

C I N A T

COALITION OF INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
AGAINST TORTURE



TOGETHER
against
TORTURE

'It is clear that nobody is going to return to the imprisoned dissident his youth; to the young woman who has been raped her innocence; to the person who has been tortured his or her integrity. Nobody is going to restore the dead and the 'disappeared' to their families. What can and must be publicly restored is the victims' names and their dignity, through a formal recognition of the injustice of what has occurred, and, wherever possible, material reparation...'

Ignacio Martin-Baro,

a Jesuit priest murdered in El Salvador on 16 November 1989

Foreword by Mary Robinson

**UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

The work against torture requires the active support and contribution of all. While Governments bear the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that international obligations to prevent torture and to address the effects of torture are met, the contribution of non-governmental organizations is invaluable in raising awareness of the issue and in contributing to efforts towards its eradication.

As I said in my opening statement to the 57th Session of the Commission on Human Rights in March 2001, there remains a great gulf between the high aspirations of the Universal Declaration, the Covenants and other international human rights instruments, and the harsh realities which so many people face in their daily lives. The greatest challenge for the human rights movement remains the ability to turn principles into practice at the grassroots level, to nurture an understanding of and respect for basic principles of human rights at all levels of society.

The membership of the Coalition of international non-governmental organizations against torture (CINAT) reflects the diversity of approaches and expertise that are needed in order to successfully combat torture around the world. CINAT members are involved in standard-setting and promoting adherence to international human rights instruments, advocacy and campaigning activities, monitoring cases of torture, redress and rehabilitation initiatives for victims of torture, appeals on behalf of groups or individuals at risk, and the provision of technical assistance, training and advice.

I welcome the publication of this brochure and hope that it, and the message it contains, will reach as wide an audience as possible.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Robinson", is positioned below the text.

Geneva, 21 May 2001

Torture is prohibited but it is widespread

Every human being has the right to live free from the threat of torture. Torture dehumanises and degrades people. It is officially prohibited by international conventions and covenants and is illegal in international law as well as under most national laws, but it actually occurs in over 130 countries, being widespread in over 80 of them. Torture is not confined to dictatorships or authoritarian regimes; it also happens in democratic states.

Despite the development of a worldwide human rights movement and international standards which set out the obligations of all governments to prohibit torture, torturers still inflict physical agony and mental anguish on countless victims and go unpunished. All too often they commit their crimes with impunity because those in power use torture as part of their strategy of maintaining control.

It is increasingly recognised that people are frequently subjected to torture not because of what they have done, but because of their social status. The victims of torture are women as well as men, children as well as adults; they are criminal suspects, political prisoners, refugees, human rights defenders, people from disadvantaged social, political and ethnic groups or dissident activists.

Discrimination is a cause of marginalising and dehumanising specific groups in society and it is used to permit the ill-treatment and torture of people who are victimised because of their race, ethnicity or nationality, their gender or age, religion or sexuality.

Various associations around the world primarily concerned with women have increased awareness of the abuse women experience in everyday life, for example in cases of rape and domestic violence. This has given added impetus to the demand that governments should prevent and punish violence, both physical and psychological, whether it is inflicted by state officials or by private individuals.

In the last few years there has been progress to establish the International Criminal Court. This will make it possible to bring alleged torturers before an international court if they evade justice in their

own country. The arrest in Senegal of Hissein Habré, former ruler of Chad, and of Augusto Pinochet in the UK, shows a greater willingness by courts to bring torturers to justice. However, both cases also show how political officials can impede the course of justice.

New technology has affected both the means of inflicting torture and the possibilities for campaigning against it. Electro-shock devices have been especially developed to restrain, control or discipline people; at the same time IT communications give campaigners against torture new ways to impart information.

Cases of torture can become headline news around the world, and within hours, millions of people have seen the reality of torture through the media. The result is that an increasing number of people who have witnessed the pain and suffering of fellow human beings are driven to do everything possible - as individuals, professionals or members of communities - to make the complete eradication of torture a reality.

In order to meet this global challenge with maximum effectiveness, six leading international voluntary organisations in the field agreed to join forces by forming a coalition and the **Coalition of International Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Against Torture, CINAT** was established.

CINAT

Who we are

The Coalition of International NGOs Against Torture (CINAT) works to make the worldwide movement against torture more effective. It brings together six international NGOs which are committed to ending and preventing torture, to bringing torturers to account, providing rehabilitation and obtaining justice and reparation for survivors of torture.

