

26 June

2011 Global Report on the
UN International Day in
Support of Victims of Torture



irct

International Rehabilitation
Council for Torture Victims

Torture is both a cause and effect of poverty.
Help break the cycle.

2011 Global Report on the
UN International Day in Support
of Victims of Torture

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Rehabilitation Council for Torture
Victims (IRCT)

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 above institutions. The country activities portrayed in this report are based on the submission of reports as received from campaign participants.

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IRCT Communications
Main contributors: Tessa Moll, Scott McAusland
Layout: Fábio Pereira

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

26 June - A global campaign

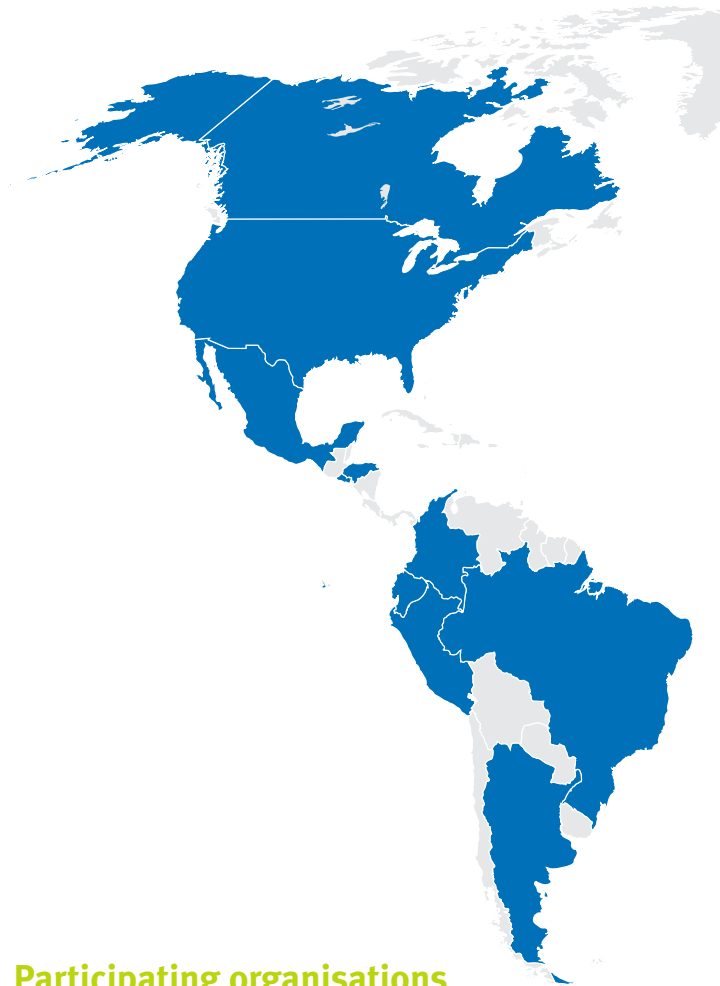
The 2011 United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture did justice to its international aspirations. This year's 26 June campaign was truly global: 73 organisations from all continents put forth messages of support to torture survivors and reminded their governments of their obligations under UNCAT to provide rehabilitation services and engage in systematic efforts to prevent torture. The list of States that have ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention has grown with the recent accession of Iraq and ratification of Vanuatu (see p44).

In the following pages, you will see how those organisations made use of a range of different means to convey a global message locally – and the remarkable results they achieved. While many chose to organise conferences to amplify usually silent voices - like the Moldovan mothers of torture survivors (see p9 and p21-22), many others chose cultural expressions or political means to reach their goals and spread their messages further. As a truly global campaign, this year's events reflected the diversity of the movement against torture. Next year, you can be part of it too.

Join us next year!

And help us make the 2012 campaign even bigger.

■ Countries where activities were known to have taken place



Participating organisations

NORTH AMERICA:

CCVT, Canada
PSTT/CMHS, USA
PTV, USA
SI, USA
Survivors, USA

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

EATIP, Argentina
GTNM/RJ, Brazil
CAPS, Colombia
PRIVA, Ecuador
CPTRT, Honduras
CCTI, Mexico
CNDDHH/CAPS, Peru
ASST, El Salvador*



EUROPE:

ARCT, Albania
 FAVL, Armenia
 CTR, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 RCT Zagreb, Croatia
 RCT, Denmark
 RCT/Empathy, Georgia
 GCRT, Georgia
 BZFO, Germany
 Cordelia, Hungary
 NAGA-HAR, Italy
 CIR-VI.TO., Italy
 KRCT, Kosovo
 RCTV Memoria, Moldova
 IAN CRTV, Serbia
 Red Cross, Sweden
 SOHRAM-CASRA, Turkey
 TIHV/HRFT, Turkey
 Freedom from Torture, UK
 RTC, UK
 PCATI, Israel*
 UN, Switzerland*

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA:

BFRCT, Iraq
 KRC, Lebanon
 AMRVT, Morocco
 GCMHP, Palestinian Territories
 Jesoor, Palestinian Territories
 TRC, Palestinian Territories

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA:

SAP GL, Burundi
 CRAT, Cameroon
 TCC, Cameroon
 YPNV/TRVC, Chad
 OASIS, DR Congo
 SAVE, DR Congo
 CPMRVT, Congo
 MATESO, Kenya
 LAPS, Liberia
 RAL, Liberia
 VIVRO/CAPREC, Senegal
 CAPS, Sierra Leone
 ACTRVT, Sudan
 GIPROCOME, DR Congo*
 REMAK, DR Congo*
 CAT-Eldoret, Kenya*
 YEHRRCR, Nigeria*
 TCSVT, South Africa*

ASIA:

CRTS, Bangladesh
 CCTV, India
 H2H, India
 SOSRAC, India
 ALDP, Indonesia
 RATA, Indonesia
 CVICT, Nepal
 SACH, Pakistan
 MAG, Philippines
 SA, Sri Lanka
 RUC, India*
 SUARAM, Malaysia*
 HDO, Pakistan*

PACIFIC:

ASeTTS, Australia
 STARTTS, Australia

*Non-members of the ICRC

Foreword by the President and the Secretary-General



Poverty is both a cause and effect of torture: that was the theme of this year's annual commemoration of the United Nations International Day in Support of Torture Victims.

Poverty is inextricably linked to torture: both as cause and effect. As our Patron and former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Professor Manfred Nowak says, if you are poor, you are more likely to become a victim of torture (see p7). And, if you are a victim of torture, the devastating consequences often lead to an inability to provide for oneself or one's family, and where torture is endemic, this can lead to destitution for whole societies.

The aim of torture is to break down the victim's personality and resilience; it is first and foremost a means of instilling fear in society at large in order to maintain social control and suppress popular opposition. Torture, therefore, is not only destructive at the individual and family level, but also a crucial obstacle to economic and social development. The prevention of torture is crucial to ensuring fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Victims can suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, including symptoms such as anxiety, flashbacks, insomnia, nightmares, depression, and memory lapses. They often feel shame, triggered by the humiliation they have endured, and feel they have betrayed themselves, their friends and family.

But, with adequate and accessible rehabilitation - including victims accessing justice - and work at international, national and local level for the prevention of torture, this cycle of torture, poverty and destruction of communities can be broken. That's why the IRCT focuses on these three intertwined strands in its global efforts to help bring about a world without torture. Throughout the year the IRCT works to ensure the strengthening of capacity and knowledge sharing between its members as well as influencing policy in support of access to justice, rehabilitation and prevention. It also works to ensure that adequate resources are dedicated for torture survivors to get the rehabilitation they need and that is their right.

26 June provides us with an annual focal point to honour the victims of torture and to remind the world of the ongoing need to eradicate this practice and care for the survivors. This

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year, together with survivors, their families and their communities, member centres of the 150-strong International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims marked the day by holding demonstrations, conferences, peace marches and other events on all continents, reflecting the global scale of this movement. And, we're delighted to note that 73 organisations commemorated 26 June around the world, up from 50 in 2010.

Our movement is a growing one, yet all over the world there is a need for more rehabilitative services. States simply do not provide adequately, if at all, for the rehabilitation of those they have tortured. Many survivors are denied the chance to rebuild their lives, physically, mentally, and socially. The need is growing - the global economic downturn has not left our movement unscathed and all over

the world centres face a struggle to continue in their crucial work, let alone expand to meet the needs of victims of this most horrific of human rights abuses.

In meeting the needs of victims and working towards the prevention of torture, your help is crucial. Help us build a world without torture.



