city's mayor awarded a medal of recognition to ARCT medical staff for the continuous contribution and support to hundreds of people and families who suffered atrocities during the dictatorship.



## Rehabilitation Center for Stress and Trauma Zagreb (RCT-Zagreb)

CROATIA

RCT Zagreb commemorated 26 June with two public lessons – one with secondary minority students in Zagreb, and the second with professionals, volunteers and activists in Dvor Municipality (war-affected region). RCT opened three days for the public, students and professionals during June. They provided information and organised workshops related to torture and rehabilitation. On 26 June, they hosted a roundtable discussion on rehabilitation of torture victims in Croatia.

Police officers stopped protesters during FAVL's march on 26 June, stating that the group was not allowed to demonstrate near the National Police building. The group moved the demonstration to the other side of the street, although the police officer could not cite a law that they were violating.



## Foundation against Violation of Law (FAVL)

ARMENIA

FAVL and the Civil Society Institute (CSI) organised a day of action under the motto “Armenia without torture”. During the march, letters with recommendations were handed to the relevant state bodies: the police, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Court of Cassation and the Special Investigative Service, the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly. Activists and supporters picketed next to the police headquarters. The activists engaged passersby and media, and two of their representatives delivered an open letter to the Chief of Police, signed jointly by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), CSI and FAVL. Later in the evening, over a dozen activists culminated the day one of actions with a flash mob under the slogan “Torture is a Crime.” Participants unfurled black umbrellas with messages against torture. On 27 June, the conference on “Refraining from Torture and the Right to Rehabilitation” took place. President of FAVL Mikael Aramyan stressed out that due to the unclear legal definition of “torture”, there is no statistical data available on the number of torture victims and how many perpetrators were prosecuted. Other information included: the upcoming Ombudsman report on the National Preventative Mechanism and 133 visits; recommendations for torture prevention, such as criminalising torture in domestic law in line with the UNCAT; and presenting the work of rehabilitation of torture victims. The event was covered by most TV stations and leading newspapers and on-line newspapers.

TOP  
PHOTO



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Children participated at the 26 June event organised by Vive Žene at Slana Banja.



## Vive Žene Center for Therapy and Rehabilitation (Vive Žene)

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Vive Žene organised an event with the motto “Right to Rehabilitation,” on walking plateau Slana Banja, held in cooperation with the Human Rights Office Tuzla. The event, which aimed to remind the community of the obligation for rehabilitation of torture victims, was dedicated to children and youth. This year, participants enjoyed children’s theatre, clowns and playing games. The children drove, played and received small gifts. Around 300 people received informational material about Vive Žene and the meaning of 26 June. In addition, the organisation distributed promotional materials, such as T-shirts, badges, notebooks, pencils and bags. In addition, Vive Žene held a roundtable “story telling” where three camp survivors from different ethnic group, who shared their personal stories about the time when they were in concentration camps and the present time, when they struggle for their rights. Approximately 120 people attended the roundtable.

TOP  
PHOTO



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

GEORGIA

A press conference was organised by EMPATHY Georgia in connection with 26 June, UN International Day for Support of Victims of Torture. EMPATHY distributed the statement regarding effectiveness of investigation on torture facts taking place in Georgian penal system and in police. The statement also included recommendations for the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol for fighting impunity and addressed the victims' right to rehabilitation as well. Finally, the special statement was addressed to the Ministry of Justice, Chief Prosecutor's Office and to the Parliament of Georgia, and was distributed among national and international agencies operating in the field of health and human rights. It was published on Facebook and the web page of EMPATHY.



## Medical Care Service for Refugees Bochum (MFH Bochum)

GERMANY

On the 27 June, MFH Bochum organised a public lecture about the Istanbul Protocol, emphasising on it as a standard for the documentation of torture for evidence in asylum cases in Germany or bringing cases before court in the frame of universal jurisdiction. By doing so they raised awareness for the situation of torture survivors throughout the world with a specific focus on Germany. The event opened with showing the brief spot called "Let's erase torture" from the IRCT. Nae Ononye à Bagoussa, employee at MFH Bochum, also gave a short presentation about the work of the MFH Bochum.



## Cordelia Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

HUNGARY

Cordelia Foundation organised a two-hour-long event at the Psychology and Pedagogy Faculty of ELTE University in Budapest, on the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The event started with a documentary film screening, then continued with the Global Reading and finished with a roundtable conversation on the issue with the participation of the following organisations: UNHCR, Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Menedék Association and Cordelia Foundation. The event was opened for the public, and approximately 40 people attended, mainly university students, colleagues of partner organisations, former refugee clients, among others. That morning, Cordelia's

Medical Director, Dr Lilla Hárدي, also gave a one-hour interview on 26 June on the Tilos Radio in Hungarian.



*Cordelia Medical Director Lilla Hárدي joined colleagues from UNHCR, Hungarian Helsinki Committee and the Menedék Association for a roundtable discussion at the Psychology and Pedagogy Faculty of ELTE University in Budapest.*



## SPIRASI The Centre for the Care of Survivors of Torture

IRELAND

Coverage of the day began the weekend before 26 June with an article in the national newspaper, where several victims of torture spoke about their experience and their lives following torture. On the day itself, SPIRASI was invited to speak on the Today show on national broadcaster RTE1. SPIRASI Director Greg Straton, together with a survivor of torture from the centre, spoke about the impact of torture on people and the need for rehabilitation services. An event to mark the day was held in the Irish Aid centre, attended by 50 people. Colm O’Gorman, CEO of Amnesty International Ireland, spoke about Amnesty’s commitment to campaigning to prevent torture and for the rehabilitation for victims of torture. He also spoke of the need for public in Ireland to not only hear the stories of survivors but to respond. A group of survivors of torture from SPIRASI had collaborated with a documentary filmmaker, Fran Cassidy, to make a short film. The documentary, *A Breath of Kindness*

— taken from a poem written by Naomi Shihab Nye entitled *Kindness* — premiered at the event. Participants discussed the film following the screening. The event concluded with the lighting of a symbolic candle by Colm O’Gorman in solidarity with victims of torture globally.



*Performing Amigos Para Siempre, singers entertain participants at SPIRASI's event on 26 June, which focused on the needs of torture victims to rehabilitation services and highlighted survivor voices through a film produced by SPIRASI clients.*



## Hospitality and Care for Victims of Torture, Italian Council for Refugees (VITO-CIR)

ITALY

The Italian Council for Refugees organised, together with the campaign *LasciateCIEntrare* and *Antigone*, an event to denounce torture — anyway and anywhere, not just as a widespread practice in distant countries, but also as a phenomenon present here and now, in the Centres for Identification and Expulsion and in the prisons. The event brought together video, theatre and testimony. The evening included: the monologue “The untying” by Erri De Luca for the campaign *LasciateCIEntrare*; screening of the web documentary “Inside Prisons” by *Antigone* and *Next New Media*; and the performance “Of Plague-bearers and Other Demons” by a group 15 refugees survivors of torture and extreme violence, that for five months participated in the workshop of psychosocial rehabilitation promoted under the project *VI.TO/CIR*. In the evening, there was also collecting signatures for a petition to introduce the crime of torture to domestic law and for measure to counteract prison overcrowding.

## Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI)

ISRAEL

For 26 June, PCATI launched their latest report, “From the Testimony of a Palestinian Woman Prisoner,” on the ill-treatment of Palestinian women detainees and prisoners. Furthermore, PCATI participated in the Art and Activism Festival in Tel Aviv, in which civil society organisations active in human rights and anti-occupation activities gathered to get the message across through art and media. PCATI contributed with a mixed-media presentation called, “Vayanunu”, or in English, “And We Were Tortured.” The 90 minute presentation featured artistic renditions of torture victim testimonies and a recounting of torture by an Israeli, who was a victim of torture as a prisoner-of-war and is now active with PCATI in fighting torture. Hundred attended the event and PCATI screening.



## Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT)

KOSOVO

KRCT had one-week campaign named “HEAR MY VOICE”, supported by the Ministry of European Integrations. The main objective was to raise awareness of the population, in general, and decision-making bodies, in particular, for the rights of women survivors of sexual violence and torture during the war. KRCT filmed a short documentary named “HEAR MY VOICE”. The documentary showed dreadful true story of one of the raped survivors. The documentary was screened on the cinema and had high attendance of wide broad range of the attendees. The documentary will be soon shown on national and local TV stations. During last week of June, awareness raising clip produced by KRCT was shown on three main TV stations: Radio-Television of Kosova, Radio-Television 21 and Radio-Television Kohavision. The clip has called on the population to support victims of rape that even now, after 14 years of war, are feeling abandoned. Within one day it had more than 7,000 views online. On 26 June, Head of the KRCT Rehabilitation Unit, Mrs Sebahate Pacolli Krasniqi was interviewed by Radio-Television of Kosova (RTK).



## Memoria Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (RCTV Memoria)

MOLDOVA

This year RCTV Memoria organised a full month-long campaign, with involvement of other organisations, the Center for Human Rights from Moldova (Ombudsman office) and Promo-LEX. On 25 June, RCTV Memoria started the campaign with the press conference entitled, “Partnership to Support the Victims and Prevention of Torture”. The message was to urge public authorities, specialised institutions and civil society to intensify efforts to combat torture. According to Ombudsmen office, the most vulnerable points of the penitentiary system in the country are the conditions of detention, and it was recommended to close one. Approximately ten journalists from various national news sources were present. On 25 June, RCTV Memoria’s Executive Director participated at a talk show of the radio channel “Chisinau”. On 26 June, RCTV Memoria organised Open House Day. The event was attended by approximately 50 people, including UN officials, diplomatic representation, guests, reporters and beneficiaries. During this day handmade crafts made by beneficiaries were available to view and purchase. In the evening, was organised a small concert with performance of some of the beneficiaries and of RCTV Memoria’s friend from USA, singer Joshua Taylor.



*RCTV Memoria speak at a press conference to urge public authorities, specialised institutions and civil society to intensify efforts to combat torture.*

## Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (ACAT-Luxembourg)

LUXEMBOURG

On 26 June, on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 70 people attended the vigil organised by ACAT-Luxembourg at church in downtown Luxembourg. Through testimonies, prayer, music and meditation, participants joined their thoughts to the victims of torture around the world. In addition, ACAT-Luxembourg co-organised on 2 July, with the chaplaincy team at the prison in Luxembourg, a prayer vigil in support of victims of torture worldwide. Forty inmates participated.

## Institute for Human Rights and Medical Assessment (IMMO)

NETHERLANDS

On 26 June, IMMO launched their latest newsletter, with an introduction on the history and importance of the UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture, to inform all parties involved in their work providing medico-legal reports for asylum seekers in the Netherlands. This newsletter further targeted members of the Dutch parliament, asking to invite the organisation to elaborate on the importance of rehabilitation for torture survivors through medico-legal reports. IMMO has had a very positive response and met members of parliament after the summer holidays.



## International NGO Committee against Torture (INGO CAT)

RUSSIA

On June 26, in Nizhny Novgorod, INGO CAT held a picket in support of victims of torture. Twenty days after the launch of a Russia-wide campaign called “Law enforcement agent, remember your Oath of Honour”, Ufa City Administration at last consented to place the information boards in the streets of the city. Information boards with quotations from the Oath of Honour of law enforcement agents are to remind them and all the citizens that they have sworn to uphold the Constitution and defend human rights. Unfortunately, in only two of the regions where the Committee has regional branches, INGO CAT managed to receive permission to place these information boards: in Nizhny Novgorod and Orenburg. INGO CAT will appeal against the unlawful act of the advertising agents and the authorities of the cities that refused the advertisements. Further, INGO CAT created a video within this campaign with survivors of torture telling their stories and asking, “Where is your honour?” Human rights defenders from INGO CAT held street pickets in four Russian cities. In Yoshkar-Ola, the local Ministry of Justice did not grant permission for the picket, despite having been informed in due time. However, the picket of six human rights activists took place, and the next day police visited the office of INGO CAT’s regional branch in Mari El.



*INGO CAT Chairman Igor Kalyapin speaks for a video on 26 June and the marches organised throughout Russia.*



### ICAR Foundation, Medical Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture (MRCT CRAIOVA)

ROMANIA

MRCT Craiova participated in the global campaign to show support for torture victims and their families. The centre organised one day in which they offered additional medical services for victims of torture, including medical investigations (ultrasound, blood pressure, EKG, oscilometry (vascular investigation), glycemia) and ophthalmologic consultations. This type of support helped the victims of the communist regime — older people in the vast majority — because of the deficient national health system, the very low income of this target group and their reduced access to this kind of services.



### International Aid Network Center for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (IAN CRTV)

SERBIA

In cooperation with the Ombudsman office and civil society, IAN CRTV organised a series of events to warn professionals and wider public about the torture in Serbia, to emphasise the importance of rehabilitation for victims and introduce to the public with some activities of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). The programme of the campaign included press conference on the topic “Torture prevention and rehabilitation – the role of the National Preventive mechanism.” The artistic performance “Othello - Crime and prejudice” was organised by IAN CRTV, with support of European Union, Artizanati (Paris, France) and Center for Cultural Decontamination (Belgrade). Around 150 people attended the event. At roundtable “Public and torture,” participants of the workshop shared

experiences of human rights violations they face in everyday life. Experts in torture prevention and media talked about ways to make torture more visible in the society, and thus contribute to adequate rehabilitation of torture victims and prevention.



*Around 150 people attended a performance of “Othello - Crime and prejudice”, organised by IAN CRTV, with support of European Union, Artizanati and Center for Cultural Decontamination.*



### Swedish Red Cross Centre for Victims of Torture and War, Malmö

SWEDEN

For 26 June, Swedish Red Cross Malmö had a most fruitful discussion with nine elected politicians from various parties, all active in migrant health care issues in County Skåne or municipality of Malmö. All parties agreed on a number of things and Swedish Red Cross Malmö is currently creating the newsletter they asked for the future. A number of other politicians expressed their wish to participate, but who, for that particular moment, were unable to attend. They are now included on the sending list of the upcoming newsletter. Simultaneously, an article written by Swedish Red Cross Malmö was in the major regional newspaper, and some of the shorter versions for local papers — also on the theme of national recourses for survivors of torture — were published all over the country.



## Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment (SOHRAM-CASRA)

TURKEY

SOHRAM CASRA's slogan for this year's 26 June activities was "All forms of violence is a crime against humanity – no to violence". On 9 June, SOHRAM-CASRA held their traditional picnic for torture victims, families and individuals. They distributed the brochure on "The legal rules of detention in Turkey and the legal rights of detainees." At the picnic, was also musical performances (Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic, Syriac, Armenian, Turkmen and Laz); contests and games; folk dances (Kurdish, Turkish); lunch; and discussions. On the morning of 25 June, children flew kites on the lower part of the wall Diyarbakir each year to protest against torture. The afternoon of 25 June, SOHRAM-CASRA organised a public information centre on the importance of the day against torture. The afternoon of 26 June, SOHRAM-CASRA held a seminar by the therapy and social service Yavuz Binbay centre. Psychologist and the president of the centre spoke on the legal rules of detention in Turkey, the legal rights of detainees and how to protect against torture and violence. On the evening of 26 June, they had a cocktail party for the victims of torture and their families.



## Freedom from Torture

UNITED KINGDOM

This year the designated theme was the right to rehabilitation, and Freedom from Torture launched a major web-based initiative on their clinical work with survivors. They created a series of videos with five of their clinicians talking about what they do at Freedom from Torture, how they do it and why. A new video was released each day over five working days as follows : 26 June - Dr William Hopkins, consultant psychiatrist and psychotherapist; 27 June - Tania Kaczynski, art therapist; 28 June - Liz Hart, physiotherapist; 1 July - Jude Boyles, manager of Freedom from Torture's North West centre in Manchester; 2 July - Perico Rodriguez, caseworker counselor.

## REDRESS

UNITED KINGDOM

For 26 June, REDRESS held a series of activities, including a roundtable on the plight of victims of torture in Bahrain, who have been imprisoned without fair trial. Some relatives of the 13 imprisoned political leaders whose final appeals were rejected earlier this year attended. REDRESS also officially launched its new report "Bahrain: Fundamental Reform or Torture Without End?" REDRESS participated in the seminar "Bahrain: culture of impunity in the Kingdom of Torture" hosted by Lord Avebury, the Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group. Kevin Laue, Legal Advisor at REDRESS, spoke at an event by the Zimbabwe Association. The event featured the Zimbabwean poet Chenjerai Hove. REDRESS launched a special edition of the bulletin on "Victims' right to reparation in Africa" with the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV, South Africa), the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, Actions pour la Protection des Droits de l'Homme and Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA, Nigeria).

## London Guantanamo Campaign (LGC)

UNITED KINGDOM

London Guantanamo Campaign marked the day with two consecutive well-attended rallies in Trafalgar Square. The first rally was organised by the Baluch community in the UK, a minority ethnic group who suffer discrimination and human rights violations in both Pakistan and Iran. The rally, attended by around 30 people, was organised by International Voice for Baluch Missing Persons and was supported by the LGC, CAMPACC and Nations without States. Activists held up placards listing the various human rights violations the Baluch have suffered, including forced disappearances, torture and executions. The LGC rally was from 6-8pm and was joined by activists from the Free Talha Ahsan campaign, the Save Shaker Aamer Campaign and Wise Up for Chelsea Manning. Around 60 people joined this action and held up banners stating, "No to Torture", in more than two dozen languages. Information placards were strewn on the ground and dozens of people stopped by to read. LGC also used this opportunity to raise awareness of the current hunger strike at Guantánamo Bay.



Many people were unaware of the hunger strike, yet almost everyone agreed with the purpose of the action and expressed solidarity with torture victims. Some joined in with the action for a while.

*London Guantanamo Campaign used the 26 June to raise public awareness about the on-going hunger strike at Guantanamo Bay, in which detainees are protesting their protracted, indefinite detention.*



## Refugee Therapy Centre (RTC)

UNITED KINGDOM

Refugee Therapy Centre hosted their annual open day on Friday 21 June in recognition of both World Refugee Day and the Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Following a keynote address and discussion, participants were invited to a multicultural lunch. They concluded the day's activities with a live performance from Beorn Holmes, where everyone was invited to dance and socialise.



# Latin America and the Caribbean



## Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial (EATIP)

ARGENTINA

Among the activities organised in commemoration to the 26 June campaign, EATIP held a clinical seminar with students, healthcare and human rights professionals and the interested public. The theme of this year's seminar was, "La tortura sexual en el marco del Terrorismo del Estado". The participants discussed the use of sexual torture as a political strategy produced or consented by state agents in Argentina, who are now currently being denounce by the victims in oral trials for crimes against humanity. The center also held a public panel on gender violence. Around 60 professionals from the institute participated: nurses, doctors, psychologists and social workers.



Furthermore, EATIP took part of an event commemorating the massacre of Avellaneda (2002).

*EATIP took part of an event commemorating the massacre of Avellaneda, when in 2002, two men lost their lives due to shocking police repression.*



## Instituto de Terapia e Investigación sobre las Secuelas de la Tortura y la Violencia Estatal (ITEI)

BOLIVIA

ITEI hosted a series of workshops to strengthen civil society organisations in the fight against torture, point to the issue of torture and its aftermath in Bolivia and promote the need for effective legislation in Bolivia to prevent torture. This continued throughout the month of May, and concluded on 25 June with lawmakers and international expert Dr Nicolas Boeglin. On 26 June, ITEI presented the findings from the three workshops at an event, where they also presented "Art in the service of combating torture: Posters winners of Together against torture and torture testimonies from 1952-2013".





People marched with placards denouncing current torture in Chile.



### Centro de Salud Mental y Derechos Humanos (CINTRAS)

CHILE

People marched with placards denouncing current torture in Chile. The centre also drafted a public declaration in collaboration with the Department of Human Rights of the “Colegio Médico de Chile” and the monitoring group from “Casa de Memoria José Domingo Cañas”. This declaration was disseminated among the participants of the march and the general public, as well as through various online media platforms, and different media. *Photo by Osvaldo Tello Bianchi.*

TOP  
PHOTO



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### Corporación Centro de Atención Psicosocial (CAPS)

COLOMBIA

CAPS is part of the Coalición Colombiana Contra la Tortura (Colombian Coalition Against Torture), and together they organised various activities in the framework of the celebration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. They held an event to raise awareness against torture in Colombia; organised a panel on the state of torture; presented specifically on the situation of marginalised sectors of society, such as women, LGBTI individuals and political prisoners; and continued to advocate for the Colombian government to sign the Optional Protocol to the UNCAT. Furthermore, there was a cultural event with music and a play.



### Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad (CCTI)

MEXICO

In commemoration of the 26 June, CCTI together with the Autonomous University of Guerrero, organised a forum on the theme of “Torture de ayer y hoy, Impunidad de siempre”. The forum took place in Acapulco Guerrero, where around 100 people participated in two different conferences: “Voces de una Guerra muda” and “La lucha, el avance y los retos”. On 25 June, CCTI disseminated the press release: “El derecho a la rehabilitación de las víctimas de tortura en México no se cumple”, which raised awareness on the right to live without torture and the fear to be tortured, and to demand to the Mexican state to comply with the responsibilities of protection of the population. Furthermore,

CCTI launched the audio-campaign: “Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad”. Torture survivors gave testimonies and the centre’s work on documentation, investigation and rehabilitation was presented. These audio broadcasts were disseminated in various media.