CINAT's member organisations work in different, yet complementary ways in the struggle against torture. They provide services for the treatment and support of torture victims, campaigning to expose and put a stop to torture, lobbying at international level to ban its practices, and giving specialist advocacy for survivors who are seeking redress. They also provide human rights education and training for state officials and grass-roots NGOs.

By working as a coalition, CINAT ensures that the campaign against torture is backed by supporters of different organisations and reaches the widest possible audience. Information is shared and exchanged and tasks are distributed among voluntary organisations.

CINAT includes organisations based on activist membership structures, 'umbrella' advisory and support bodies and networks of specialist professional agencies.



Amnesty International

(AI)



Association for the Prevention of Torture

(APT)



International Federation of ACAT

(Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture)

(FI.ACAT)



International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)



World Organisation Against Torture

(OMCT)

REDRESS *Seeking Reparation for Torture Survivors* (REDRESS)

Mission statement

The Coalition of International NGOs Against Torture (CINAT) is a forum for joint action which builds on the diversity of members' approaches to combating torture. CINAT aims to:

- *jointly increase awareness of the widespread use of torture and its consequences*
- *combine capacities and resources to undertake specific activities towards the eradication of torture*
- *share information on all aspects of torture, including relevant international and national law, alleged perpetrators, victims' issues, and develop common strategies.*

Some activities which have been carried out in the framework of CINAT include:

- Ratification of the UN Convention against Torture
- Draft Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture
- UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - 26 June (see page 6)
- Panel discussions during the UN Commission on Human Rights
- Joint statements on the occasion of international meetings on human rights, for example the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

C I N A T

26 June

On 12 December 1997, the United Nations General Assembly officially proclaimed 26 June as the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (UNGA Res. 52/149).

Each year on 26 June, a wide range of human rights organisations, advocacy groups, rehabilitation centres, and government and intergovernmental organisations join together to stage events in support of victims of torture. Events organised in the past have included press conferences, seminars, cultural activities, street festivals, music and theatre performances. On 26 June 2001, more than 180 organisations will commemorate the event in 94 countries worldwide.

The theme of the 2001 campaign is 'Together against Torture'. It reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the effort needed to work for the prevention of torture and to support its victims. The work requires action in all countries and at all levels of society: in the development and implementation of national and international standards; the denunciation of perpetrators; redress and rehabilitation for torture victims; training for police and prison officials; and in the promotion of human rights education for all.

The campaign aims to both empower torture survivors and to renew support for our shared responsibility in working for the eradication of torture.

The global campaign in support of this special UN International Day is co-ordinated by the IRCT in association with other CINAT members.

The members of CINAT are most grateful to The Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union and the Oak Foundation for providing financial support for this global campaign.

THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST

TORTURE

THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1984. It entered into force on 26 June 1987. More than 120 states have accepted to be bound by the Convention. It obliges them to take specific measures to prohibit and prevent all forms of torture and ill-treatment and to bring all suspected torturers to justice.

ALL FORMS OF TORTURE ARE PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES

Even during wars, state of emergency, riots or any other exceptional circumstance, torture can never be permitted or justified. If public officials are ordered by their superiors to carry out acts of torture, they must disobey, otherwise they will commit a crime. There is absolutely no excuse at all for torture. Governments must ensure that torture is always a crime under national law, and carries appropriate penalties.

ILL-TREATMENT MUST BE PROHIBITED

Other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are also strictly prohibited.

ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE MUST BE PROPERLY INVESTIGATED

Victims of torture have the right to complain to the competent authorities. The authorities must carry out an impartial investigation into the complaint and ensure that the victims and any witnesses are protected. Victims of torture have the right to compensation and rehabilitation treatment. Even if the victim has not made a complaint, states have a duty to investigate whenever there is reason to believe that an act of torture has been committed.

REJECT EVIDENCE EXTRACTED BY TORTURE

No statement made as a result of torture may be used in any legal proceedings except for prosecuting the suspected torturer(s).

PROSECUTE ALL TORTURERS

Torturers must be brought to justice no matter where the act of torture was committed. States which are party to the Convention must prosecute suspected torturers, even if the torture occurred in another country, or else extradite them to another country to face prosecution.

NO EXTRADITION TO FACE A RISK OF TORTURE

States must not send or return any person to a country where they would be in danger of being tortured.