Mohamud Nurein Said
President



Brita Sydhoff
Secretary-General

Poverty and Torture

IRCT Statement for a global reading on the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June 2011*

By Manfred Nowak, former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Patron of the IRCT



Today marks the UN International Day in Support of the Victims of Torture. It provides us with an opportunity to honour the victims and survivors of torture and to reflect upon the root causes of torture and who the victims of torture are. There are many different types of torture survivors, such as persons suspected of having committed a crime or an act of terrorism, opponents of repressive regimes, members of racial, religious or sexual minorities. But in the overwhelming majority of all cases of torture worldwide, torture is a privilege of the poor.

“Most of the victims and survivors of torture belong to the poorest and most disadvantaged sectors of society.”

During my tenure as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture between 2004 and 2010, I carried out fact-finding missions to 18 countries in all world regions. These countries were carefully selected to serve as a representative sample of the mix of states our contemporary world is composed of: small and big states, democracies and dictatorships, communist and capitalist countries, monarchies and republics, federal and unitary states, countries shaken by armed conflicts and those living in peace, religious and atheist countries with different traditions and legal regimes. In all but one country (Denmark, including Greenland) I found cases of torture and deplorable conditions of detention, and it is safe to conclude that in the majority of the present states torture is practiced in a fairly widespread and routine manner by law enforcement bodies. Most of the victims and survivors of torture belong to the poorest and most disadvantaged sectors of society.

“In order to follow a public policy of being ‘tough on crime’, politicians, the media, public opinion, judges and prosecutors put heavy pressure on the police to ‘solve’ criminal cases.”

One of the most important root causes of torture is the malfunctioning of the administration of justice in too many countries of our contemporary world. Although the justice sector (judges, prosecutors, the police, and prison administration) shall protect human beings against the injustices of life, it unfortunately belongs in many countries to the most corrupt sectors of

government. In order to follow a public policy of being “tough on crime”, politicians, the media, public opinion, judges and prosecutors put heavy pressure on the police to “solve” criminal cases. But the police officers in most countries are not well trained, receive low salaries and do not possess highly sophisticated methods of taking evidence. They simply arrest persons who look suspicious because they are poor, homeless or belong to a marginalized and discriminated group. They bring them to a police station and beat them until they confess having committed the crime. Then they are placed in remand detention where they wait for many years to be tried. Often, they remain for a period of pre-trial detention which is longer than the maximum prison term for the crime they are accused of. At the end, they might be convicted by a court on the basis of a confession which was extracted by torture many years before.

If you have money, you can avoid arrest or detention by bribing the police, prosecutors or judges. Bail and plea bargaining may serve as the perfect excuse for corruption. If you are poor, you may be forgotten among thousands of pre-trial detainees whose cases are never properly dealt with by the courts. During detention, you may only receive proper space, food and medicine if you bribe prison officials. In many countries, it is not considered as a responsibility of police or prison officials to provide people in police custody and remand detention with food or medicine, but as a task of their families. If you are rich, and your family lives in the vicinity, they will provide you every day with water and proper food. If you are poor, and your family lives far away, you will starve or try to get food from other detainees for personal, often sexual, services. Although this may sound exaggerated, it unfortunately is standard practice in too many countries, prisons and police stations I have visited during these six years.

According to the Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor, more than four billion people, i.e. almost two thirds of the present world population, have no effective access to justice. Most of the survivors of torture and appalling conditions of detention whom

I have visited in overcrowded police lock-ups and prisons belong to those four billion people who are denied access to justice because they simply are too poor to buy justice. If we wish to combat torture effectively, we have to start with the legal empowerment of the poor by fighting corruption and other structural deficiencies in the administration of justice, strengthening the independence of the judiciary and providing poor people with legal aid and equal access to the justice sector.

“Prison walls have a double function: to lock people in and the public out.”

Fighting torture and improving prison conditions by addressing the root causes, including poverty and corruption, seems to constitute a challenging task. But it is not an impossible task. A world without torture is possible! But it needs a fundamental change in the political priorities of our time. Although detainees and torture survivors belong to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, there is very little empathy among the public at large for those behind bars. Prison walls have a double function: to lock people in and the public out. In reality, most people cannot imagine and at the same time have no real interest to know how life behind prison walls looks like. If they would know how bad the situation really is, most people and politicians would change their minds. That is why it is so important to create awareness about the link between poverty and torture and to lift the veil of opacity from the criminal justice sector by opening up prisons and police lock-ups to inspections and preventive visits by independent bodies, such as national preventive mechanisms required by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

The International Day in Support of Victims of Torture shall remind us that we owe it to torture survivors all over the world to combat this evil crime by all possible means. This includes various efforts to eradicate poverty, to combat corruption in the justice sector, to legally empower the poor and to bring more transparency and light into dark police and prison cells.

- Manfred Nowak

Campaign tools

Every year, a wide range of campaign tools are available at www.irct.org/26june. The list includes posters, logos, a campaign kit, a fact sheet 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:**

Print materials

This year a great number of printable materials were available. Besides last year's posters with the "WWT" and "T" logos, we had a new poster on the theme of poverty with two different messages: *"Torture is both a cause and an effect of poverty"* (see image), and *"Restore our dignity: don't leave us in poverty"*.

The posters and logos were used for local printing in t-shirts, badges or stickers or simply downloaded to be used in documents or online initiatives.



Campaign kit and fact sheets

This year's campaign kit was the result of many contributions from organisations that, over the years, have commemorated the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – 26 June.

The fact sheets 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.

2011 IRCT Micro Film Competition



OVERCOMING PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE
Written and animated by Tom Smith

The winner of the 2011 IRCT Micro Film Competition aimed at showing the lasting psychological effects of torture on the victim. Tom Erik Douglas Smith, the director, created a slightly uneasy and haunting feel to the film that will stick with the viewer. He also left room within the symbolism for the viewers to interpret in their own way and for the message to reach across all cultures

Types of activities

Informational/Educational Activities

Conferences and seminars are still among the most popular 26 June campaign activities. Either for the purpose of raising awareness about torture, to present and discuss local means of prevention or to present the activities undertaken for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, workshops and lectures are an effective way to educate and share knowledge. Other informational/educational activities organised for 26 June include distribution of informational materials, testimonies by torture survivors, radio quizzes, film screenings and open houses.

Examples of conferences organised for 26 June:

'Without Torture'
FAVL, Armenia

'World without Torture'
RCT Empathy, Georgia

'Torture and impunity: no end in sight'
RCTV Memoria, Moldova

'Mothers against torture'
RCTV Memoria, Moldova

'State Terrorism in Mexico – torture yesterday and today'
CCTI, Mexico

'Towards the ratification of the UNCAT'
TRC, Palestinian Territories

'Creating a Coalition of Care for Trauma and Torture Survivors'
PSTT, USA

'Poverty as a cause and effect of torture'
SAP/GL, Burundi

'Legal support for women and girls victims of sexual violence and/or torture'
TCC, Cameroon

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.

Political Activities

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

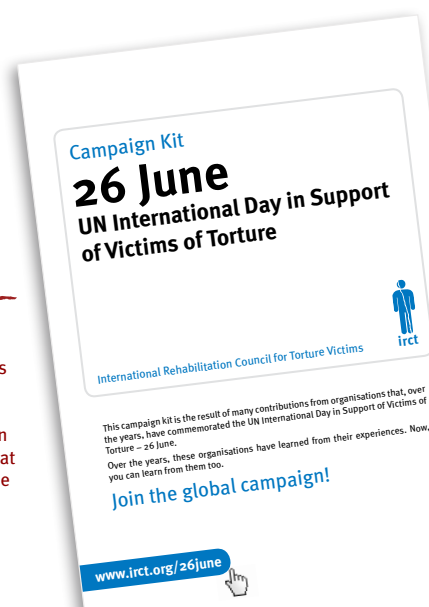
Activities for Children

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.

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.

Find more examples of activities in the 26 June Campaign Kit. Also available in Spanish and French at www.ircct.org/26june



This campaign kit is the result of many contributions from organisations that, over the years, have commemorated the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – 26 June. Over the years, these organisations have learned from their experiences. Now you can learn from them too.

Join the global campaign!

www.ircct.org/26june



Commemorations around



the world

Asia

CRTS – Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors

BANGLADESH

Over 100 children participated in the art competition organised by the Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors in Bangladesh, and the winner were awarded prizes following a discussion session on how to prevent torture. The well-publicized event, with several national media in attendance, provided a platform for several prominent professionals and human rights activists – such as lawyer Mr. Nihar Sharker, SETU Director and human rights activist Hosne ara Ahmed, and poet and journalist Mahmud Kamal, among others – to discuss the multi-faceted issues around torture. The event concluded with a cultural programme by renowned local artists, during which CRTS staff distributed stickers, pamphlets, and informational brochures on their work and the prevalence of torture.