*More than 100 people participated in workshops at the forum in Acapulco.*

### Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas A. C. (Frayba)

MEXICO

Frayba advocates for human rights, especially of indigenous communities and towns in the state of Chiapas. The centre disseminated a press release on the current situation of torture in Mexico. This press release was supported by: “Red por La Paz Chiapas”, ACAT – France, Organización Mundial Contra la Tortura – OMCT, Pax Christi International – PCI, Amnistía Internacional – Grupo Chiapas, Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa, AC – CDH Digna Ochoa, Colectivo Educación para la Paz y los Derechos Humanos AC – CEPZDH AC and Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos.



## Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y la Paz

VENEZUELA

Commemorating 26 June, Red de Apoyo organised a series of activities. From the 14 to 28 June, the centre carried out the campaign “¡Ya tenemos ley! ¡Grita contra la tortura: Denúnciala!”. Its objective was to raise awareness on Venezuela’s new anti-torture law “Ley Especial para Prevenir y Sancionar la Tortura y otros tratos crueles, inhumanos y degradantes”, passed unanimously on 4 June by the General Assembly, and to encourage victims of torture to denounce these unacceptable practices and to demand sanctions against the perpetrators. Among other activities, Red de Apoyo also held an online campaign on Twitter, disseminating messages against torture with the hashtag #NoMas-



Tortura. The centre also hosted workshops in Caracas about best practices for the care of the victims of torture and workshops on the dissemination of the new anti-torture law. In addition, Red de Apoyo held a press conference, where two victims of torture gave their testimonies. Eleven media representatives were present, from TV, web, printed press and radio. They also sent out short radio messages on 26 June through Radio Fe y Alegría.

*The image was disseminated on Twitter for Red de Apoyo’s campaign #NoMasTortura.*



# Middle East and North Africa

## National Coordination of the Families of the Disappeared in Algeria (CNFD)

### ALGERIA

CNFD, which documents cases of the disappeared in Algeria and advocates for the right of the families of the disappeared to truth, justice and rehabilitation, organised an Open Doors Event in Algiers (conference, exhibition, sit-in) and a sit-in in Constantine (East Algeria) to raise public awareness on the right to truth, justice and rehabilitation of the families of the disappeared in Algeria. CNFD advocated for their right to be considered as victims/survivors of torture and, therefore, for their right to rehabilitation. The families of more than 8,000 disappeared are still unaware of the fate and whereabouts of the relatives who were disappeared by the Algerian security services during the “dark decade” (1990s Algerian civil war). The psychological distress caused by the continuous uncertainty and the impossible mourning has had an impact on parents, brothers and sisters and children, and there is an urgent need to raise awareness on the right to be rehabilitated.



## Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)

### IRAN

ODVV organised a ceremony in its main hall, during which Ms Ghaemmaghami, representative from UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Iran, read the UN Secretary General’s message for the day: “As we mark International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, I call on Member States to step up efforts to assist all those who have suffered from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” Continuing on Dr Shahrbanou Ghahari gave a speech on the rehabilitation of sexual abuse victims and answered the audience’s questions.



## Restart Center for Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and Violence

### LEBANON

Restart Center and the IRCT jointly hosted a global conference on the right to rehabilitation. More than 100 participants followed the two-day conference, which covered the issues from various viewpoints, including a public health framework, legal perspectives on General Comment No. 3, health perspective on holistic rehabilitation, among others. The conference also focused on the issues within the Middle East, particularly the right to rehabilitation for Syrian refugees. The event was well-received, and a full conference report is forthcoming.



## Bahjat Al-Fuad Rehabilitation of Medical & Psychological Centre for Torture Victims (BFRCT)

IRAQ

BFRCT's 26 June activity started in the evening at the main street in Basra. The activity was attended by representatives of five NGOs from Basra and other provinces, 15 former prisoners and clients from the centre, representatives of prisoners and martyrs associations, three media representatives and staff of BFRCT. The event included speeches about the day and the role of NGOs to raise their voice in support of victims and invitation for peace. Other speeches addressed the UN

Convention against Torture, the status of the Iraqi government in their obligations and the issue of human rights in Iraq. Afterward, the participants were invited to a nice river trip inside Shett - Alarab river, where they expressed their satisfaction through nice songs.



*During BFRCT's event in Basra, speakers addressed the history of 26 June and the role of NGOs to raise their voice in support of victims and invitation for peace.*



## Center for Victims of Torture Jordan (CVT)

JORDAN

CVT Jordan hosted a special gathering for survivors who receive care from the centre and their families. Staff arranged for buses to transport over 100 guests from the northern communities, so Iraqi and Syrian refugees could commemorate the day together. In addition to survivors, family members and staff, special guests included representatives from the US embassy, US State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration and USAID - Jordan Mission, which funds the centre in Jordan. There were poems and a testimony written and read by Iraqi and Syrian survivors, a beautiful song sung in the oral tradition of storytelling by a young boy, his brother and his father. Then the staff led the children in a candle-lighting ceremony. After the formal programme, volunteers organised games for the children and their families. Each child received a colouring book wrapped in shiny silver paper. There was so much happiness and gratitude from the clients and families.



## Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture

LEBANON

On the occasion of 26 June, human rights and humanitarian organisations held a press conference at the headquarters of Khiam Center. Furthermore, under the title, "Stop the torture in Israeli jails", Khiam Center joined other human rights and humanitarian associations at a sit-in in front of the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners and Arabs in Israeli jails. Director of the Khiam Center, Mohammed Safa, joined Ms Zouhour Akkaoui of Bayt Atfal Al Soumoud to deliver a statement to the representatives of the Red Cross. Khiam Center organised another sit-in on 26 June in front of the ESCWA under the title "For an international convention against sectarianism" and was received by the representative of the United Nations. The events were covered on LBC TV, Loloaa TV, Mayadine TV and Kawkhar TV.



## Association Medicale de Rehabilitation des Victimes de la Torture (AMRVT)

### MOROCCO

AMRVT held an outreach on 26 June at the headquarters. The event was in participation with victims of grave violations of human rights, families of the disappeared, human rights NGOs, the association of the Tazmamert missing and survivors of detention. The programme started with Dr Ben Houssa, general secretary of the association, with a tribute to the victims who died this year, including Mr Aboussair Ahmed, Mr Boujmaa Bajaja, Mr Chebari Abdelmoumen Mohamed Badawi and Dr Ibrahim Haddad's mother Miftah. Then followed a debate, where the audience provided ideas for better management of victims of torture and to eradicate torture and impunity. Among the victims of torture, Mr Tabet Ikhadir, Mr Mohamed Shahid presented evidence about their experiences during detention. There followed a documentary and slideshow of AMRVT's activities of the last year. Finally, former disappeared described their experiences and thanked AMRVT for their support and treatment. The evening ended with a tea party.