POLICE MUST BE PROPERLY TRAINED

All police forces and public officials must be informed that torture is prohibited and must be trained in the provisions of the Convention against Torture.

THE TORTURE WATCHDOG

The Committee against Torture is a body of 10 independent experts, elected by the parties to the Convention to monitor its implementation. The Committee reviews periodic reports submitted by governments and recommends ways for them to implement the Convention. The Committee can also consider complaints from individual victims of torture if the state has accepted this in a declaration under Article 22. The Committee can make its own inquiries when it receives information on systematic torture in a state. States which have accepted the Convention must also cooperate and comply with the recommendations of the Committee.



Amnesty International
www.stoptorture.org

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CINAT's joint
action to
combat
torture

AI

- Campaigns on behalf of individual cases
- Organises national and international campaigns on preventing torture
- Monitors human rights violations in all countries
- Has sections in over 70 countries

Provides support for torture survivors

REDRESS

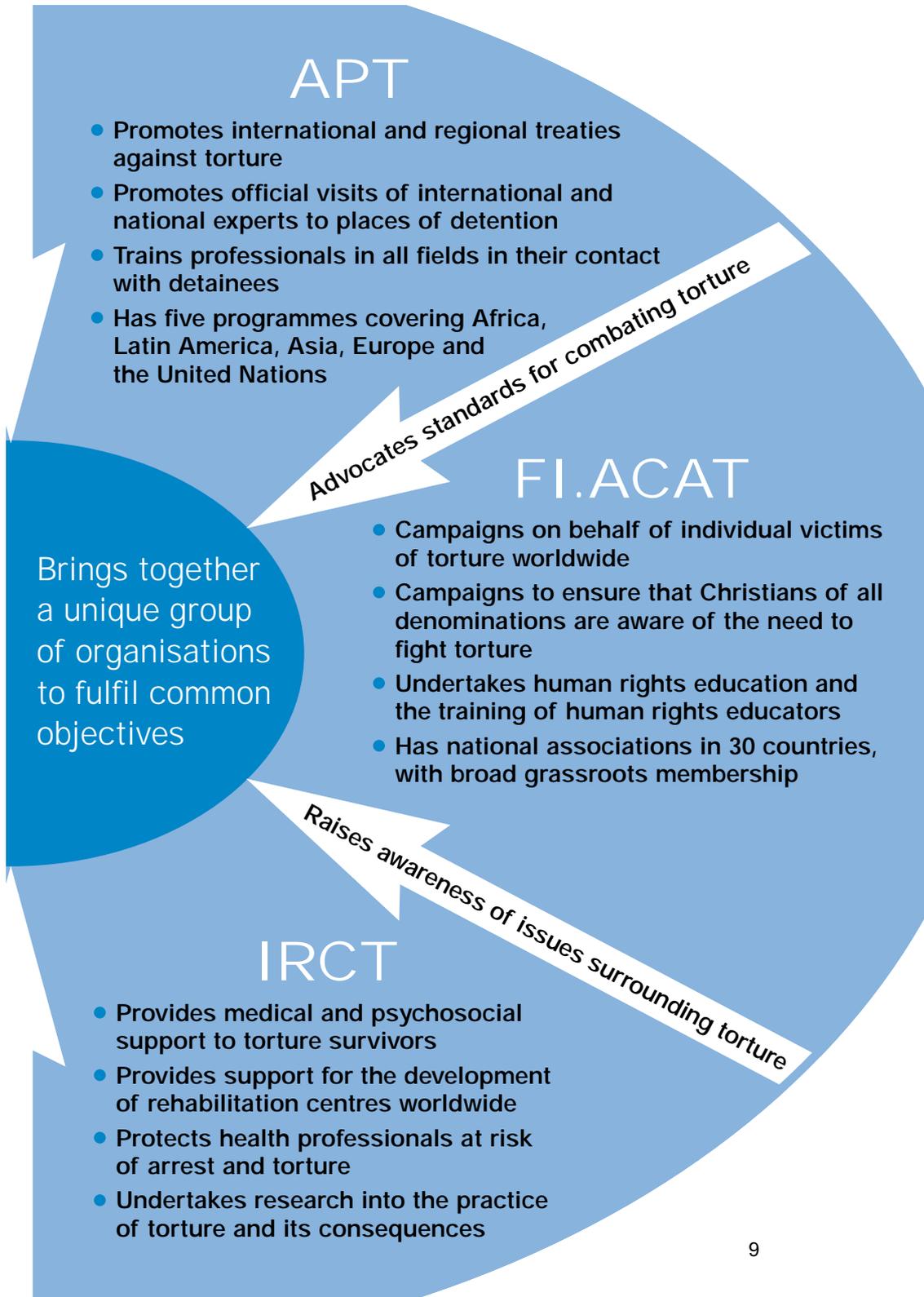
- Obtains justice and reparation for survivors of torture
- Provides support and legal advice for torture survivors
- Makes torturers accountable
- Promotes effective and enforceable civil and criminal remedies in national law