CCTV – Centre for Care of Torture Victims

INDIA

The Kolkata-based organisation began their commemoration of 26 June with an informational meeting with approximately 30 representatives from local and international NGOs, including Kolkata Socio Cultural Research Institute, Human Development Centre, South

Kolkata Sannidhya, Gana Unnayan Parshad, Lutheran World Service IT, and university institutions. The meeting demonstrated the link between poverty and torture, the lack of media coverage of torture (in particular, with cases involving poor victims), and the need to criminalise torture in Indian law and through ratifying the UN Convention Against Torture. On the day itself, CCTV organised a rally in Taki during which they distributed informational campaign materials to approximately 300 people.



Rally organised by CCTV in Taki near Kolkata, India

H2H - Human to Human Transcultural Centre for Torture & Trauma

INDIA

The Human to Human Transcultural Centre for Torture & Trauma (H2H), in collaboration with the Department of Clinical Psychology, RIMS and Human Rights Alert jointly commemorated the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture with a one-day workshop on Dance Movement Therapy (DMT). The workshop highlighted the key elements of Dance Movement Therapy, an internationally developed form of expressive psychotherapy that is being applied for the treatment and rehabilitation of survivors of torture and trauma. Ms. Raj Kumari Geetanjali and Mr. Surjit Nongmeikappam, Dance Movement Therapists of H2H, conducted this workshop.

SOSRAC - Society for Social Research, Art and Culture

INDIA

Our Dehli-based member centre honoured 26 June with many torture victims from India, Myanmar, and Afghanistan. The events emphasised the community and solidarity with the victims of torture – several participants performed special dances, sang their national anthems, and joined in a children's art competition, while adults played ball and sports games. At the conclusion of the games, performances and distribution of gifts and prizes, the day's participants gathered for a peace march on the area's main road. Demonstrators carried signs and placards explaining the event and the impact, prevalence, and criminality of torture. With huge interest from the greater community, the centre's staff explained the event and their work through questions and informational brochures that were distributed. Finally, participants were treated to a day of sight-seeing in Dehli.

ALDP - Alliance of Democracy for Papua

INDONESIA

For 26 June, the Indonesian IRCT member centre Alliance of Democracy for Papua (ALDP) visited political prisoners, who are often the subject of discrimination and torture. ALDP also distributed flowers to the general public, military and police officers along the main roads to raise community awareness and support for victims of torture on the International Day.

RATA - Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims in Aceh

INDONESIA

The member centre in Aceh, Indonesia organised a meeting of 54 people from the community in commemoration of this year's International Day in Support of Torture Victims. In that meeting, the organisations coordinated a discussion of the counselling community and the importance of the UN Convention Against Torture. Furthermore, the group worked on a draft proposal for an Indonesia Truth and Reconciliation Commission that was mandated by the Helsinki peace agreement, and which also includes reparations for the victims of the conflict between Indonesia and Aceh.

CVICT - Centre for Victims of Torture

NEPAL

A diverse coalition of civil society organisations, human rights groups, media, and other stakeholders gathered for 26 June to request the government ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), criminalise torture, and provide reparations to the victims of torture. Jointly organised by CVICT and the Nepal Human Rights Commission, the programme sought to discuss and ultimately combat torture in Nepal, which, while it has diminished in the post-conflict state, has not entirely been eradicated, CVICT reports. Finally,

the CVICT released a fact sheet on poverty and its cause and effect relationship with torture.

SACH - Struggle For Change

PAKISTAN

SACH, a nongovernmental organisation for the rehabilitation of the survivors of organised violence and torture, often coordinates informational meetings on torture for different parties involved in the practice, from police to prison

MAG - Medical Action Group and BALAY Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

PHILIPPINES

In conjunction with United Against Torture Coalition Philippines, Amnesty International, and the Balay Rehabilitation Centre, the Medical Action Group organised the Basta! Run Against Torture mass run for human rights in recognition of 26 June. Under the banner “Freedom from torture; Not free to torture”, over 400 members of the Philippine National Police and



Over 400 members of the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces joined the human rights activists to run through the pouring rain. MAG and BALAY Rehabilitation Centre, Philippines

officials and guards. For 26 June, SACH coordinated a day-long workshop and seminar with government officials on the reporting practices and legal responsibilities for the UN Convention Against Torture since Pakistan signed the treaty in June 2010. SACH staff and consultants emphasised the importance of government and civil society partnerships and provided extensive training on UN reporting procedures.

Armed Forces joined the human rights activists to run through the pouring rain. After an hour of chanting, shouting, and waving banners, the run concluded at the Commission of Human Rights of the Philippines, where a short programme offered supporters, local government, military, police officials, and members of human rights organisations an opportunity to convey their message of the gravity of the problem and voice their support for the victims of torture.

SA - Survivors Associated

SRI LANKA

Survivors Associated, a nongovernmental organisation focused on the holistic care of survivors of armed conflict, held observations of 26 June throughout Sri Lanka through their regional offices. For example, in their Tangalle offices, SA hosted a workshop and discussion with participants on the methods, impact, and holistic treatment of torture survivors that followed a moment of silence to honour the victims. At their Kalmunai offices, participants began the workshop with a poetry reading on torture and poverty, before breaking up into topical discussion groups and performing a role-play on the issues. Participants in Mannar explained how they came to Survivors Associated, their history of torture – predominantly through detention – and testified on their ongoing rehabilitation.

Non-members of the IRCT:

RUC - Rural Uplift Centre

INDIA

The Rural Uplift Centre joined with local partners and organisations, with over 500 supporters, to demonstrate and rally in front of the regional government office in honour of the UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture. With local Women Rights Monitoring Committees and other women's advocacy groups, the organisations sought proper investigation into the rape of a 14-year-old girl by several attackers, allegedly including several government and state officials. In addition, the organisations demanded the ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture, state actions to prevent torture, and the establishment of a fund for the rehabilitation of torture victims. The demands were handed over to the local authority in a memorandum.

SUARAM - Suara Rakyat Malaysia

MALAYSIA

Around 50 participants joined the event organised by Suara Rakyat Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with the UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims. SUARAM, a nongovernmental organisation that advocates for human rights, especially in regards to refugees, local democracy, and the right to trials and justice, coordinated a programme to launch their campaign against torture. Victims and their families attended and shared their personal stories of torture. The goal of the programme was to encourage the ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture, state prevention of torture, and to seek a torture-free society in Malaysia. The event also included a photo exhibition and an art performance.

HDO - Human Development Organization

PAKISTAN

HDO commemorated 26 June with the inmates of the central prison in Haripur, Pakistan. The event was organized together with the female inmates and their children, who skillfully prepared and presented different skits depicting the socio-economic deprivations of women of poor economic background in jail. They also delivered speeches on the status of women in the eyes of religion. The event included the honorable participation of Dr. Faiza Rasheed, a torture survivor who successfully steered herself out of trauma and became a gynecologist and a politician. Several speeches and poems were recited during the commemorations.



HDO, Pakistan organised activities with children of female inmates in detention.



A diverse coalition of organisations pushed for the criminalisation of torture in Nepal. CVICT, Nepal



SACH coordinated a day-long workshop and seminar with Pakistani government officials



SUARAM gathered for a torture-free society in Malaysia



SOSRAC in India honoured 26 June with many torture victims from India, Myanmar, and Afghanistan





RUC joined other organisations to demonstrate and rally in front of the regional government office in India.



RATA organised a meeting to discuss the importance of the UN Convention Against Torture in Indonesia

Europe

ARCT – The Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma & Torture

ALBANIA

ARCT sought to promote awareness of and advocacy for the international instruments created to prevent torture, provide justice to the victims, and offer rehabilitation services to the survivors of torture worldwide. In addition, ARCT highlighted the local history of torture and the current conditions that allow torture to continue in Albania. On 25 June, the centre organised an event to honour the first anti-communist revolt in 1946 during which several hundred were killed. Many family members and relatives of the victims participated and the event was widely covered by local media. Finally, ARCT collaborated on a workshop and discussion on pre-trial detention and Albanian prisons with penitentiary staff and psycho-social trauma workers.