# North America and Pacific



## NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS)

AUSTRALIA

STARTTS once again teamed up with Amnesty International for a panel discussion. In the wake of the controversy surrounding the film *Zero Dark Thirty*, they brought together four experts for a Q&A forum on the role of torture in Hollywood films and contemporary media. Have movies and media influenced our perceptions of and opinions about torture? Have films such as *Zero Dark Thirty* contributed to a shift in people's attitude about torture and its acceptability? Chaired by Richard Ackland, the panelists were Jason di Rosso (Radio National's *The Final Cut*), Cynthia Banham (journalist and lawyer), Associate Professor Fleur Johns (Sydney University Faculty of Law) and Sarah Logan (ANU Department of International Relations). The questions provoked vigorous discussion, and the audience of about 50 were treated to an evening of broad-ranging and stimulating debate.



## Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT)

CANADA

CCVT organised an open house, a special programme for clients and a panel discussion on "Religion, Peace, and Violence". The open house allowed for community engagement as well as offering public education in terms of absolute prohibition of torture, prevention, as well the need for rehabilitation of survivors. The special programme for the clients included music, songs, dances and other cultural events. Over 70 clients participated, along with their counselors and other staff members. A panel discussion entitled "Religion, Peace and Violence: A Multi-Faith Dialogue on Liberation and Justice" was held. The opening remarks were made by Mr Sharif Ahmed, a client of the CCVT from Bangladesh. Mr Ahmed spoke about the torture that he had faced. The speech was

followed by a video entitled "Confession," by Mr Ahmed Javeherian, an Iranian filmmaker with a strong involvement in human rights activism. The panel was joined by six scholars from six different faith groups: Hindu, Jewish, Buddhist, Jesuit Order of the Catholic Church, Islamic and Baha'i.



*An audience watches a panel discussion, organised by CCTV, on "Religion, Peace and Violence: A Multi-Faith Dialogue on Liberation and Justice".*

The STTARS community released balloons together in a symbolic gesture of belief in a greater future for Australia.



## Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Service (STTARS)

AUSTRALIA

On 23 June, STTARS held a “Family Fun Day” to acknowledge the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. This community event was created to celebrate the vision of “Renewed Hope and Rehabilitation”, and the ability to build upon the resilience demonstrated by the survivors of torture and trauma. With activities such as zumba, drumming, hip hop, interactive circus performances, henna tattoo and face painting, everyone joined in the family atmosphere to mark the journey undertaken by STTARS clients. On a national SBS radio interview conducted prior to the event, discussions took place about the importance attached to the celebration of humanity, while also acknowledging the political dialogue. This sentiment was resounded with the symbolic gesture of balloons being released by STTARS clients and staff holding the belief of a greater future in Australia.

TOP  
PHOTO



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## Refugee Trauma Recovery (RTR)

### NEW ZEALAND

The Art Project, although originally planned on World Refugee Day on 20 June to recognise that and the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, was rescheduled for 26 June due to severe



weather in Wellington. The Art Project was, as in previous years, a great success. The art work produced will now be exhibited in a local art gallery, and there will be a special event to launch these works. This will be another opportunity to make more people aware of the work RTR do with torture victims. The refugee background children who took part this year were originally from Burma, Somalia, Colombia and Vietnam. RTR also used information from IRCT to produce a press release, and this was published. It was designed to make people aware that torture victims from war torn countries are in New Zealand and that they have a human right to rehabilitation.

*Refugee children from Burma, Somalia, Colombia and Vietnam participated in this year's Art Project at Refugee Trauma Recovery.*

## Community Legal Services and Counseling Center (CLSACC)

### UNITED STATES

On 26 June, CLSACC sent a newsletter to 850 individuals about their work with survivors and the global movement against torture in order to raise awareness and honor the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Dr Mohamud Said, former IRCT president, visited with CLSACC's legal and mental health staff and volunteers on 27 June in order to exchange ideas about services for victims of torture and international collaborations with other IRCT member organizations. Dr Said, a physician and human rights defender, was presented with the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award by the Peace Corps at Harvard Medical School. Dr Said has devoted himself to assisting displaced persons and was responsible for overseeing the world's largest refugee camp in Somalia. CLSACC published an article in the local newspaper highlighting the occasion and Dr Said's visit.



*Dr Mohammed Said, former IRCT president and winner of the Harris Wofford Global Citizen Award, visited CLSACC.*



*UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez spoke at the symposium on “Torture is a Weapon Against Democracy: How the United States is Working to End Torture Globally” in Washington, D.C., organised by CVT, in partnership with the Human Rights Institute at Georgetown Law and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.*



## Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)

UNITED STATES

In Washington, D.C., CVT, in partnership with the Human Rights Institute at Georgetown Law and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, sponsored a symposium on “Torture is a Weapon Against Democracy: How the United States is Working to End Torture Globally”. Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont received the annual Eclipse Award for his leadership in the protection of refugees, promotion of human rights, prevention of torture and efforts to ensure survivors of torture have access to rehabilitative care. The first panel discussed the relationship between human rights and democracy, steps taken within US foreign policy to end the use of torture globally and why US leadership in combatting torture is important. Omar Bah read excerpts from his upcoming book about his experiences being tortured as a young journalist in The Gambia. Some of the topics discussed in the second panel were the right to rehabilitation, programmes providing support to survivors in post-conflict settings and the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In St. Paul, Minnesota, more than 100 people filled the centre on 26 June. Survivors, volunteers, staff and board members enjoyed a dinner. The event included comments by the board chair, staff and a survivor, as well as the opportunity to make a bracelet representing hope, dignity and respect. The “Healing Connections” award was given to Howard Cutts for his community work on behalf of survivors.

TOP  
PHOTO



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## CODE PINK Women for Peace

UNITED STATES

CODE PINK held a “Close Guantanamo” solidarity protest on 26 June outside the offices of Senator Diane Feinstein in San Francisco, California. They planned to deliver a letter to the Senator’s office. Further, they had banners and tape to put over mouths in solidarity with the hunger strikers at the US prison at Guantanamo Bay.



## Florida Center for Survivors of Torture (FCST)

UNITED STATES

On 26 June, FCST partnered with the Florida Holocaust Museum to commemorate the day. This event featured a screening of the documentary *Beneath the Blindfold* by Ines Sommer and Kathy Berger. Following the film screening, a panel discussion highlighted the work that providers and survivors conduct together. Three providers and three survivors, including one holocaust survivor participated. Audience members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions to the survivors subsequent to the panel discussion. During our event, FCST recognised several providers with the Human Spirit Award that identified community partners who donated unselfishly of their time and services. Community service announcements inviting visitors to this event were sent to area news. Approximately 100 people were in attendance for this event.

*FCST joined with the Florida Holocaust Museum to commemorate 26 June. Pictured here is the Herbert & Isabel Savel Teaching Gallery Wall at the museum.*



## Survivors of Torture, International

UNITED STATES

This year, Survivors of Torture, International held its annual summer ice cream social where supporters could lend their voice to support torture survivors through expressing their beliefs through photos and social media as well as writing a letter to Senator Feinstein to increase the amount of funding appropriated for domestic torture treatment programmes through \$16 million. In addition, clients and staff participated in a picnic at a local park. Over 20 clients of all ages (children, adults and seniors) enjoyed a healing time and sunshine together. They created their own signs in support of torture treatment. Finally, the communications relations manager participated in a political podcast that was released on 26 June. The topic of the podcast was torture and torture treatment.



