

26 JUNE

UN INTERNATIONAL
DAY IN SUPPORT OF
VICTIMS OF TORTURE

No. 18

GLOBAL REPORT 2016



SUPPORT
LIFE
AFTER
TORTURE

26 JUNE



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2016 Global Report on the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

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

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

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

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Foreword

Support life after torture!

Rehabilitation providers help victims heal; lawyers help them take their cases to court; the media expose torture to the public and provide survivors with a platform to share their stories; policymakers pass laws that ensure redress and victims can support each other to rebuild life after torture. These people do not need to be alone in supporting life after torture for victims and their families. By being aware of the damage torture does to society, by letting politicians know that it is unacceptable under any circumstances and by supporting activities that contribute to eradicating it, each individual can be a champion in the global struggle against torture.



Suzanne Jabbour
President



Victor Madrigal-Borloz
Secretary-General

It was in this spirit that the world commemorated the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June 2016. Under our new slogan “Support Life After Torture”, 90 organisations and many other stakeholders, marked the day through a diverse mix of events. Side-by-side refugees and professional actors performed theatre pieces on topics such as birth, violence and torture in conflict zones; organisations shared their messages in public spaces and raised awareness about torture and rehabilitation through exhibitions and marches; while some victims told their stories at events and through images and text. This year, the IRCT secured the global rights to ‘The Look of Silence’, an Oscar-nominated film by director Joshua Oppenheimer, and organisations around the world held screenings and post-film discussions.

Together with 18 member centres, the IRCT launched reports recommending concrete action to implement the right to rehabilitation in the European Union and seven countries in other regions of the world. The IRCT also issued a joint statement with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights calling on states in the Americas to make redress and rehabilitation a political and budgetary priority.

Advocating for change and holding states accountable is a key element of 26 June. Since 1998, the IRCT has provided support to people and organisations around the world to commemorate the day under a specific campaign theme each year, which was supported by case specific materials. This year, we have taken a more inclusive, participatory and visual approach by developing an overall slogan and visual identity and inviting those taking action to promote their local issues as part of our global call to Support Life After Torture. We look forward to developing this further to ensure that every year more organisations and individuals can recognise their voice in the global message.

This year’s commemoration was truly global and reflected a multitude of actions taken to support victims. In this report, we present a snapshot of the global activities and the many innovative commemorations that took place. We hope that this will inspire more of you to join us and to Support Life After Torture, today, tomorrow and on 26 June 2017.

26 June: 'Support Life After Torture' Global Campaign

In recent years, hundreds of organisations from every region of the world have joined our global call for an end to the horrific practice of torture and for full rehabilitation for all victims.

Through our 26 June global campaign efforts, the IRCT seeks to facilitate action by local actors across the world who work every day to support victims of torture and ill-treatment, while strengthening the voice of the global anti-torture movement.

Some organisations campaign for their national governments to adopt legislation prohibiting torture and guaranteeing the right to rehabilitation or to ratify the UN Convention against Torture. Others highlight the specific ways in which torture takes place in their country and creatively raise awareness about the urgent need for victims to receive both justice and rehabilitation.

This report highlights this diverse mix of activities and the voices of those who have joined our efforts under the message **Support Life After Torture**.

Thank you for your contributions, we look forward to continuing to collaborate with you and to welcoming many more organisations and voices.

To commemorate 26 June 2015, CVT Nairobi gathered a number of dance groups from Ugandan and Congolese communities, which performed for an audience of nearly 400 community members.



2015 PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

This photograph was chosen for the cover of our 26 June Global Report 2015. Please contribute your high-quality images to become part of this impressive series of photographs and be on the cover of our next global report! Send us your photographs (minimum 300dpi) to 26june@irct.org and be part of our Photo Contest 2017.

Asia

BCHRD, Bangladesh
TPO, Cambodia
CCTV, India
TTSP, India
SIKAP, Indonesia
CVICT, Nepal
TPO, Nepal
HDO, Pakistan
BALAY, Philippines
MAG, Philippines
GTC, South Korea
KMHC, South Korea
Truth Foundation, South Korea
FRC, Sri Lanka
HRO-Kandy, Sri Lanka
HRSCAL, Sri Lanka

Europe

ARCT, Albania
FAVL, Armenia
Vive Žene, Bosnia
 & Herzegovina
RCT Zagreb, Croatia
DIGNITY, Denmark
Parcours d'Exil, France
ACAT, Germany
BZFO, Germany
SPIRASI, Ireland
VI.TO / CIR, Italy
KRCT, Kosovo
GOLOS PFVF, Kyrgyzstan
RCTV Memoria, Moldova
CPT, Russia
CEAR, Spain
SOHRAM-CASRA, Turkey
TIHV HRFT, Turkey
Freedom from Torture, UK
**London Guantanamo
 Campaign**, UK

Participants 2016

Latin America and the Caribbean

EATIP, Argentina
ITEI, Bolivia
AVRE & CCCT, Colombia
PRIVA, Ecuador
CCTI, Mexico
CAPS, Peru
Red de Apoyo, Venezuela

Middle East and North Africa

ODVV, Iran
Jiyan Foundation, Iraq
PCATI, Israel
CVT, Jordan
KRC, Lebanon
RESTART, Lebanon
AMRVT, Morocco
SNHR, Syria

North America

ACAT, Canada
CCVT, Canada
AHRC, USA
CLSACC, USA
CVT Atlanta, USA
CVT Minnesota, USA
CVT Washington, USA
FCST, USA
Heartland Alliance, USA
PPR, USA
PSTT, USA
Survivors of Torture, USA

The Pacific

QPASTT, Australia
STTARS, Australia

Sub-Saharan Africa

ACAT, Benin
**Friends of the Press
 Network**, Cameroon
TCC, Cameroon
TT-VC, Cameroon
AVVDH, DRC
Fedicongo, DRC
Gouvernance Plus, DRC
REMAK, DRC
SOPROP, DRC
SOS JED, DRC
SOVIP, DRC
CVT, Ethiopia
CPT AFRICA, Regional Body
VEReF, Ghana
ACAT, Kenya
**Advocacy Centre for
 Human Rights**, Kenya
CAT, Kenya
CVT, Kenya
MATESO, Kenya
LAPS, Liberia
RAL, Liberia
YEHRCR, Nigeria
CAPS, Sierra Leone
TCSVT, South Africa
ACTV, Uganda
M-Shed, Uganda

26 June Global Voices

Join our movement in 2017!

Participant Centres 2016

Asia 16

Europe 19

LA & The Caribbean 7

Middle East & North Africa 8

North America 12

The Pacific 2

Sub-Saharan Africa 26

*This map does not reflect all the activities in 2016, nor the exact location of the participant centres, but serves as example of the upcoming 26 June online map.



Type of Activities



Awareness Raising & Educational Activities



Artistic & Cultural Activities

Fill the online map with your plans

Please send us your 26 June
activity plans for 2017
to 26June@irct.org
by 1 June



Be our eyes!

Please send us
high-resolution images
from your 26 June events
to 26June@irct.org



**Advocacy
Activities**



**Activities
for Children**



**Other
Activities**

Types of Activities

United by our common goal to Support Life After Torture, on 26 June around 100 organisations across the world participated in this year's commemoration. Their activities ranged from artistic and cultural initiatives, such as hosting photo exhibitions and film screenings, to political protests calling on governments to take action to combat torture. All of these approaches are powerful and create a space for the voices of victims and communities that have previously been silenced; to improve the public's understanding of torture; to foster solidarity and social change and to inspire hope.



STTARS — Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Services, Australia



Awareness Raising & Educational Activities

Trainings, seminars, conferences and panel discussions are always popular 26 June activities, whether it is to increase awareness and knowledge about how to eradicate torture, to discuss meaningful state action to implement the right to rehabilitation, or to present the activities undertaken by organisations to provide rehabilitation to survivors of torture.

Other awareness raising and educational activities include the dissemination of informational material, testimonies by torture survivors, radio quizzes, video contests with university students, film screenings and open houses.



GTC — Gwangju Trauma Center, South Korea



Artistic & Cultural Activities

Time and again, organisations around the world choose to commemorate 26 June with artistic and cultural activities such as art exhibitions, theatre shows, musical performances, mural painting or film screenings. In many cases, artistic and cultural activities can also be the result of different types of rehabilitation services at centres, such as art or music therapy.

Artistic and cultural activities can also be a highly effective way to attract media attention and the interest of the general public, generating more visibility of the issues and creating a sense of community, solidarity and hope.



Advocacy Activities

This year, some of the advocacy activities that took place included meetings with key national decision-makers, political protests, petition or letter writing campaigns and the distribution of reports urging governments and politicians to take action to tackle national and local challenges in realising the right to rehabilitation and the implementation of existing legislation.



Activities for Children

Whether at demonstrations, picnics, or other events, involving children is a common approach taken by centres and other organisations. Many schools, youth clubs or children's camps are invited to participate in essay contests, sports games or art contests, in order to contribute to a community-wide event and to educate children about the issue of torture and its implications from a young age.



Other Activities

Many other activities are organised to commemorate 26 June, such as tree planting, art auctions, sports events, religious or prayer ceremonies, candlelight vigils and outreach activities, such as visits to prisons.

Be our eyes!
Please send us high-resolution images from your 26 June events to 26June@irct.org

Asia





BCHRD — Bangladesh Centre for Human Rights and Development, Bangladesh

BCHRD — BANGLADESH CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT

BANGLADESH

This year, BCHRD focused its activities on children to mark 26 June. BCHRD organised an art competition, which more than 100 students participated in, along with many of their family members. The centre's Executive Director, Mahbul Haque read a statement, which focused on the 26 June slogan, Support Life After Torture. He also spoke about the importance of making children aware of

these issues, as children share what they learn with their parents. Through the event BCHRD added their support to the collective global voice of the campaign and the call for increased global visibility of victims of torture. In addition, BCHRD organised a human chain, seminars and fact-finding workshops. Over 300 people participated in these events, including 25 journalists.