FAVL – Foundation Against Violation of Law

ARMENIA

An unprecedented assortment of attendees participated in the conference on torture in Armenia organised by Foundation Against Violation of Law. Defense, prison, and police representatives spoke on their respective departments' record on torture and their work

to prevent torture in the future, thus showing transparency and accountability on their part. The majority of the speakers said that the application of torture and psychological pressure take place in jail, army, psychological institutions, and military police. On the question, what gives rise to torture as phenomenon, the majority of the participants answered impunity, indifference and poverty. FAVL's conference attended to their goals of prevention of torture through an increase of awareness, change



FAVL staff show 26 June posters in front of the Vayk Civil Center, Armenia

of mentality, and growing legal mechanisms to address torture perpetrators in the police, prison, and military departments. Ambassadors, rehabilitation centres, and human rights organisations also attended the event.

CTR – Vive Žene Center for Therapy and Rehabilitation

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Vive Žene recognised the 26 June with their annual street events – this year honoured with a variety of dances from cultural, sports, and dance groups. Almost 100 participants performed in World Without Torture! 300 guests and members of the public watched and participated in dances and body painting. Members of the media covered the event, including Tuzla Canton TV and radio stations Tuzla Radio, Canton Radio and Radio Soli. In addition, the center organized a roundtable discussion with 63 participants on the status of torture victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among the issues discussed was strengthening the networks among the organisations, organising further roundtables with victims associations, and lobbying state and national governments to adopt the Law for Victims of Torture.

RCT Zagreb – Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma

CROATIA

In honour of 26 June, the Rehabilitation Centre for Stress and Trauma, our only member centre in the war-affected country of Croatia, held several activities to raise awareness and focus on the impact of torture on children and families. Staff provided clips for broadcast on the issues of trauma and torture, at the same time as organising several activities and lessons with particular members of society. The centre held human rights workshops with activists; discussed trauma and torture with psychology students; and, in a particularly war-affected region, organised a lesson and workshop with school-age children.

RCT – Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims

DENMARK

For 26 June, the RCT distributed a speech about torture to the four biggest religious communities in Denmark. The speech has been written by the patron of the RCT, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Mpilo Tutu. The goal was to have Muslim Imams, Jewish Rabbis, Catholic bishops and priests, and Lutheran bishops and priests all use the speech in their sermons on the weekend of 26 June.

RCT Empathy – Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture

GEORGIA

RCT/Empathy organised a conference marking the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, their seventh such conference to commemorate the day, honour the victims of torture, and provide a platform for discussing the rehabilitation of survivors in Georgia. The conference brought together civil society organisations, government officials, psychosocial service centres, and international human rights groups to prioritize issues of torture, including criminalisation, integrated multi-profile rehabilitation, impunity, and actual current cases of torture in the war-torn country. RCT/Empathy also presented their study on the scope and reach of their rehabilitation work in targeting particularly vulnerable groups among the approximately 500,000 Georgian victims of ethnic cleansing.

GCRT – Georgian Centre for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

GEORGIA

GCRT dedicated three activities to recognising the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. In the evening of 26 June, GCRT coordinated with other human rights organisations to support torture victims in a Tbilisi park under the slogan “Georgia - torture free zone”.

The event exhibited torture instruments to showcase the true horror of torture. Later, the participants of the action moved to the Youth Palace (next to the Parliament) where they performed a flash mob related to 26 May, 2011, when violence broke out in Tbilisi. The following week GCRT together with Human Rights House organizations held public discussions at the office of Open Society Georgia Foundation on the following topic: “Facts of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment in Georgia”. The executive director of GCRT was one of the speakers at the discussion. The GCRT presented findings of their research on human rights: focus on torture, a survey exploring awareness, attitudes, and opinions on torture and related issues, such as the broader human rights situation and violence in society. For example, in the 2003 and 2007 studies, about 12% of the respondents associated torture with police and prison institutions. The situation changed in 2011 and only 0.9% had association with the police when hearing a word torture and 4.3% - with the prison. The research presentation had vast media coverage.

BZFO – Berlin Center for the Treatment of Torture Victims

GERMANY

The Berlin Center for the Treatment of Torture Victims received European parliament member Barbara Lochbihler. BZFO released a press statement taking up the topic of dignity of the refugees with three demands for the 23 and 24 June meetings of the European parliament on refugee politics. The demands are: FRONTEX must guarantee, protect and support basic rights of refugees; the EU states must receive the 11,000 refugees that are stuck in Libya and camps at the Tunisian/Libyan border and for whom the UNHCR urgently seeks receiving countries; human rights violations that happened during FRONTEX-operations must be investigated and made public. Also discussed were future cooperation - nationally and internationally - regarding refugee politics, prevention of torture, and support to provide treatment for torture survivors.

Cordelia – Foundation for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

HUNGARY

In recognition of 26 June, the Cordelia Foundation first hosted a closed workshop with national authorities and partner NGOs on addressing the needs of people from vulnerable sectors, such as the poor and marginalised. In an open forum, the foundation hosted a viewing of a new Hungarian documentary on the realities of life as a refugee, focusing on several individuals in Bicske, all of whom were torture victims and clients of the Cordelia Foundation. Afterwards, Cordelia hosted a roundtable discussion with national immigration authorities, the regional UNHCR, and other partners and civil society organisations.

NAGA-HAR – Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Torture Victims

ITALY

The NAGA-HAR Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Torture Victims prepared an evening of music, food and dancing to honour the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. NAGA-HAR sought to sensitise the general population to the problem of torture. With music, dance and food, people had the opportunity to get to know one another and experience the concept of multiculturalism. The event started with a jazz concert by Dagmar Segbers and Roberto Cairo. There was an “ethnic dinner” and a percussion and reggae concert followed by a DJ set by Kinki Business and Supalova Sound System. NAGA-HAR offered a good occasion to have fun and create an open atmosphere for torture survivors, their families, and general supporters.

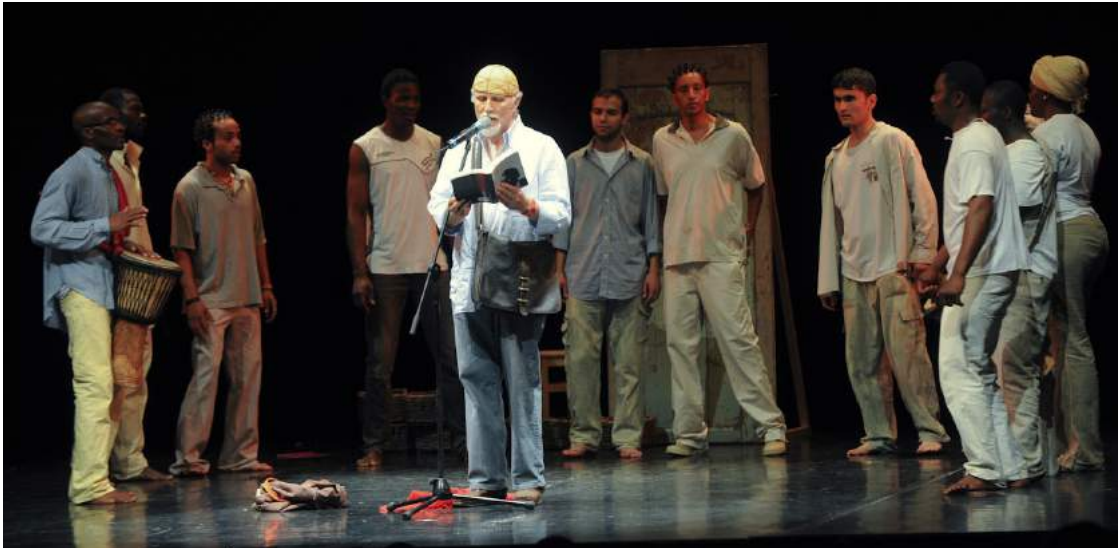
CIR - VI.TO. – Hospitality and Care for Victims of Torture, Italian Council for Refugees

ITALY

With over 500 people attending, coverage from local and national media, and participation

from a wide range of NGO partners, the CIR-VI.TO. event for 26 June was a great success. The event primarily featured a theatre performance of “Sulle tracce delle conchiglie”, the final work of VI.TO’s theatre psycho-social rehabilitation workshop. The performance was inspired by the work of Ken Saro Wiwa, the Nigerian environmental activist who led a campaign against multi-national petroleum companies, such as Shell, and who was eventually imprisoned, tortured, and killed. Jean Leonard Touadi, a member of the Italian Parliament, opened the event

with a public artistic performance near the government buildings and national theatre. The children’s performance received much attention from the public, who gathered to watch. KRCT staff also attended, adorned with 26 June t-shirts, and distributed informational pamphlets to the public. The centre’s Executive Director Mrs. Feride Rushiti was also interviewed by both Radio-Television of Kosovo and KohaVizion on the centre’s activities and the importance of marking the day.