CINAT

Ends impunity that shields torturers

OMCT

- Undertakes urgent campaigns on behalf of groups or individual victims
- Provides emergency legal, medical and/or social assistance to victims
- Submits reports to relevant mechanisms and bodies of the United Nations
- Has member organisations in 85 countries



C I N A T



Amnesty International

Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of grassroots activists for human rights. AI members take up individual cases and organise broader campaigns on issues such as torture and ill-treatment or on human rights violations in particular countries.

AI has official Sections in over 70 countries and action groups in many more. Altogether AI has over a million members, backed up by teams of professional staff based in offices around the world and at a secretariat in London.

The organisation works mainly to stop torture and other cruel treatment, to obtain the release of prisoners of conscience, to fair trials for political prisoners, for the abolition of the death penalty, and an end to political killings and "disappearances".

Through independent, objective and accurate research, AI monitors human rights violations in all countries. AI is independent of governments & political ideologies.

AI's worldwide campaign, **Take a Step to Stamp out Torture** focuses on:

- How torture **can** be prevented
- How **discrimination** fosters and supports the torture inflicted on certain groups in the population;
- Bringing those responsible to **justice**, thereby ending the impunity that usually shields torturers.

www.stoptorture.org

www.amnestyusa.org/fast

Sign up to receive details of urgent cases by email and you can take action on their behalf. You can also receive urgent notices on your mobile phone with 'SMS' text messages.

AI: what we do / how we work

Country monitoring missions



Reporting on violations, crises & cases



Press & media publicity



Solidarity campaigns



Publishing the facts



Worldwide reports



Lobbying



Human rights education



Combating discrimination



Developing human rights organisations





Association for the Prevention of Torture

Founded in 1977 by Jean-Jacques Gautier and based in Geneva, Switzerland, the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is an independent, international non-governmental human rights organisation committed to working internationally to tackle the global problem of torture and ill-treatment.

How can we prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment? The APT's response has been to:

- actively support the national implementation of international norms and standards which prohibit torture
- contribute to the promotion of control mechanisms, such as visits by appropriate experts to places of detention
- develop information and training activities for all professionals in close contact with detainees, for example the police, the judicial authorities and the staff of penitentiary establishments
- participate in the elaboration and adoption of international and regional standards within various organisations, such as the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organisation of African Unity and the Organisation of American States

Today the APT has five programmes which cover activities in Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia and the United Nations. It has members in over 30 countries and co-operates with numerous international and national organisations. It is committed to empowering national organisations to act more effectively in the sustained prevention of torture.

The APT has proved to be a leading light in the prevention of human rights violations linked to torture. It has achieved this by combining its expertise with that of others, and by engaging in promotion projects with national human rights organisations and the United Nations, as well as through other international fora and their mechanisms.

The APT has consultative status with ECOSOC of the United Nations and with the Council of Europe. It also has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

E-mail: apt@apt.ch

Website: www.apt.ch

APT: what we do / how we work

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is involved in, among others, the following programmes and projects:

- Negotiations at the UN to establish an **international group of experts to visit places of detention** in any part of the world, with a view to preventing torture.
- **Facilitating access** of NGOs and victims to the UN and to regional fora dealing with torture.
- Sponsoring the **national implementation of recommendations** to combat torture made by regional and international bodies.



- Contributing to the drafting of **police codes of conduct and ethics**; training Police Officers, Prison Officials and NGOs on human rights, the conduct of visits to places of detention, and the use of international and regional human rights mechanisms to help prevent torture.

- Encouraging **public debate** on government, police and prison policies of detention and interrogation; as well as on eliminating the widespread **impunity** of those who commit torture.



- Promoting a pro-active and constructive system by which **Parliamentarians, Ombudsmen and National Human Rights Institutions and NGOs** may visit places of detention to prevent torture.