IRCT MEMBER



TPO CAMBODIA — TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHOSOCIAL ORGANIZATION CAMBODIA

This year, TPO Cambodia organised an event for torture survivors of the Khmer Rouge Regime at their headquarters in Phnom Penh. Survivors, TPO staff and other guests discussed the right to compensation and rehabilitation for torture victims. The event began with a meditation session led by one of the TPO's counsellors and TPO's technical advisor, who reminded the audience of the importance of 26 June and of rehabilitation

rights for victims of torture.

In addition, in a symbolic act, TPO staff and survivors freed a dozen caged birds on TPO's rooftop and a survivor, Mr Ith Udom then spoke about some of his experiences and expressed how important the commemoration is for him and other survivors.

IRCT MEMBER



CCTV — CENTRE FOR CARE OF TORTURED VICTIMS INDIA

CCTV celebrated 26 June through a range of events, including at one of its newly opened units in Lalona. Participants also attended programmes at Sri Ramkrishna Asram, Nimpith. CCTV also engaged in community dialogues about the significance of 26 June and distributed new clothing to 34 oppressed students. At a neighbouring NGO, CCTV

organised a seminar for approximately 25 participants including school teachers, parents of the children, local youth groups and NGO committee members.

IRCT MEMBER



TTSP — TIBETAN TORTURE SURVIVORS PROGRAM INDIA

TTSP marked 26 June with a play titled, 'History Written in Blood' which attracted an audience of about 200 people including torture survivors and took place at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Art. The play, performed by a Tibetan dramatics association and organised by the torture section of the Health Department, was based on the true story of a Tibetan who had been tortured. Mr Tsewang Ngodup, Additional Secretary

at the Department of Health and Mr Dawa Rinchen, Tibetan Settlement Officer, were honoured guests at the play, which highlighted the struggles of Tibetan political prisoners. Its main purpose was to create public awareness about the living conditions of Tibetan torture survivors in exile and how they are being rehabilitated through the Central Tibetan Administration's health department.

SIKAP — CIVIL SOCIETY ALLIANCE AGAINST TORTURE

INDONESIA

SIKAP, in collaboration with its partners organised a public dialogue to promote the 26 June campaign slogan Support Life After Torture, in the North Sumatra region. Around 35 people participated in the event, including academics, lawyers, journalists, students and NGO representatives. During the event, the participants discussed and shared information on how SIKAP interviews victims of torture

and collects information on their experiences, as well as providing them with a range of much needed services.

IRCT MEMBER



CVICT — CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

NEPAL

With the objective of supporting victims of torture, CVICT organised events at Dhulikhel Prison in Kavre and Bhimfedi Prison in Makwanpur. At Dhulikhel Prison the focus was on music and more than 100 detainees sang songs, recited poems, joked and danced, giving them some much needed psychological relief. The songs reflected their pain at being incarcerated and were sung in harmony with a number of instruments including guitars, madals and tambourines.

At Bhimfedi Prison 25 prisoners were introduced to the concept of 26 June and informed about the rights of victims of torture and the services CVICT provides. Psychosocial staff facilitated the event and were on hand to answer questions and share their experiences.

IRCT MEMBER



TPO NEPAL - TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHOSOCIAL ORGANIZATION

NEPAL

On 26 June, TPO Nepal organised an event on Nepal's Draft Anti-Torture Legislation. The main purpose of the event was to discuss the relevance of the legislation, which had been discussed by Parliament and examined to see if it met the standards of the Convention against Torture and other international legislation. TPO Nepal also shared its working approaches and achievements with donor

agencies and created opportunities to expand its role in mental health research, as well as the rehabilitation of torture victims. Around 50 participants, including those from civil society organisations, human rights experts and Members of Parliament attended the event.



TPO Cambodia — Transcultural Psychosocial Organization, Cambodia



IRCT MEMBER



HDO — HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

PAKISTAN

HDO organised several activities to commemorate this year's 26 June, including a cricket match and advocacy meetings. The cricket match was attended by a number of torture survivors, councillors, activists and government officials and the HDO team leader spoke to the crowd and players about 26 June and its importance. At one advocacy meeting, members of the Khyber Pakhunkhwa

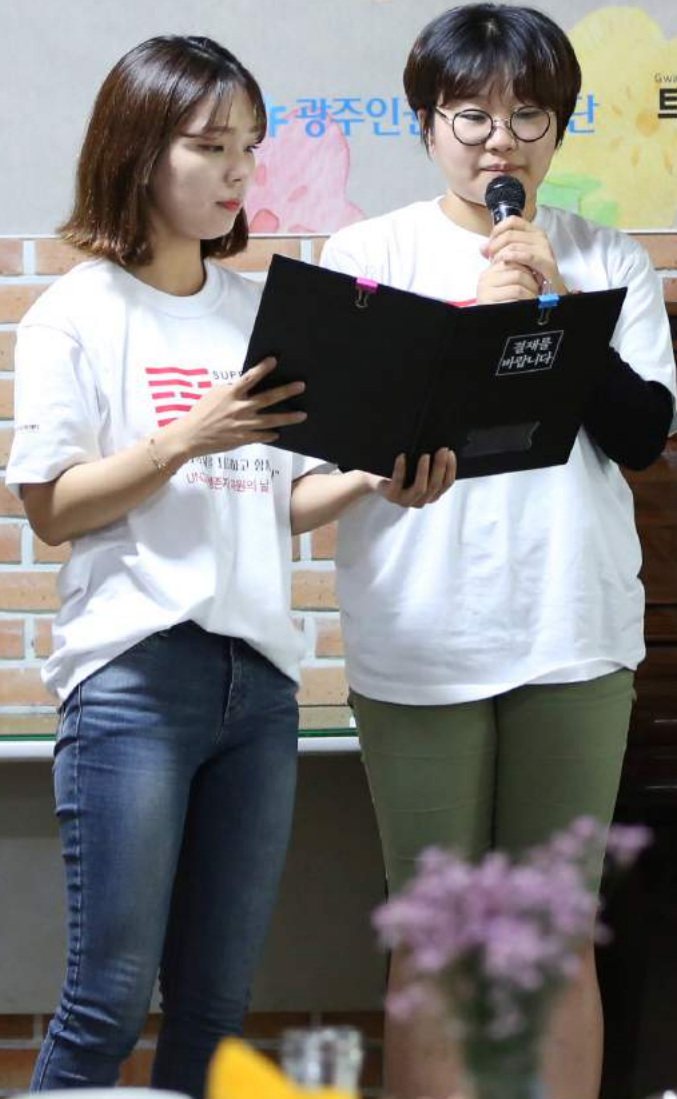
Assembly were briefed on the situation of victims of torture and urged to support a resolution on torture in the Assembly, which would pass a resolution on custodial abuse in three districts. HDO also organised a meeting with the Standing Committee on Human Rights in the National Assembly of Pakistan and provided a free medical camp for victims of torture.



"고난의 세월을 견뎌온 여러분이 계셔서 오늘의 우리가 있
살아주셔서 고맙습니다. 존경합니다"

UN 고문생존자 지원의 날 기념 초

2016. 6. 25(토). 광주가톨릭 평생교육원



Gwangju
트라
우
마
광주트라우마센터
GWANGJU TRAUMA CENTER

IRCT MEMBER

BALAY — BALAY REHABILITATION CENTER PHILIPPINES

More than 1,000 people participated in the Basta! Run Against Torture (BRAT) activity to show their solidarity with torture victims on 26 June. Among those who joined the three-kilometre run were representatives from the police force, military, local government, torture survivors and civil society. The event started from the office of the Commission on Human Rights and concluded at the Quezon Memorial

Circle, where the participants marked the day when the Convention against Torture came into force in 1987. It was the tenth BRAT-run held by the United against Torture Coalition, whose secretariat is headed by Balay. This year's theme was, "Not One More Victim: End Torture Now!"

IRCT MEMBER

MAG — MEDICAL ACTION GROUP, INC. PHILIPPINES

On June 26, MAG, one of the steering committees of the United Against Torture Coalition (UATC) Philippines, co-organized the UATC's annual Basta! Run against Torture (BRAT). Among the over 1,000 participants were members of the government, security sector, law enforcement officers, private agencies, non-government organizations, and human rights defenders ran and marched along the streets of Quezon City carrying this

year's theme: "Not One More Victim: End Torture Now!"

In the first quarter of 2016, the Philippines witnessed a torture case finally put into justice by convicting a police officer involved in torturing a person suspected of using illegal drugs. While there is a reason for celebration, the UATC, still stands strong and will continue to condemn torture as a systematic investigation procedure.

IRCT MEMBER

GTC — GWANGJU TRAUMA CENTER SOUTH KOREA

GTC ran a public campaign in Gwangju City on 25 June to commemorate the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Staff and volunteers distributed souvenirs with the campaign slogan, Support Life after Torture, and explained the meaning of the phrase to citizens. GTC also emphasised the message that more resources should be available to support victims of torture.

A lunch function was then held in the building of the Archdiocese of Gwangju, where heartfelt appreciation was expressed to survivors of torture and state violence. Nearly 70 clients attended the event, which was jointly organised by GTC and the Gwangju Human Rights Peace Foundation. Auxiliary Bishop Ohc Hyun-jin spoke at the event and to end, the participants recited the 26 June global reading together.

IRCT MEMBER 

KMHC — KIM KEUN-TAE MEMORIAL HEALING CENTER SOUTH KOREA

To commemorate 26 June, KMHC arranged an event at the National Assembly Building in Seoul, to promote legislation to support torture victims. Over 300 people, including victims and their families, law-makers, human rights defenders, civil society representatives and nuns attended the event. The activities started with a silent tribute to victims of torture followed by a performance of the narrative play "Speak Truth to Power" by victims and lawmakers. The performance

showed the suffering of the victims to audiences and requested the government's responsibility to Support Life After Torture. The event culminated with a performance by a choir of Korean residents in Japan who are victims of torture. The song "Reunion", which used to be sung at the Japanese assembly, was sung in Japanese and Korean by Pansori performers (survivors) and a choir of nuns, as a symbol of shared suffering and to comfort each other.