A big success. Over 500 people attended the final performance of the theatre psycho-social rehabilitation workshop organised by CIR-VI.TO., Italy

with remarks on the importance of honouring the Day in Support of Victims of Torture, and he denounced the condition of migrants detained in Center of Identification and Expulsion. The rehabilitation centre also offered a presentation of their work and current projects.

KRCT – The Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims

KOSOVO

The only member centre in the formerly war-torn region commemorated the day with a pub-

RCTV “Memoria” – Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims

MOLDOVA

From 21 to 26 June, the Moldovan RCTV “Memoria”, undertook an anti-torture campaign dedicated to the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The campaign consisted of several activities, from conferences to musical performances. A first press conference focused on impunity, and human rights defenders had the opportunity to call on the authorities to put an end to torture and to bring the torturers to real accountability. Another conference, with the theme “Mothers against torture”, gave a

voice to mothers to speak out about the drama of families whose members have been subject to torture. On 24 June, RCTV “Memoria”, together with Amnesty International Moldova and Promo-Lex Association, organised a live concert in support of victims of torture in downtown Chisinau. The concerts were attended by more than 300 people. During all the events, informative leaflets and other materials were distributed. The events had wide media coverage on national TV, radio, print and web.

IAN CRTV – International Aid Network, Centre for Rehabilitation of Torture

SERBIA

The Trebinje centre held a press conference and exhibition at the gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts as part of a country-wide project entitled Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program for Torture Victims in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, sponsored by the European Union. In commemoration of 26 June to support and honour the victims of torture, the exhibition presented the words of students at the Academy and their artistic interpretation of torture, victims, and survival. In Milici, the centre held a press conference to address the public on the issues of torture, including relationship with poverty, state obligations, and holistic rehabilitation of victims through the centre’s services. In addition, the CRTV Milici also organized a series of campaign concerts in a local café.

Swedish Red Cross - Stockholm

SWEDEN

The Swedish Red Cross, to honour the annual campaign against torture on 26 June, wrote a major article to a well-established magazine on the need for rehabilitation of torture victims and increasing public funds to do so. Other similar but shorter articles were written for local papers and a coordinated informational series. The campaign was also digital through existing channels on the Swedish Red Cross website, Facebook and Twitter. The Red Cross also sought to highlight the situation in Sweden today for torture victims through public radio.

SOHRAM CASRA - Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment

TURKEY

While a picnic may sound cozy and quiet, it can instead become a powerful community gathering for torture victims, their families, and those working in solidarity in support of victims of torture when about 1,500 people gathered with SOHRAM CASRA to commemorate 26 June. Under the theme “Absolute Prohibition of Torture”, participants were treated to musical performances, folk dances, contests, games, and discussions. On Saturday, 25 June, children in Diyarbakir flew kites by the lower city wall. On the day itself, SOHRAM organised a well-attended seminar on torture rehabilitation and reintegration into society with the centre’s psychology staff.



Demonstration organised by the HRFT Istanbul, Turkey

TIHV/HRFT - Human Rights Foundation of Turkey

TURKEY

Joining with several other human rights organisations in Turkey, the HRF coordinated several public statements and demonstrations to draw attention to the ongoing fight against torture

and the importance of showing solidarity with the victims. These other organisations included the Istanbul Medical Chamber, Legal and Social Studies Foundation, Contemporary Lawyers' Association - Istanbul Branch, Lambda Istanbul, Initiative against Crimes of Thought, Project against Sexual Harassment and Rape in Custody, and the Society of Forensic Medicine specialists. Their coordinated message focused on the importance of rehabilitation centres as the practice of torture continues throughout the world despite its prohibition. The practice of torture, furthermore, continues in Turkey where 211 people applied for torture treatment during the first five months of 2011, where nearly 2,000 people had been detained during interventions with police, and where six people had died in Turkish detention. These organisations concluded their message by condemning the practice of impunity for those who torture.

Freedom from Torture

UNITED KINGDOM

This year's lead up to the 26 June was a real success for Freedom from Torture (formerly The Medical Foundation), with lots of events up and down the UK. In the build up to the 26 June Freedom from Torture celebrated 'Refugee Week' by kicking off with a secret garden party at the centre in London. The following day, the Survivors Speak OUT network was proud to be speaking at the 'Umbrella Parade', which took place from Victoria Embankment Gardens to the Southbank. The amazing array of coloured umbrellas, led by a percussion band, guided everyone to the 'Celebrating Sanctuary Festival' where the 'Write to Life' group performed a collection of emotive, funny and inspirational writings about their experiences of being refugees. In addition, an inspiring exhibition of photographic work of and by survivors was displayed in Glasgow. The events continued on 27 June with a remembrance event where supporters engaged in many of their own actions to commemorate and stand up for survivors of torture. These actions included the initiative 'Give us a hand' where supporters were asked to write myth-busting or solidarity messages on their hands.

RTC - Refugee Therapy Centre

UNITED KINGDOM

In recognition of both Refugee Week and Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the UK-based Refugee Therapy Centre opened its doors to friends, families, clients, and supporters and showcased the recent publishing of *Trauma, Torture, and Dissociation* by Dr. Aida Alayarian, CEO and clinical director of the centre. Following a multicultural lunch, several speakers discussed the work of the centre and the political climate surrounding torture currently. Furthermore, Aida also used the opportunity to discuss two of the centre's highly successful projects – the Mentoring Project and the Community Outreach Project – both which encourage dynamic engagement between refugees and their children and the larger community. Finally, the Open Day concluded with a presentation of several art projects depicting the world of the centre or dedicated to it.

Non-members of the IRCT:

PCATI - Public Committee Against Torture in Israel

ISRAEL

PCATI, in cooperation with Jerusalem Cinematheque, invited the public to mark the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture with the screening of the film "Rendition". The screening was preceded by a discussion on torture between PCATI Executive Director Dr. Ishai Menuchin and Mr. Refram Haddad, a recent torture victim. The show was free for all participants.

UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

SWITZERLAND

The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture celebrated its 30th anniversary on 26 June 2011 with an appeal to states to increase their voluntary contributions so it can keep rebuilding lives of thousands of victims of torture around the world. On this occasion, an exhibit of art-

work made by victims of torture was held. The exhibition displayed paintings, pictures, sculptures and other types of artistic expression created by the victims as part of their rehabilitation process. UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon released a public statement in support of victims of torture and the work of the Voluntary

Fund. “At a time when the legitimate aspirations of people in many regions of the world for greater freedom, dignity and a better life are too often met with violence and repression, I urge States to respect the fundamental rights of all people,” he stated.



Conference organised by EMPATHY, Georgia



Conference by Cordelia Foundation, Hungary



Honouring the 1964 anti-communist revolt when several hundred were killed. ARCT, Albania



The initiative 'Give us a hand', organised by Freedom



RCT Zagreb in Croatia involved children in the 26 June commemorations



from Torture (formerly The Medical Foundation), UK



'Mothers against torture'. RCTV 'Memoria' in Moldova gave voice to mothers to speak out about the drama of families whose members have been subject to torture.

Latin America and the Caribbean

EATIP – Argentine Team of Psychosocial Work and Research

ARGENTINA

EATIP gathered about 15 medical professionals and members of social organisations, human rights groups, and activists for a think-tank seminar entitled ‘Torture and other traumatic situations of social origin’. The medical research organisation further joined other groups to discuss the impact of traumatic stress in

Buenos Aires coordinated by the Argentine Society of Psychotrauma. Finally, in another event marking the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, EATIP held an event in honour of the book “South, dictatorship and then ... psychosocial and clinical elaboration of collective trauma.” EATIP, a member centre and institution of mental health and human rights, further highlighted the importance of 26 June through a media and informational campaign in local print newspapers and radio stations.



Large seminar co-organised by PRIVA, Ecuador

GTNM/RJ – Grupo Tortura Nunca Mais, Rio de Janeiro

BRAZIL

The inauguration of a memorial in honour of 14 political disappeared persons who were victims of the dictatorship in Brazil marked the 26 June commemorations in Rio de Janeiro.