C I N A T



International Federation of ACAT
(Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture)

The International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) brings together some 30 ACAT national associations from four continents. They are bound by a Charter which expresses the belief that the struggle for the abolition of torture and capital punishment is at the heart of the Christian message.

Ever since it was founded in 1974, ACAT has campaigned on behalf of people who are tortured, detained in inhuman conditions, executed or “disappeared”, whatever their origins, political opinions or religious beliefs.

ACAT seeks to increase awareness in the Churches and amongst Christians of the existence of torture and the need, for reasons of Christian faith, to work towards its abolition, in particular by writing letters in response to “urgent actions”.

ACAT groups also seek to promote prevention and vigilance in their own countries, as well as human rights education programmes.

FI.ACAT helps the ACAT network to thrive by encouraging communication between the various groups and by supporting them. It initiates joint actions and campaigns, as well as regional or international training seminars for ACAT members. FI.ACAT represents ACATs with international and regional bodies (United Nations Organisations, Council of Europe, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights) where it has a consultative status.

E-mail: fi.acat@wanadoo.fr

Website: www.fiakat.org

FI.ACAT: what we do / how we work

- Reporting and urgent actions on cases of torture
- Prevention, eg. in detention centres
- Raising awareness in Christian communities
- Human Rights education
- Support for victims
- Annual International campaigns
- Analysing the causes of torture
- Theological approach to Human Rights
- Training Human Rights activists
- Liaising and networking with ACAT groups



The IRCT is an international, independent professional health organisation which promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and works for the prevention of torture worldwide. The IRCT supports or collaborates in a global movement of some 200 rehabilitation centres working on behalf of victims of torture in all regions of the world.

The aim of rehabilitation is to empower the torture victim to regain the capacity, confidence, and ability to resume as full a life as possible. Rehabilitation centres and programmes adopt and implement a variety of different treatment approaches, taking into account the specific needs of the individual torture victim and the cultural, social and political environment in which they are operating.

The IRCT's General Secretariat, based in Copenhagen, furthers the work against torture around the world by:

- Supporting new and existing rehabilitation centres, in collaboration with local partners
- Establishing and implementing new treatment and prevention projects, and providing technical assistance and advice
- Providing psychosocial assistance and support to victims of torture and trauma in conflict situations
- Increasing awareness of and support for the work against torture, through a wide range of advocacy and information activities
- Providing support and protection for health professionals and other care givers for victims of torture who may be at risk
- Documenting the global incidence of torture
- Conducting research, education and training programmes

E-mail: irct@irct.org

Website: www.irct.org

IRCT: what we do / how we work



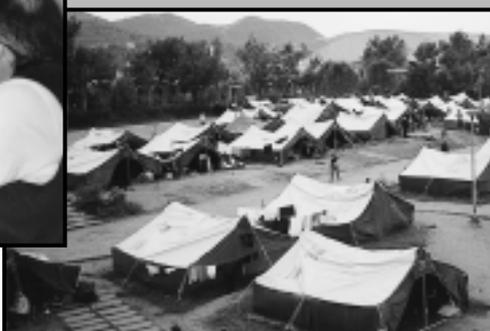
Commemorating 26 June worldwide



Regional networks



Regional seminars



Conflict intervention



IRCT Documentation centre



Training workshops



E-mail: omct@omct.org
Website: www.omct.org

The **World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)**, based in Geneva, is today the largest international coalition of non governmental organisations (NGOs) fighting against torture, summary executions, forced disappearances and all other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Co-ordinating a network - **SOS-Torture** - of some **250 national, regional and international organisations in 85 countries**, OMCT has, since its inception, set as its task the reinforcement and support of the actions of the organisations in the field. The set-up of the SOS-Torture network has allowed OMCT to reinforce local activity while favouring the access of national NGOs to international institutions.

Support granted to victims or potential victims of torture is personalised, through urgent campaigns (notably on children, women and human rights defenders) and urgent legal, social and/or medical assistance. It is also general, through the submission of reports to the various United Nations mechanisms.

OMCT draws its authority, strategy and direction from its grassroots network: the national organisations in the front line of the fight against torture which inform, drive and orient the international work. Fighting for the rights of the victims with strategies defined by those best placed to understand their needs, is the driving force of OMCT.