THE TRUTH FOUNDATION SOUTH KOREA

Every year, on 26 June, the Truth Foundation presents its Human Rights Award. This year's recipients were Mr Che Eui-jin and Mr Jung Hee-sang for their efforts in revealing the truth and fighting for justice for victims of state-sponsored massacres. Approximately 100 people attended the awards ceremony. This year's 26 June slogan, Support Life after Torture, was translated into Korean and displayed with the photos

of other countries' campaigns. The Truth Foundation also introduced former recipients of the Award and a short documentary about this year's winners was screened. At the end of the ceremony, students and victims of state-sponsored violence read a number of international documents, such as the Convention against Torture and a Study on the Right to the Truth.

IRCT MEMBER 

FRC - FAMILY REHABILITATION CENTRE SRI LANKA

To commemorate 26 June, FRC organised several events throughout Sri Lanka. In the Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts in the Eastern Region, seminars on the theme, Support Life after Torture were held to create awareness among various stakeholders on the importance of preventing torture and the significance of rehabilitating torture and trauma survivors. In the districts of Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, the commemoration

awareness programmes targeted local health officials and key community members, such as local government officials and the general public. The main theme of the programme was the prevention of torture and rehabilitation of survivors of torture and trauma. More than 120 people participated in the events. At the FRC Head Office in Colombo, the film "The Look of Silence" was screened.



KMHC — Kim Keun-Tae Memorial Healing Center, South Korea



HRO-KANDY — HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

SRI LANKA

HRO-Kandy organised a petition calling on the government to prosecute cases under the 1994 Torture Act. Father Nandana Manatunga, Director of the Human Rights Office, began a signature campaign urging the Attorney General to file cases from the last ten years under the Torture Act. The petition will be presented to the President, the Minister

of Justice and the Attorney General when 10,000 signatures are collected. As part of the campaign, HRO-Kandy also hosted an exhibition that depicted real stories of torture, recent judgments, posters on human rights, while exploring transitional justice, disappearances and the rights of prisoners.

HRSCAL— HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA

SRI LANKA

To mark 26 June HRCSL organised an island-wide campaign to advocate a 'zero tolerance policy on torture. The campaign was launched with marches across the country organised by the Commission's Head Office and 10 regional offices around the island. HRCSL also launched a media campaign to garner

media support and raise public awareness. The day was commemorated by school children, university students and youth council ambassadors, who all stressed the need to adopt a zero-tolerance policy on torture and to reject all forms of violence.

Europe





Photo by Mikhail Solounin
CPT — Interregional Public Organization
Committee for Prevention of Torture, Russia



IRCT MEMBER



ARCT — ALBANIAN REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR TRAUMA AND TORTURE VICTIMS

ALBANIA

To commemorate 26 June, ARCT organised a regional event that gathered the highest representatives of criminal justice, ministers of justice, directors of prisons in the region, representatives of police, prosecution and courts, as well as representatives of civil society. The two-day conference focused on best practices regarding prevention of torture and full implementation of the Convention against Torture.

The aim of the event was to explore viable solutions to prevent torture in places of detention, exchange on best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of torture-prevention policies and programmes, and to strengthen informal dialogue between key actors in the Balkan region.



DIGNITY — The Danish Institute Against Torture, Denmark



IRCT MEMBER 

FAVL — FOUNDATION AGAINST THE VIOLATION OF LAW ARMENIA

On 27 June FAVL organised a conference with the theme, “The Right to Rehabilitation for Torture Victims and Fight Against Impunity”. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about the unacceptability of torture, share international best practices for its prevention, and discuss its impact and effects. Participants also highlighted the importance of rehabilitation, compensation,

and other matters pertinent to torture victims. Among the attendees were 35 representatives of state institutions, such as the police, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Defense, Special Investigative Service, and Heads of Prisons, along with non-governmental organizations working in the field of prevention of torture. The event was covered by local media.

IRCT MEMBER

VIVE ŽENE CENTRE FOR THERAPY AND REHABILITATION BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

To commemorate 26 June, Vive Žene ran a series of activities throughout the country for an entire week. The activities included a 3D drawing of the planet with the slogan, “For a world without torture” by artist Romano Kuduzovic, an art workshop for children and a performance of the play “Beauty and the Beast” performed by a youth theatre group. On 26 June the main event featured a tree planting ceremony, choir, drawing exhibition,

an art performance, body painting and a dance performance.

Furthermore, a press conference was organised to promote the centre’s activities and to highlight the challenges facing torture victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

IRCT MEMBER

RCT ZAGREB — REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR STRESS AND TRAUMA CROATIA

To mark 26 June, RCT Zagreb organised a local network meeting with their staff, volunteers, as well as professionals from various institutions and organisations who directly or indirectly work with asylum seekers, refugees and torture victims. The aim of the meeting was to exchange experiences, provide capacity building and support professionals to continue their daily work with torture victims. During the event, RCT Zagreb president, Valentina Zeljak Božović spoke about the centre briefly and its experience of working with vulnerable groups. She the introduced the film

“The Look of Silence” by Joshua Oppenheimer, which was screened during the event. A post-film discussion provided the opportunity for participants to share their experiences and the conversation led to some recommendations being made on how to support torture victims.

IRCT MEMBER

DIGNITY — THE DANISH INSTITUTE AGAINST TORTURE DENMARK

To mark 26 June DIGNITY held an event in Kongens Have park in Copenhagen on 24 June. Approximately 18,000 people joined the event and enjoyed music, food, drinks and conversations with DIGNITY staff. Chinah,

L.I.G.A, Kesi, The Eclectic Monkier and child-friendly performers Pippelipop were among the artists who entertained the audience throughout the day.

IRCT MEMBER

PARCOURS D'EXIL ACCOMPAGNEMENT THÉRAPEUTIQUE DES VICTIMES DE TORTURE

FRANCE

The "Nuit debout" is a daily protest held at the Place de la République in Paris, and to commemorate 26 June this year, Parcours d'Exil staff and clients came together with many others at the square. Pierre Duterte, Director of the centre, read the 26 June Global Reading and the team disseminated copies of it to the audience. The group then went to

a concert at the Philharmonie de Paris, where some clients had the opportunity to participate in a percussion workshop with high profile musicians from the best orchestra in France.

ACAT GERMANY — ACTION BY CHRISTIANS FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE IN GERMANY

GERMANY

ACAT-Germany groups in Berlin, Hildesheim, Weimar, Mosbach and Essen held prayers event to commemorate victims of torture around the world on 26 June. In Essen 20 participants, including three protestant and catholic pastors, came together in the church of Niederwienigern. ACAT-Germany also invited participants to sign letters of solidarity addressed to a tortured prisoner in Tunisia. On 3 July about 20 people from Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Iran and Germany met to walk through Essen's

town centre. They started at the main station at a commemorative plaque in remembrance of 1,200 Jews, who were deported to concentration camps during the Nazi regime. The ACAT highlighted that people are still being deported today.

IRCT MEMBER

BZFO — BERLIN CENTER FOR THE TREATMENT OF TORTURE VICTIMS

GERMANY

BZFO commemorated 26 June by starting a campaign to draw attention to the rights and needs of refugee children. Especially to their right of protection against "torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

Starting on 26 June 2016, for one year, the campaign Children's Rights/ KINDgeRECHT will document every project or activity BZFO's partner centre ÜBERLEBEN provides

to support minors who migrated to Germany or had to flee their country of origin. The main projects are a summer movie camp for teenagers and an exhibition of works from established artists, as well as children's paintings from children living in refugee camps. The exhibitions will take place in Berlin, London and refugee camps in Northern Iraq. On 26 June 2017 the art work will be sold at a charity auction.



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



IRCT MEMBER



SPIRASI — THE CENTRE FOR THE CARE FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE IRELAND

Once again SPIRASI commemorated 26 June with an event that gathered victims, their families, staff and other invited guests at St Patrick's College in Dublin. The event featured guest speakers, including Bergen-Belsen Concentration camp survivor Tomi Reichenthal, video presentations, live music, poetry and inspiring speeches

from torture victims themselves. SPIRASI also screened a video the centre made to raise awareness on the issue of torture and to show victims in Ireland that they are not alone. This video featured Irish celebrities speaking the words of torture victims as if they were their own.



Vive Žene Centre for Therapy and Rehabilitation, Bosnia and Herzegovina

IRCT MEMBER



VI.TO/CIR — HOSPITALITY AND CARE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE, ITALIAN COUNCIL FOR REFUGEES

ITALY

To mark 26 June, this year VI.TO/CIR organised an event within the Festival of Two Worlds/Festival Dei Due Mondi in Spoleto. The centre presented “Antigone in Exilium” featuring refugees who participated in CIR’s psychosocial rehabilitation theatre workshop, which has been running for the past 10 years as part of activities to support torture survivors.

This performance was made possible by Nube Sandoval and Bernardo Rey, who run the workshop and received the Ellen Stewart International Award 2016 for their theatrical work with torture survivors. Additionally, VI.TO/CIR staff were interviewed for national TV and radio, and drew the public’s attention to the need for support for rehabilitation programmes.

IRCT MEMBER




KRCT — THE KOSOVA REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR TORTURE VICTIMS

KOSOVO

“Hear my voice -Supporting survivors of sexual violence during the war in Kosovo”, was the title of KRCT’s event for 26 June this year. The centre sought to raise awareness about the status and rights of survivors of sexual violence during the war in Kosovo, something that the general public and many institutions are unaware of. Despite the approval of the amendments of law for civilian victims of the war the implementation of the law has stalled.

During the event, which took place close to the Kosovar government building, posters were displayed with messages of support to survivors of sexual violence. Embassy representatives in Kosovo, relevant ministries, NGO representatives and members of the general public were present. The KRCT Executive Director along with the Head of the KRCT Rehabilitation Unit, were interviewed on several television and radio stations.

IRCT MEMBER 
GOLOS SVOBODY PUBLIC FOUNDATION
 KYRGYZSTAN

PFVF organised several activities to commemorate 26 June this year and ran a number of events from 15 to 25 June. The foundation placed informational billboards around key areas in the capital city, Bishkek, as well as in other regions. The posters provided contact information for victims of torture and

ill treatment. Moreover, the centre organised football matches for an event called “A life without torture”, which was organised for law enforcement officers and human rights activists. Additionally PFVF distributed a newsletter in seven regions of the country with articles about torture and other related

IRCT MEMBER 
RCTV MEMORIA — MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTER FOR TORTURE VICTIMS
 MOLDOVA

Under this year’s campaign slogan Support Life After Torture, RCTV Memoria celebrated the courage and resilience of torture survivors, while calling on state authorities to comply with its international responsibilities and provide rehabilitation to torture victims and their families. Through an artistic intervention, “From Horror to Healing” the centre used art as a tool to stimulate empathy and critical thinking.