*Survivors, clients, supporters and staff gathered for a picnic and some sunshine, during which many joined the social media campaign to highlight 26 June online.*

TOP  
PHOTO



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*Kovler Center's event ended with a candle-light vigil, during which staff, the Advisory Council, supporters and survivors called for remembrance of all who did not survive and to work collectively for a more hopeful future without torture.*



## Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center

UNITED STATES

Kovler Center commemorated the day in Chicago with close to 200 people gathered, including survivors of torture and their families, staff, volunteers and supporters to recognise survivors and their significant contributions to the rebuilding and rehabilitation of communities. Two Kovler Center participants graciously emceed the event, which opened with a Tibetan blessing. Michael Edwards, professor at DePaul University, was the featured speaker. As a Kovler Center volunteer, he emphasised the valuable lessons he has learned from survivors over the years. Along with presentations from survivors, a Bhutanese youth dance ensemble performed a spirited and joyful set as attendees were finishing a global buffet prepared by survivors who contributed their exquisite culinary and gardening talents. The evening closed with a moving candle-light vigil at the Lake Michigan shore presided over by members of Kovler Center's Client Advisory Council (CAC) and Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), who called for us to remember all who did not survive and to work collectively for a more hopeful future without torture.



## Center for Survivors of Torture (CST)

UNITED STATES

CST participated in the 21th Annual World Refugee Day in Campbell, California, organised by The Refugee and Immigrant Forum of Santa Clara County. CST occupied two booths and provided outreach materials on programmes and services. They also displayed artworks created by CST clients in the art therapy group. The art display “Healing Through Unity” represents the work of survivors of torture from different cultures, religions and backgrounds. Their collage was displayed at the World Refugee Day as a celebration of their accomplishment and milestone in healing. CST staff participated and created a video showing different facts and statistics about survivors of torture,

refugees and rehabilitation, found on Youtube. The video also showcases the artwork created by participants of the CST Art Group. In recognition of 26 June, CST held its annual picnic at the park in August. The clients participated in different activities and shared a variety of food from arrays of culture.



*Artwork created by CST's art therapy group, "Healing Through Unity" represents the work of survivors of torture from different cultures, religions and backgrounds.*



# Sub-Saharan Africa



## Solidarité d'Action pour la Paix-Grands Lacs (SAP-GL)

BURUNDI

SAP/GL visited torture victims both in the hospitals and those in rehabilitation homes within the communities for 26 June. Furthermore, within the Great Lakes Project, SAP/GL hosted a sensitisation workshop for NGOs, government ministries, embassies in Burundi, civil society and international organisations such as Handicap International, International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations representation in Burundi. They organised also cultural activities, conferences and traditional dances for invited groups.

## Friends of the Press Network (FEPNET-Cameroon)

CAMEROON

On 26 June, FEPNET-Cameroon organised a one-day public discussion focused on the subject "Torture and the Rights to Rehabilitation" in Cameroon. FEPNET-Cameroon presented a report on torture, and how it has made efforts to combat impunity. There was a photo exhibition. After closing the discussions, a report was published and sent to the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon.



## L'Association Jeunesse pour la paix et la Non Violence (AJPNV)

CHAD

AJPNV organised 26 June events that included a public concert, a race of women victims of torture, and public reading of the IRCT's Global Reading and Speech of the President to support the victims of torture in Chad.

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

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

GIPROCOME held activities in Kavumu on the day of 26 June itself. But their on-going campaign and intervention lasted through July. The organisation also hosted a workshop on 29 June with local authorities and other civil society organisations on strategies to eradicate torture. In July, GIPROCOME, with women leaders from Kabare, coordinated a workshop on the role of women in the fight against torture and sexual violence. They concluded their extended campaign with a workshop on data collection and support to victims.

## Regroupement des Mamans de Kamituga (REMAK)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Under the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, REMAK organised Mass in the parish of St Francis Xavier Tangila / Kamituga during which the officiating priest asked the faithful Christians to support torture victims. An estimated 350 people attended the mass. REMAK also held a panel discussion on the rehabilitation of the victims. Participants include politico-administrative leaders, local/customary and religious authorities, officers of the National Police, among others, and totalled 180 people. Approximately 250 copies of the law criminalizing torture in DR Congo were distributed, and others visited detainees sentenced to Kamituga prison. At this occasion, food (bags of rice, beans, salt, palm oil) and non-food items (blankets and mats) were delivered to 500 prisoners. Further, REMAK broadcast a programme on the community radio, SHALA TV and Radio YETU Kamituga.



*Supporters of REMAK hold up the 26 June campaign poster in Kamituga.*



## SAVE CONGO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

SAVE CONGO organised a one-day workshop in Likasi, situated 120 km from Lubumbashi city, in line with the IRCT global campaign. Approximately 500 participants took part in the workshop, including police officers, military, prison guards, lawyers and magistrates. There was also a roundtable discussion on the situation of torture and other ill-treatment in Likasi city. Furthermore, SAVE CONGO, with local authorities, visited the main prison in the city. Local media covered the event on 26 June.



## Solidarité pour la Promotion Sociale et la Paix (SOPROP)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

This year SOPROP brought all social strata of the Democratic Republic of Congo to recognise the existence of this demeaning and barbaric practice in society. SOPROP launched a second campaign to reach out to 6,000 police on the anti-torture law of DRC with a manual and booklets developed by SOPROP. They also organised a workshop to raise awareness of police officers and those responsible for prisons in the city of Goma on the anti-torture law and international mechanisms. They also organised a meal of solidarity with the victims of torture in the Medical Center and offered assistance and rehabilitation of victims. Torture survivors took part in the event and representatives from government, the European Union, embassies, representatives of international organisations and civil society, three staff of the Congolese National Police in charge of training. Earlier, in Kinshasa, the Joint United Nations Office for Human Rights ( UNJHRO / MONUSCO ) organised a press conference at which SOPROP actively participated.



## Center for Victims of Torture Ethiopia (CVT Ethiopia)

### ETHIOPIA

CVT Ethiopia, the newest healing project of CVT-USA, held special events in honour of 26 June to share information about the centre and its work with Eritrean refugees. Staff held a conference in May-Tsebry to introduce CVT Ethiopia to the community and the organisations working with Eritrean refugees in the camps in northern Ethiopia. Representatives from the UN High Commission for Refugees, Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), all the NGOs and refugee associations at both Mai-Aini and Adi Harush camps attended. CVT Ethiopia staff posted banners in both camps as well. Another conference was held 2 July in Shimeleba.

## Centre against Torture (CAT)

### KENYA

The Centre against Torture sought to target prisoners and prison wardens in their commemoration of the UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The organisation held a two-day event at the nearby correctional facilities. There, CAT organised rehabilitation clinics within the prisons premises, targeting the prisoners who have suffered torture. The clinic included different methodological rehabilitation techniques including psychological counselling, medical treatment and legal aid. CAT also had a joint workshop between the prisoners and the prison wardens within the theme, “The Right to Rehabilitation”. Lectures on the best practices were disseminated to them, and also brochures and fliers with the rehabilitation messages were shared.