CAPS – Centre for Psychological Assistance

COLOMBIA

The Centre for Psychological Assistance marked 26 June with a public appeal to the Colombian government to ratify the Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture through their involvement with the national Colombia Coalition Against Torture. Through their networks, they also distributed the Global Reading to their local partners. To further commemorate the day, CAPS prepared a report on torture to supplement their appeal for ratification, and launched this report during a public event.

PRIVA – The Foundation for Integral Rehabilitation of Violence Victims

ECUADOR

With the goal of educating the general public about the rights of torture victims and ways to prevent torture, PRIVA, together with the Ecuadorian Ombudsman and other public and private organisations, coordinated an open house and a large seminar in Ambato, Tungurahua. In Montalvo Park volunteers explained to children and many interested passersby the significance of the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, and, at the District Attorney's auditorium, a seminar on 'Torture in prisons' was carried out for an audience of 300 professionals. The events caught the attention of the media and major newspapers such as La Hora and El Heraldo, which helped spread the message.

CPTRT – Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Survivors of Torture and Relatives

HONDURAS

The sole IRTC Honduras member centre marked the day with several activities leading up to 26 June that addressed the prevention and rehabilitation of torture. On 22 June the organisation held a public event, where torture survivors and their families could publicly testify and tell their own stories. On the day of, CPTRT held a similar event, but this time at the National Penitentiary to highlight the issues of torture in detention and stand in solidarity with prisoners, who are often ignored as victims themselves. In addition, the centre organised with international groups to petition against torture; and signed in cooperation with the new National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture (MNP), a national independent organisation that visits detention centres and prisons and provides expertise in the area of torture.

CCTI – The Collective Against Torture and Impunity

MEXICO

The Collective against Torture and Impunity planned a one-day public event titled "State Terrorism in Mexico – torture yesterday and today". The program included a press conference, two round table discussions with experts and survivors of torture, and a video presentation with testimonies. The event took place in Mexico City where CCTI is located.

CAPS – Centre of Psychosocial Attention

PERU

To support the victims of torture in honour of 26 June, the Peru member centre CAPS organised a two-day workshop on the prevention and documentation of torture. This event was attended by lawyers from several human rights organisations, public prosecutors, and representatives of the Ombudsman and the

Ministry of Justice of Peru. The organisation also created a fact sheet for presentation to local and national media on torture within places of detention and the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.

Non-members of the IRCT:

ASST – The Salvadoran Association of Torture Survivors

EL SALVADOR

At the symbolic Museo de la ciudad de Santa Tecla, a former prison where many former political dissidents were tortured during the 1970s and 80s, the ASST with the Committee of Former Prisoners of El Salvador (COP-PES) invited torture survivors, their families, and the general public to partake in a public conference on the meaning of 26 June and the country's recent history of torture. The Institute for Human Rights at the University of Central America explained the history and importance of commemorating the day. Several musicians, poets, and attendees also participated in the activities through songs, poetry, and personal stories of survival – a great success, the ASST said.



EATIP, Argentina



Volunteers explained to many interested passersby the significance of 26 June. PRIVA, Ecuador



Musicians also participated in the events organised by ASST, El Salvador



Middle East and North Africa

BFRCT – Bahjat al Fuad Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims

IRAQ

The Basra-based organisation hosted a lecture and commemoration day in honour of 26 June, focusing on the need for rehabilitation and reparations for victims. The day's activities, hosted on the Saturday before, included songs and dance for refusing violence performed by local children, a lecture and discussion on the meaning of the UN Convention Against Torture, and a presentation about the centre's work with victims of torture. Attendees included representatives from UNICEF, the United Nations, international and local NGOs, and several members of the media that subsequently covered the event. In addition to this well-attended function, the BFRCT attended a national commemoration in Baghdad, where they presented a speech on their centre's work with torture victims and rehabilitation.

KRC – Khiam Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture

LEBANON

On the occasion of the UN International Day for Victims of Torture, the KRC held a sit-in in front of the Grand Sarai in Riad el Solh Square. In light of the plight of poverty, domestic violence, torture, and forced disappearances,

the demonstrators made several demands of the Lebanese government. These included (but were not limited to) requests that the state criminalise torture, provide their 11-year overdue report to the UN Committee Against Torture, provide reparations to torture victims, and set up preventative mechanisms against torture. Leading up to the event, Khiam organised several meetings and workshops between former detainees, victims of torture, and their families and a Danish delegation that addressed rehabilitation of refugees. In addition, in the days leading up to the event, many Khiam staff visited prisons to showcase post-detention employment training and distribute information on health and torture.

AMRVT – Association Medicale de Rehabilitation des Victimes de la Torture

MOROCCO

For 26 June, the AMRVT organised a meeting at the headquarters in Casablanca, attended by torture survivors, families of missing persons, human rights NGO's and the other organisations. A documentary film about AMRVT's work with a mobile clinic was shown at the event. There were also testimonies by victims of human rights violations. The day ended with a reception in honour of the guests, for their solidarity and friendship.

GCMHP – Gaza Community Mental Health Programme

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

In coordination with the UN High Commission on Human Rights, the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme held a workshop on the ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture and its role in preventing the cycle of torture and poverty. Through a demonstrated cooperation between civil and state organisations, the workshop attendees addressed a number of topics, including the work of GCMHP in training torture victims to prevent poverty, the onerous challenges regarding the prevention of torture in Palestine, and the impact of the ‘Arab Spring’ demonstrations on the visibility of torture. Furthermore, the workshop discussions touched on the role of the Israeli detention of thousands of Palestinians and their current policies on torture. In conclusion, the workshop recommended continuing discussions on torture to highlight the issue, asking the international community to pressure Israel to stop torturing, and ongoing rehabilitation and support of torture victims.

Jesoor – Transcultural Right to Health

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

In the occupied Palestinian Territory, Jesoor

focused on the impact of torture on children and families through discussions and role-play. More than 30 children and their families were invited to the Jesoor training hall to engage in role-plays about torture, human rights, and domestic abuse. Jesoor staff then discussed the impact of torture on the personal and family level. Children were invited to draw pictures and role play on the role victims play in the family.

TRC – Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

More than 300 people attended the conference hosted by the TRC and the UN Commission for Human Rights, held to mark 26 June and to discuss the issues of torture in the Palestinian Territory. The conference was part of a three-year project to address the service delivery needs of torture victims in the West Bank. The goal of the conference was to support the ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture (UNCAT). By the conclusion, the conference recommended several steps to prevent torture within the disputed state, through the ratification of the UNCAT, criminalisation of torture, and to continue the work of civil society organisations, such as the TRC, to address the needs of torture victims and advocate for legal reform.



Workshop by the GCMHP, Palestinian Territories



Meeting organised by AMRVT, Morocco



Jesoor in the Palestinian Territories focused on the impact of torture on children and families



Several members of the media covered the event hosted by BFRCT in Iraq



KRC, Lebanon held a sit-in in front of the Grand Sarai in Riad el Solh Square

North America

CCVT – Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

CANADA

The Centre for Victims of Torture used 26 June to speak out against torture, voice their support of victims, and note the structural problem of poverty as both a cause and effect of torture. A panel discussion was first held to discuss the theme of poverty, which was opened with a dance by the Tamil Senior Support Group. The panel noted a wide range of interconnected social, economic and political problems that underlie the prevalence of torture – economic instability, gender, development, and political disregard for human rights. Over 90 participants listened to the panel discussion and joined when the debate opened. Many had been torture survivors themselves, and felt the urgency to speak out about the crimes inflicted against them and add their voices to the outcry against torture. “Canadians need to speak loudly so that the whole world listens to the plight of the tortured poor,” CCVT wrote. “The world cannot be saved while there is poverty.”

PSIT – Northern Virginia Family Service’ Program for Survivors of Torture & Severe Trauma

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In partnership with the Torture Abolition and

Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), the Program for Survivors of Torture and Severe Trauma successfully held the First Annual Greater Washington [D.C.] Network Conference called ‘Creating a Coalition of Care for Trauma and Torture Survivors.’ The conference was an immense success. More than 150 people attended, including approximately 30 survivors. With expert panelists in the fields of medicine, psychiatry, psychotherapy, social services, and law, and with survivors sharing their stories, the conference centered on the importance of, and necessity for, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and comprehensive care. Through their powerful stories of trauma and healing, survivors revealed the central role of agencies such as PSIT and TASSC in their ability to re-establish their identity and rebuild their lives. In addition, their voices reiterated the critical need for a further integrated system of care.