The centre also opened its doors to the public for the day and screened the film, “The Look of Silence” directed by Joshua Oppenheimer, to initiate a discussion on how to deal with trauma and the past, the role of truth-telling, healing and relations between victims and perpetrators. Other activities included a press event for media representatives, a Charity Yard Sale, and an appeal which was signed by 14 civil society organisations.

IRCT MEMBER 
CPT — INTERREGIONAL PUBLIC ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE FOR PREVENTION OF TORTURE
 RUSSIA

Members of CPT conducted a number of activities dedicated to 26 June in Moscow, Yoshkar-Ola, Orenburg and Nizhny Novgorod. These included a press conference held at the centre’s headquarters with the participation of Igor Kalyapin, chair of CPT. On 25 June human rights defenders organised a photo exhibition in Moscow, where the stories of victims of torture were presented. The stories of victims were brought to light

through a documentary produced by the centre entitled 286, the number of the article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation concerning abuse of office. The film was made by CPT lawyer Evgeniy Chillikov, together with cameraman Aleksey Novikov. In addition, the independent news outlet Mediazona, published the stories of seven of the centre’s clients from Orenburg and Nizhny Novgorod, along with their portraits taken by Mikhail Solounin.

IRCT MEMBER

CEAR - COMISIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE AYUDA AL REFUGIADO SPAIN

On 26 June CEAR published a press release denouncing the global dimension of torture as a form of terror and showing its support and commitment to all victims of this inhuman crime. CEAR released its statement nationwide on its website and social media, stating that torture is in itself a reason for international protection.

Furthermore, the centre highlighted the need to make this problem visible in order to denounce it and to properly rehabilitate victims.

IRCT MEMBER

SOHRAM-CASRA — CENTRE OF SOCIAL ACTION, REHABILITATION AND READJUSTMENT TURKEY

SOHRAM-CASRA's 26 June activities focused on creating solidarity with Syrian refugees, war victims, victims of the internal conflict and torture victims. On 2 June, ahead of Ramadan, the centre organised its annual picnic and festival, gathering more than 800 participants. The picnic aimed to give participants a chance to temporarily forget about their traumatic memories and the violence they were subjected to. Various musical shows and folk dances were

performed, celebrating Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic, Syrian, Armenian, Turkmen and Laz cultural diversity. Almost 50 children released letters of hope in the Tigris river and flew kites to protest against torture and war. In addition, leaflets on the legal framework related to detention in Turkey and detainees' rights were distributed. Finally, on 26 June a seminar gathering 47 people was organised to discuss the specific case of women and children in war and displacement situations.

IRCT MEMBER

TIHV/HRFT — HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF TURKEY TURKEY

Due to the arrest and solitary confinement on 20 June 2016 of Sebnem Korur Fincancı, Head of HRFT, along with journalists Ahmet Nesin and Erol Önderoğlu from Reporters Without Borders, HRFT held simultaneous press conferences at its branches in Istanbul, Diyarbakır, Izmir and Ankara about the case and Sebnem Korur Fincancı's lifelong

struggle against torture. The three human rights defenders were arrested because of their participation in a solidarity campaign for pro-Kurdish Journal, *Özgür Gündem*. On 27 June, HRFT staff protested in front of Bakırköy Prison where Sebnem Korur Fincancı was being held. On 30 June 2016 all three were released.



SOHRAM-CASRA — Centre of Social Action, Rehabilitation and Readjustment, Turkey



IRCT MEMBER



FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

UNITED KINGDOM

Freedom from Torture marked 26 June by launching a new report which explores the situation of torture survivors before and after they have fled their country of origin, when they are living in refugee camps or en route to countries where they seek refuge, and the problems they face when they arrive and apply for asylum.

The report is titled “From Torture Cell to Therapy Room: Survivors’ Journey’s to Rehabilitation” and includes recommendations on good practice for governments and service providers. Freedom from Torture also marked 26 June online with a series of memes for supporters to share throughout the day, reaching almost 20,000 people across social media channels.

LGC — LONDON GUANTANAMO CAMPAIGN

UNITED KINGDOM

For the sixth year in a row, the LGC marked 26 June with a public vigil in solidarity with all victims and survivors of torture worldwide. Under the unifying campaign slogan, Support Life after Torture, the organisers turned their attention to the refugee crisis. There are currently over 65 million people worldwide displaced by wars and conflicts and over half of them are children. Many of the people seeking refuge abroad are survivors of torture.

The LGC highlighted the poor response by the UK and other European states in a silent vigil entitled the “Borders of Torture”, which was attended by dozens of people at central London’s Trafalgar Square. The LGC also highlighted its ongoing work on Guantánamo Bay prisoners as many of the remaining 60 prisoners are in the exact same position as the refugees fleeing their homelands.

Latin America & The Caribbean





EATIP – Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial, Argentina



IRCT MEMBER



EATIP — EQUIPO ARGENTINO DE TRABAJO E INVESTIGACIÓN PSICOSOCIAL ARGENTINA

To commemorate 26 June, EATIP ran a clinical seminar and hosted a film screening of, “The Look of Silence” by director Joshua Oppenheimer, which examines the perspective of victims of torture, disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Indonesia. A post-film debate among the participants then took place. As part of their 26 June activities, EATIP staff

also organised a photo contest, “Views on memories and resistance/Miradas sobre la memoria y la resistencia”, which ran for two months and concluded with a photo exhibition open to the public. The objective of this contest was to further commemorate 26 June and the fortieth anniversary of the military civic coup in Argentina.

IRCT MEMBER



ITEI — INSTITUTO DE TERAPIA E INVESTIGACIÓN SOBRE LAS SECUELAS DE TORTURA Y LA VIOLENCIA ESTATAL BOLIVIA

This 26 June, ITEI carried out two main activities in La Paz. On 26 June, staff organised an exhibition to raise public awareness. The event featured testimonies from victims of torture and information about the creation of the National Preventive Mechanism and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Additionally, a silent march took place in collaboration with a local youth organisation “Life Project/ Proyecto de Vida”.

On 30 June dialogue sessions were carried out between the state and civil society, under the theme of “Guidelines on National Preventive Mechanisms of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, with special emphasis on paragraphs 7, 8 and 16” based on recommendations made by the UN Human Rights Committee to the Bolivian state. Among the participants were state representatives, members of the Coalition against Torture and the Ombudsman.



CCTI — Colectivo Contra la Tortura y la Impunidad, Mexico

IRCT MEMBER



AVRE & CCCT - CORPORACIÓN AVRE Y LA COALICIÓN COLOMBIANA CONTRA LA TORTURA

COLOMBIA

The Avre Corporation, as part of the Colombian Coalition Against Torture (CCCT), organised various public activities to mark 26 June. Their aim was to raise public awareness about the existence of torture in Colombia and call for solidarity among citizens. On 23 June, the centre brought together around 40 representatives of various organisations, students and human rights defenders, for a screening and post-film discussion of “The

Look of Silence” by Joshua Oppenheimer. Staff made a short presentation of the organisation for the attendees and ran a cultural image activity on the bicycle lane to engage passers-by. On 26 June, an educational event took place in the Bogota city centre and a press release titled, “Colombia has not yet committed with victims of torture” was shared with the media.

IRCT MEMBER



PRIVA - FUNDACIÓN PARA LA REHABILITACIÓN INTEGRAL DE VÍCTIMAS DE LA VIOLENCIA

ECUADOR

For 26 June, PRIVA launched a specialised course for those continuing their education on “Mediation from a Systematic View/Mediación desde una Visión Sistemática” at the centre’s headquarters. The participants included representatives from the Ombudsman’s office, who discussed the cooperation agreement the office has with PRIVA, which sees the centre

provide capacity-building courses for lawyers at their office. PRIVA President, Dr Cesar Banda Batallas, underlined the importance of 26 June and the role of the Ombudsman’s office in calling for the defence of victims’ right to reparation and to continue to work together to eradicate torture in the country.

IRCT MEMBER

CCTI — COLECTIVO CONTRA LA TORTURA Y LA IMPUNIDAD MEXICO

CCTI and the Human Rights Commission of the Federal District ran a forum titled, “For the right to rehabilitation of survivors of torture”. Among the participants were various organisations from civil society, government representatives, human rights defenders, as well as survivors of torture.

In addition, the centre hosted an exhibition by Sergio Naranjo, a torture survivor from Chile, who showcased his paintings mirroring

themes surrounding rehabilitation. Around 80 people participated in the activities and discussed the right to rehabilitation, the associated challenges, and the experiences of civil society organisations working in the sector.

IRCT MEMBER

CAPS — CENTRO DE ATENCIÓN PSICOSOCIAL (AS PART OF GTCT - GRUPO DE TRABAJO CONTRA LA TORTURA)

PERU

CAPS once again joined together with a number of institutions as part of the GTCT working group against torture to organise various activities to mark 26 June and to call on the Peruvian State to implement the National Preventative Mechanism and to raise awareness of its existence among citizens. Under the slogan “Mechanism now!/ Mecanismo ¡YA!” staff members and GTCT lawyers coordinated interviews with the media

and disseminated campaign materials via social media, including videos, articles and infographics. Furthermore, together with the human rights organisation REDRESS, CAPS Peru organised a second campaign targeting the media by disseminating a guide with suggestions on how they should cover news about torture and other cruel, inhuman and/or degrading treatment.

IRCT MEMBER

RED DE APOYO — NETWORK FOR THE SUPPORT OF PEACE AND JUSTICE VENEZUELA

To mark 26 June, Red de Apoyo ran two activities. The first took place in Caracas on 23 June and was a forum titled, “Torture never again in Venezuela”. The participants included representatives of the Ombudsman’s office and other human rights organisations, who shared experiences on best practices to support torture victims and on torture prevention.