## Center for Victims of Torture Dabaab

### KENYA

The CVT Dabaab team organised a day of commemoration for refugees living in this large complex in northeast Kenya. The day began with a prayer from religious and community leaders. Both Somali and Ethiopian communities presented a variety of performances including drama, dance and songs that focused on the healing services. One community member recited a poem that focused on services for torture and war survivors. A survivor also recited a poem that spoke of the good work done by the centre. The programme was honoured by the UN High Commission for Refugees Deputy Head of Operations, who read the UN Secretary General’s speech and elaborated more on the day’s theme. The District Officer of Kenya emphasised the need to continue supporting torture survivors and also ensure that no one perpetrates torture against anyone. Others in attendance included representatives from the World Food Programme, Inter-news, Medecins Sans Frontieres Swiss-Dagaharey and staff with the Refugee Consortium of Kenya. Nearly 100 people attended the occasion.



*CVT Dabaab team organised a day of commemoration for refugees living in this large complex in northeast Kenya.*



## Center for Victims of Torture Nairobi (CVT Nairobi)

KENYA

In the Kayole neighborhood of Nairobi, CVT Nairobi organised a commemoration that included survivors, friends, family, community members and refugees. Many in the audience wore T-shirts with the message, “World Without Torture.” At the Kayole Community Center, the day was filled with smiling faces, performances of all types, speeches, a market featuring handcrafts made by refugees, and concluded with a meal provided for about 400 guests. Performances came from a wide range of artists, including traditional Burundi and Somali dance groups, spoken word and hip hop performances, a gospel choir, and a self-care presentation by CVT Nairobi counsellors. A group of men performed a song written to express their new-found hope for the future and their gratitude to CVT Nairobi for helping them rediscover their value. Another group of women stood before the large crowd singing, dancing and with smiles on their faces. When both groups performed, the atmosphere became electric. Men, women and youth jumped up in their seats clapping and dancing.



## Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU)

KENYA

The UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims is marked every year to send a message of solidarity and support to people who have been tortured and to honour those who have survived. This year's 26 June was remarkable to IMLU in that it also marked 20 years since the inception of IMLU to seek justice for and rehabilitate victims of torture. This year, IMLU in partnership with various stakeholders, engaged in various strategic action to combat torture as well as create awareness. The organisation targeted print and electronic media with radio and television live interviews, spot-on messaging, newspaper supplement and updates on social media (Twitter, Facebook and blogs). During a ceremony on 26 June, survivors of torture provided testimony of their experiences, and awards were distributed to 20 people who had been instrumental in the fight for justice and rehabilitation. The ceremony further featured a documentary on 20 years of IMLU work and a photo gallery of torture in King'ong'o Prison.

## International Rescue Committee (IRC-Dadaab)

KENYA

Around 500 people from the Hagadera refugee community and staff from many organisation attended the colourful occasion at the IRC-Dadaab event to mark 26 June. From the speeches and different plays/dramas, the people who attended the occasion affirmed that torture is bad and should be discouraged, hence they learned a lot from the dramas presented. IRC in Kenya works at the Dadaab refugee camp, running different programmes with mental health being one of them. Other organisations participated in the event, such as UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council and The Lutheran World Federation, who are running a disability centre in the camp for those people with physical disabilities. Prior to the event the Mental Health Department visited with several schools, community groups and other leaders to promote the day and raise awareness of its message.



Participants at the IRC-Dadaab event in Eastern Kenya watch a dance performance.

*Participants at the IRC-Dadaab event in Eastern Kenya watch a dance performance.*



### Mwatikho Torture Survivors Organization (MATESO)

KENYA

MATESO arranged a series of events from June 24-29 June, in collaboration with Malik Self Help Group, Centre against Torture, Western Kenya Human Rights Network and Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program. These included a radio talk show to speak about prevention of torture in Kenya and jointly creating documentary film on the survivors of recent human rights violations in Western Kenya, which was broadcast on the local station WTV. Furthermore, MATESO organised a march in the coastal town of Mombasa, where they also offered medical and counselling services. They held a care-for-caregivers counselling session, established a monument in remembrance of the victims of violence. MATESO further visited the Kakuma refugee camp and offered special treatment services. On 29 June, they arranged a photo exhibition for members of public to view various events. Approximately 600 victims and their families attended the events.



*MATESO arranged a series of events from 24-29 June, in collaboration with Malik Self Help Group, Centre against Torture, Western Kenya Human Rights Network and Kenya Workers Rights and Harmonization Program.*

### Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture (ACAT Liberia)

LIBERIA

ACAT Liberia organised several screenings of the short film *World Without Torture* leading up to 26 June, and a state-non-state sports match on 26 June. First, they distributed letters to several participating schools and civil society organisations. The first of three screenings were held at St Dominic High School in Tubmanburg on 20 June; thereafter, they showed the film at CHD High School on 21 June, and at the Administrative building in Tubmanburg on 22 June. On 26 June, they organised a sports match at Pentecostal School to bring together state officials and civil society members. These activities were planned in conjunction with Adolescent Girls New Outlook (ANO-Liberia) and Plan International.



### Rescue Alternatives Liberia (RAL)

LIBERIA

RAL held a march through the local community, accompanied by a marching band and an indoor activity. Civil society organisations, government officials, religious leaders, traditional groups, women's groups, community leaders, the media and the local United Nations missions were invited to the day, for which they expected 100 people to attend.



## Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA)

### NIGERIA

PRAWA Enugu and Abuja Offices carried out the following activities in commemoration of this year's UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The Enugu offices held a advocacy rally with students from the College of Medicine, University of Nigeria Enugu Campus and members of the PRAWA team on major streets in the metropolis. Further, they created a media report for radio broadcast that captured the experiences of the three victims of torture; the position of the Nigeria Police Force on the use of torture; the illegality of torture and other ill-treatments as well as the right of victims to rehabilitation, as provided in the national and international legal frameworks; and the need for torture rehabilitation. PRAWA also released a statement that noted the position of the organisation on the right of torture victims to rehabilitation. This was posted on PRAWA website,



on the Information Board of PRAWA Enugu office, and repeatedly read at the Sensitization / Advocacy Rally, using a public address system. PRAWA Abuja office produced a statement that was sent to media houses in Abuja for broadcast to the public.

*The Enugu offices of PRAWA held a advocacy rally with students from the College of Medicine, University of Nigeria Enugu Campus and members of the PRAWA team on major streets in the metropolis.*

## Steps to Life Nigeria (STLN)

### NIGERIA

Two officers of STLN were interviewed on national television, which served as an advocacy tool to commemorate the day and spread the message about "Right to Rehabilitation", the theme for the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, on 25 June at Abuja. They urged everyone affected and interested to use the opportunity to stand united and remind the world that torture is a cruel violation of human rights. They asked heads of secondary schools that would be interested in STLN to free lectures to the students on the subject. The recorded interview aired on 26 June.

## Youth Education on Human Rights and Civil Responsibilities (YEHRCR)

### NIGERIA

YEHRCR started by visiting the Commissioner of Police in Enugu State on the issue of torture and how to rehabilitate torture victims. The Commissioner was ready to partner with YEHRCR to ensure that torture is stamped out in Enugu State. On 24 June, YEHRCR visited at Day Secondary School Independence Layout Enugu to raise awareness. On 25 June, YEHRCR had a radio programme on the issues of torture, causes and rehabilitation of victims of torture. That same day, YEHRCR visited Osisatech Girls Secondary School Independence Layout Enugu, and spoke for four hours with the students. On 26 June, YEHRCR went out for a road show and also interviewed people on the issues. Those interviewed called for the eradication of torture, that more awareness of the issue needs to be raised, that police and other security forces should be sensitised to the issue, and that the government should be informed on how to best rehabilitate the victims.