PTV – Program for Torture Victims

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In the weeks leading up to 26 June, the California-based Program for Torture Victims joined with other regional mental health clinics and rehabilitation centres to advocate for increased state funding and resources for torture treatment. Furthermore, PVT board member, torture survivor and actor Hector Aristizabal performed in ‘Nightwind’, a play

based in his personal experience in Colombia, in front of more than 100 attendees. Finally, PVT joined with other human rights workers on a public panel discussing the legal, ethical, and humanitarian aspects to torture. The event also included dramatic readings from *Reckoning with Torture: Testimonies and Memos from the “War on Terror.”*

SI – Survivors International

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Staff and a client of Survivors International (SI) along with members of the California Consortium of Torture Treatment Centers (CCTC) attended the California State Senate Floor Session on 23 June to support a special resolution in honour of the annual Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The senate voted on a resolution that raises awareness about the large presence of torture survivors in California and the highly specialized treatment community that has evolved to help these survivors to

heal. After the senate session, a media meeting was held during which clients were given an opportunity to speak.

Survivors – Survivors of Torture International

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Survivors of Torture International applauded the adoption of a state resolution to acknowledge the presence of California’s approximately 100,000 torture survivors and the work of rehabilitation centres around the state. The resolution passed on 27 June in honour of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Following their presentation to the state senate, Survivors of Torture International were joined by several other mental health and torture rehabilitation centres at the capitol to publicise the resolution and provide a platform for their clients – the survivors of torture – to share their personal stories.



Survivors International at the California State Senate Floor Session

Pacific

ASeTTs – Assisting Torture and Trauma Survivors

AUSTRALIA

For the past four years ASeTTs, in partnership with the Curtin University of Technology Centre for Human Rights Education and the West Australian Branch of Amnesty International, have organised and hosted a public forum to mark 26 June. This year, following the considerable political controversy relating to Australia's policy of mandatory detention of asylum seekers, ASeTTs examined the impact of this policy on the mental health of asylum seekers. To this end, a forum was held with Professor Derrick Silove as the key note speaker and presentations from former detainees as well as mental health professionals from ASeTTs who have worked with asylum seekers in detention.

STARTTS – New South Wales Service for the Treatment of Torture and Trauma Survivors

AUSTRALIA

From 18 to 27 June, the New South Wales Service for the Treatment of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS), in conjunction with the Refugee Council of Australia and the Australian Refugee Film Festival, held an event to launch

Refugee Week as well as to mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The launch event on the 18th consisted of an art exhibition, screening of the Australian Refugee Film Festival and the presentation of Humanitarian Awards to members of the community for their outstanding work. The art was exhibited throughout the week until 27 June, and during the week the Film Festival was screened in a number of locations across Sydney.



STARTTS for the launch of the Refugee Week

Sub-Saharan Africa

SAP/GL – Solidarity Actions for Peace/ Great Lakes

BURUNDI

This year, the theme of the 26 June celebrations organised by SAP/GL in Burundi was “Poverty as a cause and effect of torture”. The events were aimed at raising awareness in the fight against the use of torture and against the stigmatisation of victims of violence. SAP/GL estimated 5,000 people participated in the events, including political and administrative officials, personalities from the national senate and parliament, religious leaders, schools (teachers and pupils), local NGOs and groups of women. The celebrations included musical and dancing performances representing the cultural heritage of Burundi, recital of poems to convey the messages against torture, a protest march and a conference aimed at administrative and religious authorities. The celebrations were complemented with a video presentation and a football game.

CRAT – Centre for Rehabilitation and Abolition of Torture

CAMEROON

CRAT organised, on the occasion of the celebration of 26 June, an advocacy workshop at the Mbengwi Principal prison in Bamenda under the theme poverty, both as a cause and effect

of torture - in line with the IRCT global campaign. The aim was to engage more actively with people who are employed in settings that may come into regular contact with victims of torture such as prison guards, lawyers, magistrates, military and police officers, as they often do not know about torture, its causes and effects, and how to prevent it from happening. Approximately 75 participants took part in the workshop, in addition to almost 60 prisoners and members of the media. Furthermore, the rehabilitation and advocacy NGO targeted the larger community in Cameroon through radio campaigns and interviews on the importance of 26 June.



CRAT - Cameroon

TCC – Trauma Centre Cameroon

CAMEROON

On the occasion of the 14th International Day in Support of Victim of Torture, TCC organised a series of events based on holistic local needs and their clients' priorities. For example, on 22 June, the centre coordinated a group therapy session for women victims of sexual violence and torture. Furthermore, a companion information session informed women and girls on STI and HIV/AIDS and sexual violence. A third conference focused on the legal support for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence and trauma. During the campaign, the TCC exhibited the textile work in sewing and dyeing of many of their clients, which were also for sale. Local media covered the event – Cameroon Radio Television and several published print articles were written about the campaign. Almost 200 people attended the informational conferences, and 16 media outlets covered the event and the focus on women and girls as victims of sexual violence.

YPNV/TRVC – Youth Association for Peace and Nonviolence

CHAD

The member centre in Chad joined with the Association of Victims of Crimes and Repression of Hissein Habre, former dictator and president of Chad, for a day of solidarity and commemoration of the victims of torture. The day-long presentation began with a speech by the AJPNV president and the Global Reading by Manfred Nowak. Victims presented testimonies and their stories of detention and experiences of torture. Afterwards, participants gathered to watch a football match with female victims of torture against the supporters and family that joined them during the event.

OASIS – Centre Oasis for Health and Human Rights

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

For 26 June, OASIS prepared a poster campaign that sought to inform the community on what

constitutes torture, its consequences, and ways and means to fight it and the legal procedures to follow in order to receive appropriate assistance after torture. Oasis also organised a conference to push policy makers to integrate provincial rehabilitation of torture survivors in the social welfare system. Open discussions were organised with the alleged torturers on the radio, and educational messages were transmitted via this route. OASIS staff and a group of local artists worked together to compose songs and skits to encourage the community to support the prohibition of torture. There was also a round table discussion with various participants from human rights organisations, and a bicycle and motorcycle race.

SAVE Congo

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

To observe the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, SAVE Congo organised a one-day event centred on the theme “Poverty cause and effects of torture in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”. SAVE Congo visited the Detention and Rehabilitation Centre for Abandoned Children, situated 28 km from Lubumbashi city and organised a prayer in favour of the nearly 800 children of the centre, abandoned due to poverty. Following the prayer, there was a common lunch and a football match. In the evening there was an opportunity to dance, enjoy a theatre performance and a folklore musical performance by local groups. Five local TV channels broadcast spots to support access to justice for prisoners (disadvantaged children and abandoned children). Public awareness was raised through the Door-to-Door Campaign against Torture (DDT). It was an effective means of spreading the Convention against Torture, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and local laws to provide a message of how torture is prohibited by all these means. The DDT was designed to be chanted at victim's association meetings and in public venues such as markets where it could be heard by all members of the community, even those who are illiterate.

CPMRVT/SOPROP – Psycho-Medical Center for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

For 26 June, the Psycho-Medical Center for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims - SOPROP hosted various activities throughout its regional centres across DR Congo, including a peaceful march in support of the victims of torture and visits to prisons. Universities screened films on torture and debated the problem. Furthermore, a mass honouring of the victims of torture took place in Kinshasa, Goma, Butembo, and Kitshanga. At the end of the commemorations participants enjoyed a solidarity meal with the survivors of torture across the country. In those same centres, participants and observers played a football match with victims of torture.

MATESO – Mwatikho Torture Survivors Organization

KENYA

In the week surrounding 26 June, MATESO collaborated with several other anti-torture and human rights organisations to promote the International Day in Support of Torture Victims. The promotion included interviews in local radio, presentation of documentaries on torture, using photography exhibitions to highlight the human impact of the crime, and distribution of stickers and informational brochures. In addition, MATESO organised and participated in a memorial service and public procession for the victims of the Wagalla Massacre and those who disappeared in Mt. Elgon military camp. The rehabilitation and human rights organisation also commissioned a survey of past injustices in Kenya as a companion to the country-wide Truth and Reconciliation Commission that is currently hearing testimonies of torture survivors.

LAPS – Liberia Association of Psychosocial Services

LIBERIA

One of the newest member centres of the IRCT, LAPS, honoured the international day against torture in collaboration with students from various schools, community leaders, local and international NGOs, government ministries, and members of the broader community. To promote the fight against torture leading up to the day, LAPS coordinated two radio interviews to raise community awareness. In the early morning hours of 27 June, participants for the parade including students from various schools (many of whom were children formerly associated with fighting forces) and other stakeholders from the NGOs sector converged at “fair ground” junction and organised themselves in marching lines and paraded through the streets of Buchanan. The indoor program consisted of speeches (Global Reading and UN Secretary Statement) and the screening of movies on torture. The program gathered prominent citizens of the county and various representatives from local institutions, NGOs, and community leaders.