The event included a public presentation of the 26 June Global Reading under the campaign slogan, Support Life After Torture. On 28 June, Red de Apoyo held a workshop on how to “Support to Victims of Torture” at the Ombudsman’s office. Around 20 people participated in this event and discussed how to support victims of torture and their families.

Middle East & North Africa





IRCT MEMBER



ODVV — ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

IRAN

On 26 June ODVV organised an event in Teheran, which was opened by Centre Director Siavash Rahpeik, who stressed the importance of collective efforts to take practical and notable action to ensure victims have access to rehabilitation and are empowered through the provision of psychological services. The UN Secretary General's statement for 26 June was read by Mr Mohammad Rajaei Moghadam, a representative of the UN

Information Centre, and voiced concern about the women and children subjected to torture, reiterating on the prohibition of acts of torture and highlighting the need for the UN Population Fund to provide financial assistance to governments. A workshop for students of behavioural sciences and social work also took place and focused on practical strategies for assisting and protecting survivors of torture.

IRCT MEMBER



JIYAN FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

IRAQ

In Sulaymaniyah, the Jiyan Foundation invited survivors to share their stories with politicians, human rights workers, therapists, lawyers and journalists at a dinner event. After the dinner, a panel discussion was held, where the participants shared experiences on how survivors could be helped more effectively. A press release in Kurdish, Arabic and English was also published, calling attention to the

many people who were tortured by the regime of Saddam Hussein and are in need of support. In Kirkuk, the Jiyan Foundation met with the Iraqi Council of Representatives and the Provincial Council to discuss the relevance of the work of the centre and how civil society, as well as the government, can support survivors of torture more effectively and cooperate on these issues.

PCATI — THE PUBLIC COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE IN ISRAEL ISRAEL

On 26 June, PCATI launched “Documenting Torture While Providing Legal Aid”- A Handbook for Lawyers visiting detention centers. This is unique tool for in-depth preparation for litigation, documentation, prison visits, handling, interviewing, follow up and includes case studies of torture survivors in their search for redress. Torture victims require specialized legal assistance and proper documentation of their

stories; and yet, the nature and effects of torture make this job particularly difficult. This manual is a unique tool for those who want to be better prepared for meeting and helping victims of torture, in court cases, hospitals, assessments, projects or programmes. The Handbook places a special emphasis on the added vulnerabilities of women, minors and people with special needs and it is available on PCATI's website.

IRCT MEMBER



CVT — THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE (USA)

JORDAN

CVT celebrated the opening of its new centre in Amman this 26 June, inviting local partners and stakeholders for a guided tour of the building. Staff explained the services provided by CVT and there was a presentation on the campaign theme, Support Life After Torture and what it means to the interdisciplinary team at the centre. Clients were represented through a “Tree of Life” display in the reception room, which featured different types of art and cards which the clients had used to express their wishes for the future. CVT staff also wrote their messages of hope and good wishes for clients and keepsake items were distributed to those in attendance as a reminder of the event.



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

IRCT MEMBER



KRC — KHIAM REHABILITATION CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

LEBANON

On 26 June, KRC and the International Council for the Support of Fair Trial and Human Rights organised a sit-in in front of the UN Plaza in Geneva, in solidarity with victims of torture and their families. Mohammed Safa, Secretary General of KRC, demanded the release of all prisoners of conscience in Arab prisons, called for the criminalisation of torture and pressed states to sign the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture.

Protestors also demanded the eradication of the death penalty and for victims of torture to have the right to rehabilitation and compensation. In Beirut, KRC, in collaboration with AJEM, the Al Karama Foundation, Alef and Legal Agenda, organised a workshop where the first national report against torture was discussed. The Director General of the Internal Security Forces and the Prisons' Director from the Ministry of Justice, were among the participants.

IRCT MEMBER

RESTART — RESTART CENTER FOR REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND TORTURE

LEBANON

To mark 26 June, RESTART organised a conference on, “Preventing consequences of torture and organised violence, in Lebanese places of deprivation of liberty”. The event took place from 26 to 27 June and was funded by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Human Security division. The conference addressed several priorities for the MENA region, including the legacy of organised violence and torture practices and state obligations on Convention against Torture Initiative, UN Convention against Torture and the UN Optional Protocol on the Convention against Torture.

The event was attended by international and national organisations, representatives of government bodies, human rights activists and journalists. The aim was to enhance effective detection and investigation of torture cases. High profile speakers included Suzanne Jabbour from RESTART, Laura Dolce Kanaan from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Malcom Evans from the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, Alexis Loeber from the EU delegation in Lebanon, and Nicolas Masson from the Embassy of Switzerland in Lebanon.

IRCT MEMBER

AMRVT — ASSOCIATION MÉDICALE DE RÉHABILITATION DES VICTIMES DE LA TORTURE

MOROCCO

AMRVT organised a public event on the night of 26 June, which featured a range of activities. Dr Manouzi, AMRVT President, presented the centre’s activities to the audience, describing its rehabilitation and mobile medical services, awareness-raising events, participation in human rights fora and involvement in the Justice and Truth Forum. Numerous key NGOs from the human rights sector, such as the Moroccan Human Rights Organisation and the Moroccan Human Rights

Association, took part in the debate that followed. They were joined by government representatives, including the National Human Rights Council, in their call to end torture and ill-treatment and for the provision of redress to victims. The discussion was followed by a touching tribute to victims of human rights violations and the launch of two books written by torture survivors who shared their stories on the night.

SNHR – SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

SYRIA

This 26 June, the SNHR once again shared their work on the documentation of victims being tortured in detention centres in Syria by the various parties involved in the war. The reports were disseminated via the centre’s

website and through their social media accounts. SNHR also sends periodic reports to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and issues monthly reports on the experiences and number of torture victims.

North America





Survivors of Torture, International, USA



ACAT CANADA — ACTION BY CHRISTIANS FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE IN CANADA

CANADA

For the “Night Vigil”, some 30 participants of various Christian denominations gathered for an hour-long vigil inside the sanctuary of the beautiful church Église du Saint-Sacrement in Québec City, Canada, ahead of 26 June. The event was built around two dimensions, prayer and action. The vigil began with the singing of psalms and hymns and

the reading of spiritual texts. Prayers were also offered for the thousands of prisoners unjustly treated, tortured, and detained in overcrowded cells. Prayers were also said for those incarcerated around the globe who have been humiliated, violated, and who have had their rights denied in numerous ways.

IRCT MEMBER 
CCVT — CANADIAN CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
 CANADA

To commemorate 26 June, CCVT held a thought provoking panel discussion titled “Global Repression, Conflicts, Peace, and Canada’s Role” in partnership with Amnesty International Canada. The event took place on 23 June and included a photo exhibition, a client art display, client and volunteer performances, and a screening of “The Look of Silence” by director Joshua Oppenheimer. Over 100 participants attended, including survivors of torture, volunteers, activists, teachers, politicians and concerned citizens. It was a day to stand with the community

in solidarity, to raise awareness and to show the resilience, determination and strength of survivors. Participants signed the Amnesty International Optional Protocol petition and the highlight of the day was a skit written by a CCVT Settlement/Trauma counsellor Ezat Mossallanejad called “Retributive Justice”.

AHRC – THE AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
 USA

To raise awareness and build support for torture survivors AHRC published a blog via its website and social media on 26 June. The blog described torture as a crime under international law and included information and links on international treaties and the UN Declaration of Human Rights. AHRC also explained the long-term and often permanent consequences that many victims of torture face.

The goal was to engage the local and national community to educate, raise awareness and build support for victims of torture and their right to rehabilitation. AHRC’s blog reached about 10,000 subscribers via email and many people in their network via the website and social media.

IRCT MEMBER 
CLSACC — COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES AND COUNSELLING CENTER
 USA

To commemorate 26 June and World Refugee Day, CLSACC hosted an event in collaboration with the EDI Institute, a nonprofit organisation that facilitates therapeutic self-expression through expressive digital imagery. The theme for the evening was “New Beginnings” and using the MyMoments application, clients were able to modify images on tablets to express what the

theme means to them. They were then asked to write a caption for their images. The participants could then speak about their images and many shared both their struggles and hopes for the future. Several clients talked about the importance of finding they had things in common with other survivors and knowing that they are not alone in their experiences.



Heartland Alliance — Marjorie Kovler Center, USA

IRCT MEMBER 
CVT ATLANTA — CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
USA

In Atlanta, Georgia, CVT's recently-opened centre held an open house, inviting partners from the International Red Cross and other local agencies to commemorate the day and get an introduction to CVT. The activities included guests writing messages of hope for survivors of torture as well as a presentation from Adaboi Iheduru, psychotherapist and team leader, who read the 26 June Global Reading, in a call to stand united and join forces to support victims of torture.

IRCT MEMBER 
CVT MINNESOTA — CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
USA

In St. Paul, Minnesota, CVT staff and board members gathered with clients and their families, commemorating the day with food from many of the countries their clients call home. The event included a short programme featuring remarks from a former client and a CVT clinician. Furthermore, Cynthia McArthur,

CVT volunteer, was honoured with the Healing Connections Award for her service to clients, which was presented by Curt Goering, CVT Executive Director. The flowers and food for the event were donated by local businesses and the banquet was enjoyed by all in attendance.

IRCT MEMBER 
CVT WASHINGTON — CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
USA

In Washington DC, CVT presented its annual Eclipse Award to Juan Mendez, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, at an evening reception. Prof Mendez was honoured for the work he has done in the fight against torture and in promoting human rights; among them as a human rights lawyer in Argentina, as a lawyer and researcher with Human Rights Watch, as the President of the International Center for Transitional Justice and as UN Special Rapporteur.


The reception was attended by NGOs, UN officials, US government officials, congressional staff and academics. The attendees included Diane Orentlicher from American University; Ann Richards, Asst. Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration; Tom Malinowski, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour; Mort Halperin, Senior Advisor to the Open Society Foundations and Curt Goering, CVT Executive Director.

IRCT MEMBER 
**FCST — FLORIDA CENTER FOR
SURVIVORS OF TORTURE**
USA

To mark 26 June, FCST together with Barry University, Church World Service and SunServe held an educational event titled, “Building Bridges: Working with LGBTI Refugees and Survivors of Torture”. The themes discussed during a panel sessions included ways refugee resettlement agency’s capacity could be improved to better serve LGBTI refugees/survivors, leveraging existing LGBTI community resources for refugees and survivors of torture and providing trauma informed services and connecting LGBTI refugees/asylees/immigrants with services to help them to integrate.