*During their extensive campaign, ACTV organized a march adjacent to the Parliament in a demonstration of solidarity with victims and to advocate for holistic rehabilitation.*



### **Amel Center for Treatment & Rehabilitation for Torture Victims (Amel Center)**

SUDAN

Amel Center held several activities over five locations, including Khartoum. At each, they had a special meeting with politicians and journalists to discuss the ratification of the Convention against Torture. They also reiterated their wish for peace, their wish for a world without war and torture and an appeal for the children of Darfur. Each event, after speeches and discussion, had music, dance and refreshments.

### **Al Fanar Center for Humanitarian Studies**

SUDAN

Al Fanar launched a programme supporting human rights defenders in Sudan in honour of 26 June. The 2012 was a difficult year and often dangerous year for human rights activists in Sudan. Many of them, especially women, faced dismissal from work, detention for long periods, imprisonment, torture, including physical abuse, and daily harassment. To this end Al Fanar launched the project “Defend Human Right Defenders”. The idea of creating a broad network of activists from different professions and walks of life to work together to defeat and prevent attacks on defenders of human rights was be at the centre of the project.



## African Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV)

UGANDA

ACTV used the 26 June to highlight the need of preventing and eradicating torture, inform the general public about the anti-torture law, advocate for the implementation of the anti-torture law and generate public debate on the state of torture in Uganda. ACTV, in a coalition of other anti-torture organisations, created a widespread media campaign in the five most common languages in Uganda. They held a press conference with UNOHCHR, with approximately 50 journalists. They estimated the campaign reached several hundred thousand in the country with information on the new anti-torture law. The coalition also brought forth a petition to the Parliament, calling for a task force to monitor implementation of the law, an immediate end to torture and redress and compensation to victims. Furthermore, the coalition gathered with key stakeholders for a public dialogue. Finally, many marched adjacent to the Parliament on a demonstration of solidarity with victims and to advocate for holistic rehabilitation. Along the march, guests could visit the market stalls of victims who had been rehabilitated and created handicrafts and other items for sale as part of a livelihood project.

TOP  
PHOTO



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# Social media

Through the tool of social media, people from all over the world could make their voices heard and share 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.

This year, we joined other organisations in asking supporters to send us a photo of themselves with a message to victims of torture. Photos came from all over the world – Cameroon, France, USA and more.

Furthermore, this year the use of the #26June hashtag flooded Twitter on the day itself. We also added a special #Right2Rehab hashtag for those highlighting the need for survivors to access holistic rehabilitation. See some of the messages and photos from supporters, and thank you all for joining in the global chorus of supporters for torture victims.

#26june





#26June #StopTorture Governments must Combat #Impunity and Ensure Right to #Reparation for #Torture Victims

@AlkaramaHR

#OmarBah says #torture is the tool that dictators use to silence people, he personally experienced as young #journalist in #Gambia #26June

@cvt\_staff



Rehabilitation can heal our wounds, can heal our minds and can bring us back to our communities #Right2Rehab #26June

@withouttorture

# Google maps

Many supporters around the world wanted to find a local centre where they could join 26 June activities. For them, we prepared a Google Map with all this information easily accessible. Visitors to this site could see all the events around the world, and find out the details of 26 June programmes near their homes. Dozens of centres, programmes and organisations provided information on their local events. From Morocco to San Diego, participants could join local organisations in their call to support victims of torture.



# Right to Rehabilitation: IRCT statement for a global reading on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Today marks the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Every year, on the 26 June, we come together with a message of support for those who have been tortured, the hundreds of thousands around the world that have been victims and those who are still tortured today. But we come together to honour these victims, to show that they are not alone, and to together renew our mission to work for a better future, for a world with no torture victims, for a world without torture.

Together we come to speak out in one voice against this horrific crime. This day also marks – 26 years ago – when the UN Convention against Torture came into effect as the primary document for which torture is declared a crime and in which the state is declared responsible.

In the last 26 years, we now know who the victims are, we now know the effects of torture, and we now know how best support them. Through the last several decades, the work of rehabilitation centres and organisations around the world has itself proven that rehabilitation works. That there can be redress and that there can be life after torture.

Hundreds of thousands of torture survivors each year receive treatment. Rehabilitation can heal our wounds, it can heal our minds, and it can bring us back to our communities. But the positive impact of rehabilitation is far-reaching, be-

yond just ourselves, but to our communities and our society, promoting an ever-greater respect for our human rights and our human dignity.

Unfortunately, we know the numbers of victims are rising, and there are many unmet needs for rehabilitation. In just 2012, there were nearly half a million asylum-seekers – the highest number since 2003 – in just 44 countries surveyed by the UN Refugee Agency. Many of the growing number of asylum seekers are undoubtedly victims of torture.

But there is hope.

We can see the power of this global movement against torture, with the hundreds of organisations around the world joining in their support for victims. The 26th of June 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 advocate for appropriate, holistic rehabilitation for torture victims. Rehabilitation treatment that should be tailored to the needs of the victim, provided as soon as possible after the event of torture, and provided in a way that guarantees the safety of victims and their families.

Again, we know the victims of torture, where they are and how best to support them.



But more needs to be done.

We now need governments to come forth with adequate funding. We have long affirmed that torture victims have a right to rehabilitation as part of redress. Now, the UN Committee Against Torture has clarified the state responsibilities. Just last year, the Committee stated that States have the obligation to fund rehabilitation services, and that services must be available without hindrance or delay, and as soon as possible after torture.

States need to do their duty and fund rehabilitation services. They need to make this right a reality for the victims of torture.

So today, with thousands of others around the world, we call on governments to live up to their obligations. Torture survivors have a right to rehabilitation. Together, let's make this right a reality.

**“Today, on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, I reaffirm the European Union’s commitment to the prevention and eradication of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which are among the most abhorrent violations of human rights and human dignity. I pay tribute to the efforts of civil society organisations and individual human rights defenders who work courageously to prevent torture, and to alleviate the profound damage that is done to victims of torture and ill-treatment. The EU offers substantial support to civil society organisations that strive for the eradication of torture and work to ensure accountability.**



Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

# 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

154 States as of 1 October 2013

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

## States which have NOT ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention

41 States as of 1 October 2013

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

\* States that have signed but not ratified, acceded or succeeded UNCAT

## 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. Donations can be made in the following currencies: Danish Kroner (DKK), Euros (EUR) and U.S. Dollars (USD).

### By credit card

Please visit [www.irct.org](http://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  
Borgergade 13  
P.O. Box 9049  
1022 Copenhagen K  
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

**irct**

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims



**International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims**

Borgergade 13  
P.O.Box 9049  
1022 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

Phone  
+45 33 76 06 00

Fax  
+45 33 76 05 00

E-mail  
[irct@irct.org](mailto:irct@irct.org)

Website  
[www.irct.org](http://www.irct.org)

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