RAL – Rescue Alternative Liberia

LIBERIA

To mark 26 June, Rescue Alternative Liberia focused on ensuring that acts of torture are criminalised under Liberian laws as required by Article 4 of the UNCAT and Optional Protocol by state parties. To work toward this goal, RAL, with other NGO and anti-torture organisations and partners lobbied the governmental authorities to pass the appropriate national laws.

VIVRE/CAPREC – Victimes de Violences Rehabilitées, le Centre de Soins du CAPREC

SENEGAL

A community event lasting a full day at the VIVRE/CAPREC centre in Senegal was used

to honour the victims of torture and inform and discuss on the local issues. More than 60 people attended the event, including local judges, psychologists and lawyers, but predominantly attended by the victims themselves and their families. Following welcome remarks and a lively dance, Dr. Assane Diouf, medical officer at VIVRE/CAPREC discussed the social and medical aspects of torture. Victims and their families were given the floor to provide their stories and testimonies of torture and

CAPS – Community Association for Psychosocial Services

SIERRA LEONE

For 26 June, CAPS led a march through the city in Koidu with approximately 300 invited guests, staff, survivors and their families to attract attention to the cause and effect of torture in the war-torn country. Many onlookers in the city joined the march, which was filled with participants wearing colourful T-shirts and



CAPS led a march through the city in Koidu, Sierra Leone

rehabilitation. Centre staff Moustapha Gaye and Mr. Ndiaye Kébyr provided discussions of social rehabilitation and the relationship between economic and socio-cultural factors and torture, respectively. After distributing the UNCAT and OPCAT in local languages, the participants discussed the major themes of the Global Reading and the recommendations for addressing torture in Senegal.

carrying placards decrying the use of torture. CAPS used prayers and poems to disseminate information on torture, and asked experts, counsellors, and torture victims to participate in testimonies, radio interviews, and speeches advocating the prevention of torture, informing the public on the forms of torture, and demanding justice for the victims. Several local radio stations broadcast the interviews in the subsequent days.

ACTRVT – Amel Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation Victims of Torture

SUDAN

The 26 June commemorations in Khartoum consisted of a week of activities and started with a meeting with human rights activists and parliamentarians. The discussions were centred on the ratification of UNCAT and the harassment and detention of journalists by security forces in Sudan.



SAVE organised a one-day event centred on the theme “Poverty cause and effects of torture in the Democratic Republic of the Congo”

Non-members of the IRCT:

GIPROCOME – Intervention Group for the Protection of Mother-Infant

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

GIPROCOME sought to raise awareness in the South Kivu region of DRC of the crime of torture and its impact in communities. As a result, for 26 June, GIPROCOME organised workshops with its partners to increase awareness of torture and urge political and regional authorities to enact laws banning the use of torture. GIPROCOME also made plans to visit prisons and hospitals to investigate allegations of torture and abuse.

REMAK – Regroupement des Mamans de Kamituga

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

REMAK organised, on the occasion of 26 June, a conference on the abolition of torture in the region of Mwenga. The conference counted the participation of more than 50 people. REMAK also organised a march in support of the victims of torture and visits to local prisons. Thirteen NGO's, 15 state bodies and one private organisation participated in the events.

CAT Eldoret – Centre Against Torture

KENYA

In order to mark 26 June and continue its mission to treat and rehabilitate the victims of torture, CAT set up public information booths in Eldoret. The centre sought to disseminate information on torture and torture cases, and offered its psycho-social medical services.

YEHRCCR – Youth Education on Human Rights and Civil Responsibilities

NIGERIA

Supporters of the Youth Education on Human Rights and Civil Responsibilities rallied in Enugu town on 25 June in support of victims of torture. Participants carried signs and posters and discussed the issues and practice of torture in Nigeria with the interested public. The organisation's project manager and executive director were also interviewed by Radio Nigeria for a 15 minute segment. Two additional journalists and a member of the Nation Human Rights Commission also attended the rally.

TCSVT – Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture

SOUTH AFRICA

For 26 June, the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture (TCSVT), in collaboration with the Institute for Healing of Memories organised a seminar in which facilitators from

the Trauma Centre presented and discussed the publications 'Action Against Torture - a guide for lawyers', 'Medical Physical Examination of Alleged Torture Victims - a guide for medical doctors' and 'Drawing on Lessons from the Past: Towards Fuller Realisation of the Right to Rehabilitation for Survivors of Torture in South Africa'. The Trauma Centre also invited doctors and lawyers who were able to present or provide some insight to their experiences. Located in Cape Town, the TCSVT also focused

their 26 June campaign on the issues of torture in police detention and informing the rural and agricultural areas around the Cape. The trauma centre distributed several posters within five local police stations in the city. Furthermore, they travelled to the farmlands and rural areas to target the large populations who often have little access to their services. They distributed posters throughout the smaller towns, and again, posted several within police stations in these areas.



Meeting with human rights activists and parliamentarians organised by ACTRVT in Sudan



Victims presented testimonies and their stories of detention and experiences of torture. AJPNV - Chad



MATESO - Kenya

Social media

Throughout the world, there are approximately 750 million active Facebook users. They come from practically every country, from Gambia to Denmark, Mexico to the Philippines.

Many of these people do not live near a member centre or programme with 26 June activities, but we wanted them to still be involved in the global call to support the victims of torture.

For this, our social media plan sought to incorporate the event into the online tools millions of people use everyday to share their lives with friends and family. Through Facebook and Twitter, participants were able to declare their support for the victims of torture and to engage in debate, discussion, and solidarity with those around the globe.

“ As the day continued, the time change could be experienced through Twitter. In the Copenhagen morning, messages began in Arabic, focusing on the situations in the Middle East and North Africa. By the time the IRCT signed off in the evening, Spanish dominated our Twitter feed, discussing the support of torture victims in South America

Tessa Moll, Freedom from Torture blog

Facebook

With over 750,000 million users worldwide, Facebook is undoubtedly the largest social

networking site. To encourage these untapped supporters from around the world, we created a World Without Torture online ‘Event’ and asked our friends, families, and allies to join us in supporting the victims of torture on 26 June. Over 5,000 people were invited to our event page, thus ignited an engaging, informative conversation on the global struggle against torture. The Facebook campaign, with daily informational status updates, brought an additional 800 supporters to World Without Torture. In addition, we asked Facebook users to donate their status on 26 June with a message to honour the victims and survivors, thus allowing these messages of support to spread to their friends and families.



Do you have a profile picture that you use for social media? For 26 June, we created this special *PicBadge* that supports can affix to their profile pictures in Facebook and Twitter.

Twitter

Twitter is full of new confusing verbs. Tweeting. Twittering. Retweeting. For the UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we wanted to make our actions simple: support victims of torture

by using the #26june hashtag in a message. That way, we can all add to a conversation about torture and point to its cycle within poverty. Our supporters joined with great results.



"¡Un mundo sin tortura es posible!" - Prof. Manfred Nowak, fmr UN Rapporteur, #torture #humanrights #26june

#26june



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. Fifty-seven centres, programmes, and organisations provided information on their local events. From a 5K run against torture in Manila to artistic performances in Serbia, supporters could discover ways to participate in the UN Day through the Google Map.

I support
26 JUNE
the victims of
torture



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

149 States as of 6 October 2011

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

States which have NOT ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention

46 States as of 6 October 2011

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

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

Torture breaks people. Your support helps us rebuild lives and fight torture.

The IRCT needs your help to rebuild the lives of torture victims and fight for the eradication of torture worldwide. The recovery of torture victims is greatly impaired if their treatment is suspended due to limited or uncertain funds. There are still many parts of the world where treatment or support continues to be scarce or completely unavailable. By contributing to our work, you can help ensure that torture survivors and their families receive the help they need.

Online

Please visit www.irct.org/donate to make a credit card donation.

By cheque

Please send a cheque that is made payable to our address:

IRCT
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/BIC: DABADKKK

USD account
Registration no.: 3001
Account no.: 4310-005029
IBAN: DK18 3000 4310 0050 29

DKK account
Registration no.: 3001
Account no.: 4310-821152
IBAN: DK90 3000 4310 8211 52

EUR account
Registration no.: 3001
Account no.: 3001-957171
IBAN: DK69 3000 3001 9571 71

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

Website
www.irct.org

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