In addition, several key organisations, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Center, US Citizenship and Immigration Services, refugee organisations and LGBTI serving programmes were invited to set up informational tables at the event, which was attended by more than 50 people.



 FCST — Florida Center for Survivors of Torture, USA

IRCT MEMBER 
HEARTLAND ALLIANCE — MARJORIE KOVLER CENTER
USA

The Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center’s annual event was held at Loyola University on 26 June and was attended by more than 150 people who were welcomed by Pakistani client Emcee and Senior Director Mary Lynn Everson. A survivor from Togo then gave a blessing and volunteers Nora Rowley and Hillary Catrow and partners Julie Lynch of Sulzer Regional Library were recognised for their vital work.

The keynote speaker, Suzanne Akhras Sahloul, Founder and Executive Director of the Syrian Community Network, spoke

about the overwhelming challenges facing Syrian migrants and the positive impact of community support. After an interlude of “Survivor Voices”, the tradition of an international buffet prepared by survivors followed. Marimba Ixchel added to the atmosphere with the communal music of Guatemala. The evening closed with a candle lighting ceremony overlooking Lake Michigan to remember those who did not survive. It was an afternoon of solidarity, reflection, accomplishments and uplifting melodies.

PPR — PHILADELPHIA PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENCE AT NATIONALITIES SERVICE CENTER

USA

This year, in honour of 26 June, the centre hosted a film screening of “The Last Survivor”, an award winning, feature-length documentary that follows the lives of survivors of four different genocides and mass atrocities – The Holocaust, Rwanda, Darfur and Congo. The film presented a unique opportunity to learn from the mistakes of our past in order to have a lasting social impact on how we act collectively in the face of similar issues, which still exist

today and relates to the global campaign message, Support Life After Torture. The screening was hosted at the National Liberty Museum, which is dedicated to honouring real-life heroes and the heritage of freedom. A complimentary museum pass was offered so guests could take a self-guided tour before the screening. The screening began after a few remarks from the PPR Executive Director and Project Coordinator and was attended by around 60 guests.

IRCT MEMBER

PSTT — THE PROGRAM FOR SURVIVORS OF TORTURE AND SEVERE TRAUMA, NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE

USA

PSTT, a programme of the Multicultural Center of Northern Virginia Family Service in Falls Church, Virginia, participated in a successful day of advocacy on Capitol Hill with local senators and a fun-filled evening at a Washington Nationals baseball game. The baseball event was enjoyed by almost 40 of the centre’s clients, whose tickets were

donated by the Washington Nationals. Alison Burke and Julia Oakley, PSTT staff members, visited the offices of Virginia Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner. They sought to initiate partnerships with refugee agencies to address issues upon the arrival of refugees in the United States, rather than waiting until they worsen or individuals fall through the cracks.

IRCT MEMBER

SURVIVORS OF TORTURE, INTERNATIONAL


USA

A photo exhibition featuring the work of SURVIVORS’ clients, which depicted the journeys they have taken to rebuild their lives, ran throughout all the month of June at La Mesa Library in San Diego, California. Sixty torture survivors attended SURVIVORS’ annual commemorative picnic and drum circle. Where the 26 June Global Reading was read aloud and clients spoke of their own experiences. One man, unable to walk due to his torture, found the strength to stand and offered words of encouragement to others.


SURVIVORS also held its annual Ice Cream Social, where attendees took photos of themselves with messages of support, which were shared with 3,500 followers on social media. This event was an opportunity for the community to come together in solidarity, meet staff, volunteers, and partners, and write letters of hope to clients detained at detention centres. The day ended with drumming, dancing, and laughter as the group sang an African chat in unison, “Fanga alafia, ashe, ashe,” which means “Welcome, good health, and peace”.

The Pacific




IRCT MEMBER 
**QPASTT QUEENSLAND
PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE
TO SURVIVORS OF TORTURE
AND TRAUMA**
AUSTRALIA

Like every year QPASTT started its 26 June activities by hosting a morning tea. The centre then had its formal ceremony, which included speeches and entertainment. The event began with a short introductory speech informing guests about the importance of the day. This was followed by a musical performance, several speakers and a ceremonial presentation of the 26 June Global Reading. Afterwards, a minutes silence was held and guests were invited to light a candle to show their support and solidarity with torture victims.

IRCT MEMBER 
**STTARS — SURVIVORS
OF TORTURE AND
TRAUMA ASSISTANCE AND
REHABILITATION SERVICES**
AUSTRALIA

To mark 26 June, Paris Aristotle AM, CEO of the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, Chair of the Settlement Services Advisory Council and advisor to the Australian Government on refugee and asylum seeker policy, spoke at the, “Sustainable Rehabilitation for Survivors and their Communities” organised by STTARS. The event took place at the University of Adelaide, South Australia and Mr Aristotle spoke about how Australia can respond to the growing global humanitarian crisis. He discussed the current settlement issues within Australia and focused on the most effective ways to Support Life after Torture; addressing both the intake of 12,000 Syrian/Iraqi refugees displaced as a direct cause of the conflict in the Middle East and ongoing concerns for refugees living in Australia.



 STTARS — Survivors of Torture and Trauma Assistance and Rehabilitation Services, Australia



Sub-Saharan Africa





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



ACAT BENIN — ACTION BY CHRISTIANS FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE BENIN

Following a mass for all victims of torture in the Saint-Dominique Couvent in Cotonou, ACAT Benin visited the Cotonou civil prison. During the visit, members of ACAT Benin met with prison authorities to discuss conditions in the prison. Overcrowding is an ongoing issue as the prison is home to 1,104 detainees, despite having a capacity of 400. The infirmary is not sufficiently stocked, the hygiene of detainees is unsatisfactory and the

prison is under-staffed. Members of ACAT Benin also spoke with the prison manager about a recent inmate uprising. These activities were part of ACAT Benin's ongoing work to improve detention conditions in Benin, which are often substandard. ACAT Benin plans to visit at least one prison per month, to ensure it covers all of those in the country.



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

FEPNET — FRIENDS OF THE PRESS NETWORK CAMEROON

FEPNET commemorated 26 June with a month of activities, meetings and opportunities to engage with many torture victims and their families. This year's commemoration was dedicated to the Lobe Town village community, where many people were tortured by the military in April 1997. In preparation for a new report on torture and measures the authorities must take to "Support Life After Torture", victims and their families explained how they feel a general sense of hopelessness due to a lack of medical, legal and social assistance. They urged the international community to stand

up and support them now.

Their testimonies were tinged with melancholy, as several victims died without justice. Executive Director, Mr Njaru Philip, himself a torture victim, regretted that the Cameroonian government has not implemented the UN Human Rights Committee Decision Communication "No.1353/2005 Njaru v. Cameroon", in which it was expressed that torture is endemic in Cameroon. He lauded the UN Committee against Torture for urging the government to investigate the Lobe Town Torture Case.

IRCT MEMBER



TCC — TRAUMA CENTRE CAMEROON

CAMEROON

In Yaounde, TCC organised an open day where participants, including locals people, traditional chiefs and local authorities, were introduced to the work of the centre. Patients who benefited from income-generating activities showcased their products. During a commemorative ceremony, TCC called for all relevant authorities to fully commit to the eradication of torture and implement the legal framework, while the chiefs reaffirmed their strong support for TCC's work against torture. The event had a transnational perspective

as the sub-region is profoundly affected by the violence perpetrated by Boko Haram. Refugees from the Central African Republic supported by the centre shared their traumatic experiences and their speeches were followed by songs, traditional dance shows and a sketch presenting the story of a family affected by the war. The performances were delivered by a multiethnic group of patients in order to reaffirm their hopes for peace. Finally, 50 food packages were distributed to patients in need.

TT-VC — TORT FOR TORTURE VICTIMS CENTRE

CAMEROON

The commemoration of 26 June organised by TT-VC began in Yaoundé and was continued through national and community radio. Volunteers carried out an outreach mission at the TT-VC Rehabilitation Centre in Yaoundé to learn more about their centre and about the challenges in accessing justice for victims of torture. The meeting addressed the internal

management of centre, as well as the delivery of services to torture victims. TT-VC staff and legal experts from the Cameroon judicial system were then invited to round table debates and a questions and answers session from the public on the national radio and television broadcaster. An informative seminar and workshop at the Norbert Kenne Memorial Peace House-Nsimeyong II Yaoundé also took place.

IRCT MEMBER



AVVDH — AMIS DES VICTIMES DES VIOLATIONS DES DROITS HUMAINS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

AVVDH raised awareness on the prevalence of torture in the DRC and on the international legal framework in order to encourage victims and partner NGOs to denounce torture acts. In addition, a strong signal was sent to local authorities and civil society organisations to urge them to engage in the fight against torture through the effective implementation of the DRC's anti-torture law. Promotional and education material, such as leaflets on torture and legal remedies and copies of the Convention against

Torture were distributed to the public. Radio programmes were broadcast to further disseminate the message to a wider audience. Two one-day conferences took place in Uvira and Baraka gathering around 50 participants, including local authorities. Illegal detention places and the diversity of organisations perpetrating torture were highlighted as challenges, while a presentation on the relevant legal provisions and ways to seek judicial remedies reinforced the participants' ability to access justice was also given.

IRCT MEMBER 
**FEDICONGO — FÉDÉRATION DES FEMMES POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
 INTÉGRAL AU CONGO**
 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

For 26 June, FEDICONGO organised a half-day awareness-raising conference on the fight against impunity in Uvira. The event gathered more than 80 participants, including students from the city university's medicine and law faculties, local authorities, lawyers, health professionals, prison officers and representatives from civil society organisations. The activity focused on two themes, the implementation of the UN Convention against

Torture and techniques and mechanisms to investigate torture cases. The conference highlighted the need to allow law and medicine students to carry out documentation and to train prison officers on detainee rights and detention conditions. Finally, participants agreed on the need to increase the number of advocacy meetings and lobbying initiatives towards local and national authorities on the implementation of national, regional and international legal instruments against torture.

GOVERNANCE PLUS
 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Gouvernance Plus set up a Solidarity Lunch to give hope and support torture victims through group therapy. More than 160 survivors took part, alongside 64 partners representatives from the UN Joint Office for Human Rights, law enforcement, judicial and religious authorities, the bar, the media and local hospitals. Gouvernance Plus called on its partners to redouble their efforts while victims were prompted to break the silence around torture. A conference was also organised at the office of the UN Organization Stabilization

Mission in the DR Congo on the current state of torture practices in DRC. Its objectives were to evaluate DRC anti-torture law, raise awareness about current needs and challenges, as well as advocate for the establishment of a compensation fund for victims. More than 100 participants took part, including representatives from the Ministry of Justice, academics, lawyers and civil society organisations and the event led to greater coordination between state and non-state actors in the fight against torture.

IRCT MEMBER 
REMAK — REGROUPEMENTS DES MAMANS DE KAMITUGA
 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

REMAK celebrated 26 June through two key activities. Firstly, an awareness-raising event, which sought to educate the local population and encourage them to get involved in the fight against torture and ill-treatment. More than 260 brochures on anti-torture law were distributed and two radio programmes on torture prevention and rehabilitation were broadcast on Radio

Vision Shala and Radio Yetu Kamituga, reaching about 250,000 people. Secondly, REMAK organised a visit to Camp Six prison to offer psychosocial services to detainees. A religious ceremony was held, food and non-food items were distributed and the sanitary facilities were cleaned, while a number of detainees benefited from counselling.

SOPROP — SOLIDARITÉ POUR LA PROMOTION SOCIALE ET LA PAIX DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SOPROP organised awareness-raising and educational activities targeting the general public this 26 June. The main theme was "United against torture in all its forms". These activities were part of a five-year campaign aimed at reforming the anti-torture law in the DRC. Around 50 campaigners carried out a number of activities to inform the local population about free medical assistance for torture victims and to encourage them to denounce torture and get involved in the fight against impunity.

In Goma and Kinshasa, the centre staged processions and used the event to distribute leaflets and share key messages over loudspeakers with the crowd. More than 8,000 people were reached through the event. In addition, SOPROP participated in a conference organised by the UN Joint Office for Human Rights, which addressed by the Minister of Justice.

SOS JED — SOS JEUNESSE ET ENFANCE EN DÉTRESSE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SOS JED organised a day of reflection on the rising impunity and its consequences on victims and the whole community in the Fizi territory. Political, administrative, judicial and law enforcement authorities represented were invited to participate alongside civil society organisations. In addition, SOS JED organised an awareness raising event with the support of

Baraka Centre Motorcyclists. 26 June posters were distributed in various locations and placed in a number of public places. Finally, a motorcade travelled between Baraka and Malinde to raise public awareness on the issue of impunity.

RAL — Rescue Alternatives Liberia, Liberia



IRCT MEMBER 

SOVIP — SOLIDARITÉ AVEC LES VICTIMES ET POUR LA PAIX
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In Fizi territory, SOVIP raised awareness among health professionals on the need to provide free medical and psychosocial assistance to victims of torture and sexual and gender-based violence. The event reinforced existing partnerships and helped create new ones. It was also an opportunity to discuss the provision of affordable rehabilitation services to those who need it most. In Uvira central prison, SOVIP distributed food packages to detainees. Overall, more than 700kg of food was donated in an attempt

to fight malnutrition and alleviate the poor detention conditions in the facility. Despite the fact that the centre cannot accommodate more than 150 people, SOVIP met with almost 500 detainees. Staff identified the most urgent needs, including the provision of emergency healthcare, the establishment of a medical station within the premises, access to legal and judicial support and the implementation of income-generating activities to ensure future reintegration.

IRCT MEMBER 

CVT — THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE (USA)
ETHIOPIA

CVT held community meetings in two refugee camps on the nature and consequences of torture, alongside other activities including a coffee ceremony and tree planting. There were drawing contests for illustrations depicting “Pain” and “Hope” for a new CVT brochure. In both camps, the 26 June Global Reading was read aloud.

Both camps also held a quiz, a drawing contest, speeches, drama and music and an exhibition of entries from the drawing competition. In Adi Harush, participants had a volleyball game and held poetry competitions, while participants in Mai Ayni held a bicycle competition, a big shoe competition and planted trees.



Advocacy Centre for Human Rights, Kenya





THE AFRICAN UNION — COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN AFRICA

REGIONAL BODY

To commemorate 26 June, the African Union Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa issued a statement in support of victims of torture. The text urged states to take measures to ensure that the complete range of reparative measures, including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition are available to victims of torture in Africa.



FEDICONGO — Fédération des Femmes
pour le Développement Intégral au Congo,
Democratic Republic of Congo

VEREF — VOLTA EDUCATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

GHANA

To commemorate 26 June, VEReF organised several activities including an awareness-raising lunch with stakeholders, a quiz competition for students at Peki Senior High School to increase knowledge on torture and rights, a durbar to discuss the importance of the commemoration, a short play by the high school students, a video campaign to end torture and counselling sessions for torture victims.

Under the banner of Support Life After Torture, VEReF brought together key stakeholders including the UN Office in

Ghana, traditional authorities, Queen Mothers, opinion leaders, religious leaders, the District Chief Executive, the District Director of Health, District Level National Population Council, journalists, social welfare staff, the police service and the media. The target audience was students, especially those living in deprived communities in hard-to-reach rural dwellings where torture and impunity is most frequent. Around 1,500 people were reached.

ACAT — AFRICAN CENTRE AGAINST TORTURE

KENYA

ACAT and human rights groups together with human rights lawyers and other stakeholders organised various activities on 26 June, including visits to prisons, juvenile homes and a psychiatric hospital. The visits culminated in a solidarity visit to a graveyard of victims at Kiamba church. Thirty people who sought

refuge in the church were burned to death during the post-election violence in Kenya 2007 and 2008. Over 50 participants attended the events and ACAT disseminated materials about their work on documenting cases of tortured refugees, migrants and IDPs during transit routes in Africa.

ADVOCACY CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

KENYA

To mark 26 June the Advocacy Centre for Human Rights teamed up with members of a local youth group, police officers from Kahawa Sukari police station, members of the local county commission and the administration police. The event culminated with a social forum, where the local youth group interacted freely with the police and participated in a football match. The event was an opportunity for a positive exchange between local police and the community.


During the event, which took the name of the campaign slogan, Support Life After Torture, over 140 young people and 21 police officers gathered at Kahawa Sukari Estate to remember victims and survivors of torture and sexual violence. During the event they also initiated the creation of a common understanding on the importance of holding perpetrators accountable through community-based advocacy.

IRCT MEMBER CAT KENYA — CENTRE AGAINST TORTURE

KENYA

To commemorate 26 June 2016, CAT Kenya organised several activities over the course of a week. These included inviting torture survivors to advocacy meetings with the administrators from the county government to urge greater support for survivors. CAT Kenya also organised a procession through Eldoret town, teaming up with likeminded civil society organisations and lawyers in support of the families whose loved ones were tortured and subsequently killed. Finally, the centre used the occasion to disseminate IEC material to the victims and survivors of torture and other stakeholders



CAT Kenya — Centre Against Torture, Kenya 

IRCT MEMBER CVT — THE CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE, NAIROBI (USA)

KENYA

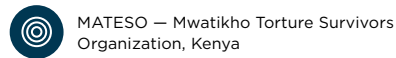
On 24 June, CVT Nairobi celebrated at the Maisha Poa Center in Riruta with dancers from the Ugandan community and singers from the Congolese community, who wrote and performed songs about healing from torture. There were also speeches from

relevant partners, including UN Refugee Agency and National Council of Churches of Kenya, as well as by some members of the CVT Kenya Board of Directors. The event also included a reading of the UN 26 June speech.



IRCT MEMBER 
MATESO — MWATIKHO TORTURE SURVIVORS ORGANIZATION
KENYA

To mark 26 June, MATESO organised a film screening of “Horrors of Mt Elgon”, disseminated copies of the UN brochure titled, “From Horror to Healing: a Life-Saving Journey Supported by the UN Fund for Victims of Torture”, delivered key messages and disseminated campaign material, such as posters and infographics related to the Support Life After Torture campaign slogan. Finally, there were cultural dances and an exhibition.



IRCT MEMBER 
LAPS — LIBERIA ASSOCIATION OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES
LIBERIA

To commemorate 26 June LAPS organised several activities including an event, which included presentations from a number of high profile speakers and a parade through the streets of Bopolu. The events attracted a total of 1,000 people who declared their support for victims of torture. During the parade, anti-torture songs were sung and the messages such as, “From Horror to Healing” were displayed on banners.

The other event was attended by community members, representatives of government ministries, partner agencies, law enforcement officials and journalists. A role play activity was performed by LAPS staff and addressed how torture was perpetrated during Liberia’s civil war and in the present day. LAPS, Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Mr Cartor Tamba, who served as the keynote speaker, spoke about what torture is, the perpetrators and its consequences.

IRCT MEMBER 
RAL — RESCUE ALTERNATIVES LIBERIA
LIBERIA

RAL used the occasion to appeal to the National Legislature to pass the Anti-torture Bill. At the same time, the centre called on security services not to use torture as a means of extracting statements or confessions from those accused

of crimes. RAL staff also distributed anti-torture flyers on the streets of Monrovia, met with Representative Edward W. Karfia, sponsor of the Anti-torture Bill and with the commanders of several police zones and depots.



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



YEHRCR - YOUTH EDUCATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RESPONSIBILITY

NIGERIA

To commemorate 26 June, YEHRCR organised an advocacy visit to the Police Commissioner, hosted a radio programme on two FM radio stations in the state, engaged in awareness-

raising, training and advocacy in three secondary schools in the state and organised a well-attended road walk.

IRCT MEMBER



CAPS — COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES

SIERRA LEONE

On the 26 June CAPS ran events in both the Kono and Kailahun districts of Eastern Sierra Leone. One community from each district was chosen to host this year's commemoration. The communities have had horrific experiences and a terrible history of unspeakable atrocities committed by various fighting factions during the civil war.

CAPS overall goal was to create awareness about the adverse effects of torture and solicit support to reduce its practice in our communities. CAPS planned several activities including a match pass, prayers, the reading of the IRCT statement for global reading, candle lighting and prayers and issued community recommendations to the authorities.

IRCT MEMBER

TCSVT — THE TRAUMA CENTRE FOR SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AND TORTURE

SOUTH AFRICA

TCSVT joined former political detainees, their families and members of the congregation to commemorate 26 June at St Nicolas Church, Elsies River, which was the site of a raid by apartheid South African Police 30 years ago. Almost 190 people were arrested in the raid and many of them spoke about their interrogation, which in many cases lasted for a month. TCSVT offered psychological services to these torture survivors.

At the service, the 26 June Global Reading was read aloud and speakers provided an insight into how torture affects the individual, their family and the entire community. In South Africa issues of redress still need to be addressed and many torture victims still experience symptoms of PTSD. Without the necessary resources which redress can provide, primary and secondary victims cannot access rehabilitation.

IRCT MEMBER

ACTV — AFRICAN CENTRE FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF TORTURE VICTIMS

UGANDA

To commemorate 26 June the theme, “Together in the fight against Torture” was chosen for Uganda. Commemorations involved a series of activities including a press conference, community dialogue events in Kampala and Lira, a public dialogue event in Kampala and awareness-raising activities through the media in several locations.

On the day itself, ACTV held a candle light service in Kampala which was attended by 328 people. The Minister of Justice and Constitutional affairs was the guest of honour. There was also a procession in Northern Uganda in Lira on 28 June. All of the events were organised by the Coalition Against Torture and led by ACTV and the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

M-SHED — SCOUTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

UGANDA

This 26 June M-SHED organised community awareness sessions, discussing the role of local leaders in supporting victims of torture. Questions were raised during the interactive meeting which attracted about 100 community members, including survivors of torture. The guest speaker was the Chairperson of the Local Council One. In his speech, he pledged to work with other

leaders to make sure torture survivors are given special attention in all government programmes including health and development. Community members asked M-SHED to print the anti-torture law in the local language and to run radio programmes about torture and its consequences for law enforcement officers, training institutions and health workers.

The Campaign Kit – Support Life After Torture

This year the IRCT developed a comprehensive campaign kit to support anyone interested in hosting their own 26 June event as part of the global advocacy initiatives. Under our unified mission to Support Life After Torture, this new campaigning kit includes a logopack, posters, the global reading, fact sheets and a range of social media visual materials and tools that can be adapted to the needs of organisations.



Logopack

Support Life After Torture is our official slogan and message for 26 June. It is a slogan that will be associated with the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture for many years to come, acting as a call to action for organisations and individuals alike. It focuses on victims' experience of life after torture and the vital support they need to re-build their lives. The logo, logomark and slogan are available in various formats and colours for use in publications and campaign material.

**SOUTENIR LA RÉADAPTATION
DES VICTIMES DE TORTURE**

**دعم اللاجئين وطالبي
اللجوء بعد معاناة التعذيب**

**APOYA LA DOCUMENTACIÓN
DESPUÉS DE LA TORTURA**

Fact sheets

Fact sheets can help increase the understanding and visibility of the issue of torture. They can be used as hand-outs and/or in response to inquiries. In 2015 they were available in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.



Posters

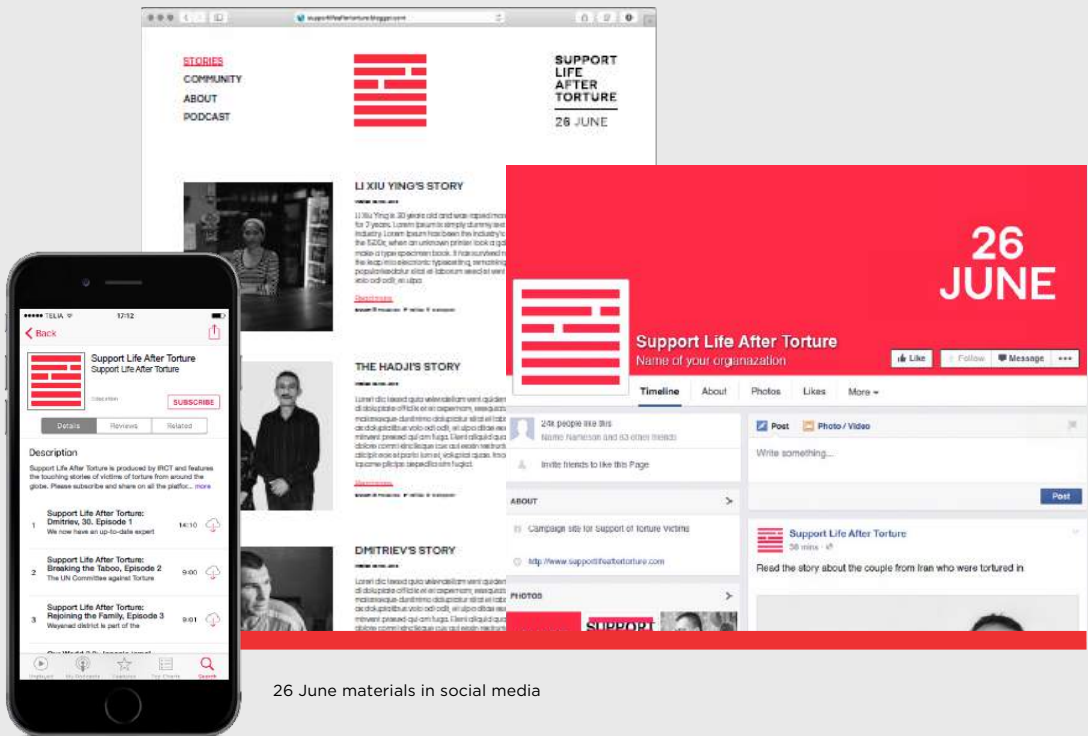
Posters are available for download in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian, to make sure language is not a barrier. These posters can be used for local printing or online and participants can also create posters with their own images!

All the campaign materials and guide are available for download at www.irct.org/26june

Social Media

When it comes to promoting your 26 June event, sharing your message of support or providing space for the voices of survivors to be heard, social media has become a powerful tool to share these messages, engage as many people as possible and to showcase the reality of affected communities.

As part of the Support Life After Torture campaign toolkit, the IRCT created social media material for the most relevant platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Participants could also follow guidance on developing their own blogs and podcasts using survivor stories.



26 June materials in social media

Download the official 26 June social media toolkit at www.irct.org/26june



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



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

Check out some of the messages and photos from our supporters around the world!



Moath, CVT staff member in Jordan, shares his message in support to refugees

Gwangju Trauma Center in South Korea promoted their event sharing this poster through their social media channels

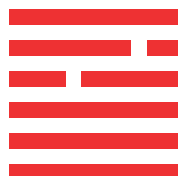


Jiyun Foundation for Human Rights in Iraq shared quotes of survivors of torture through Facebook, Twitter and on their website.

#SupportLifeAfterTorture
#26June #WorldWithoutTorture #R2R #Torture
#RightToRehabilitation #HumanRights #IRCT
#StopTorture #IstanbulProtocol #Survivors #Justice

Global Reading

SUPPORT LIFE AFTER TORTURE GLOBAL READING



IRCT GLOBAL READING ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE, 26 JUNE 2016.

Every year, on 26 June, we express our support around the world for those who have been tortured. These very words will be spoken today in over a hundred countries and in dozens of languages. They might be read by a rehabilitation provider, who invests her knowledge and experience to help torture victims to heal, or by a lawyer, who is assisting them to bring their claims to Court.

They might be read by a philanthropist who is supporting our work, or a policy maker who heard the call to action and is determined to eradicate torture from our lives.

They might also be read by a torture survivor, or a victim, or by a family member who has witnessed the pain and the courage of his or her loved one. With torture still taking place in more than 141 countries across all continents and an unprecedented number of victims leaving their homes in search of safety elsewhere, the focus of this day remains as relevant as ever.

Let us take a moment to listen to all of these voices. A moment to reflect on the injustice that leads to torture, on the pain and damage that it leaves in its trail, and to pay tribute to the

admirable courage required to live and seek happiness after such suffering.

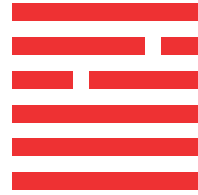
(Moment of silence)

It is 29 years since the Convention against Torture came into effect. The Convention is an extraordinary blueprint for the fight against torture. It lays out the global strategy for the fight against torture, emphasising on an equal manner the work of prevention, accountability and reparation. Until torture is eradicated, we must live up to our collective obligation to provide reparation for all torture victims including holistic rehabilitation.

The good news is that we have a strong movement that is determined to make Right to Rehabilitation a reality. We have made a lot of progress this far: our voices have been heard in international and, increasingly, in national law. We also know that rehabilitation works. Most victims who receive support, including rehabilitation, find it useful in their quest for happiness. This has a cascading positive effect on their families, communities and societies. This is why we must all support the provision of rehabilitation services, and we ask you to join our movement in advocating for increased resources for the support of victims of torture.

Listen to the voices around the globe. Recognise and acknowledge all victims of torture and accept the human imperative to support their life after torture.

Thank you.



**"AS LONG AS
THE PRACTICE
OF TORTURE
CONTINUES,
PEOPLE AND
COMMUNITIES
ARE ENTITLED
TO FULL
REPARATION
AND THIS
INCLUDES
THE RIGHT TO
REHABILITATION"**

**SUPPORT
LIFE
AFTER
TORTURE**

26 JUNE



Convention Status

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

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

States which have ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention

160 States as of October 2016

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

States which have NOT ratified, acceded or succeeded the Convention

38 States as of March 2016 *States that have signed but not ratified, acceded or succeeded UNCAT

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

How to support the IRCT

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

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



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



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SWIFT code: DABADKKK

Danish Kroner (DKK)
account
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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

**For more information please visit:
www.irct.org/donate**

Thank you.

We look forward to #26June 2017 and to fostering an even stronger unified voice to continue the mission to #SupportLifeAfterTorture



Photo by Thilan Samarakoon
HRO-Kandy - Human Rights Office, Sri Lanka

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



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