C I N A T

Children's
Rights
Programme

> Prevention (including
training on human rights)

Urgent
Campaigns

> Denunciation

Protection of
Human Rights
Defenders

> Awareness raising

OMCT's programs all follow the same logic, which is to provide tools and services enabling the reinforcement of efficient action in the different areas.

> Advocacy

Urgent
Assistance
to Victims
of Torture
Programme

> Proceedings
against perpetrators

> Assistance to victims
and their rehabilitation

Women's
Rights
Programme

Racism Programme

Economic, Social
and Cultural
Rights Programme

REDRESS*Seeking Reparation for Torture Survivors*

REDRESS is a London-based international NGO which assists torture survivors to obtain justice and reparation. Reparation (including compensation and rehabilitation) helps torture survivors move forward with their lives, and legal reparation also helps combat the practice of torture by exposing torturers and the regimes that support them, and by ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice.

REDRESS promotes the right to reparation of torture survivors anywhere in the world by:

- Helping survivors gain redress. This is done by instituting legal proceedings in the country where the torture occurred; in another country redress may be gained on the basis of universal jurisdiction [www.redress.org/unijeur.html]; or through another suitable forum such as the European or Inter-American Courts of Human Rights, in co-operation with its Redress for Torture Network.
- Linking lawyers and human rights organisations working on reparation throughout the world with its Redress for Torture Network. This promotes legal expertise through shared experiences and provides greater resources to survivors world-wide.
- Providing support, information and advice to those working for reparation for torture internationally.
- Promoting the development and implementation of effective and enforceable civil and criminal remedies for torture, both nationally and internationally.
- Helping make accountable all those who perpetrate, aid and abet acts of torture. We do this by submitting detailed information on suspected torturers to police to enable timely prosecutions to occur.
- Increasing awareness of the widespread use of torture and of existing measures used to provide redress.

E-mail: redresstrust@gn.apc.org

Web: www.redress.org

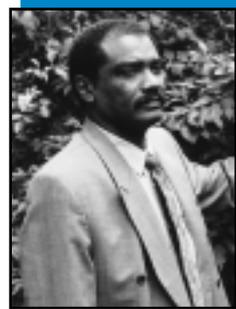
REDRESS: what we do / how we work



REDRESS has supported and provided information in the test case of Suleiman Al-Adsani v. Kuwait. This challenged the principle that a foreign state should be immune in UK courts from actions for torture. In November 1996 the House of Lords refused to hear an appeal against the Court of Appeal's decision of March 1996 that Kuwait was immune. Having exhausted all possibilities of a remedy in the UK, Mr Al-Adsani's solicitor, Geoffrey Bindman, submitted an application to the European Commission on Human Rights in March 1997. A decision on the merits of the European Court of

Human Rights is imminent, and may have far-reaching implications for all torture survivors seeking remedies in the UK.

REDRESS is working to invoke UK criminal law in respect of torture committed abroad in several cases, pursuant to Section 134 of the 1988 Criminal Justice Act, which creates an offence of torture, wherever committed. REDRESS collects evidence to support allegations that individuals within the jurisdiction of the UK courts participated in torture abroad. The evidence submitted by REDRESS to criminal investigators led authorities to open official investigations. Mr. El-Rayah, a Sudanese lawyer tortured in Sudan stated: *"I would like to express my deepest appreciation of the work carried out by REDRESS. With the existence of REDRESS, victims of torture anywhere can surely count now on much needed legal and moral support, and can be sure that their voice can reach beyond the boundaries of their countries."*



REDRESS played a central role in ensuring that the needs of victims and witnesses were given sufficient weight in the Statute and Rules of Procedure and Evidence and also in the Elements of Crimes for the establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court (ICC). It also helped ensure that these provided for reparation. See: "Promoting the right to reparation for survivors of torture: what role for a permanent international criminal court?" [<http://www.redress.org/rep1sum.html>]

REDRESS works with others to develop international standards on the right to reparation. It continues to provide comments on the UN Draft Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Violations of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. It continues to campaign for their adoption by the UN Commission on Human Rights.

CINAT

Tales of how CINAT members have helped torture survivors



Amnesty International

Amnesty International launched its third global campaign against torture on 18 October 2000. As part of the campaign, AI members and supporters in 142 countries are carrying out concerted actions geared towards ending torture both in their own countries and in other parts of the world.

In Croatia, amongst other activities, AI members embarked on a postcard lobbying campaign, asking members of the public to send postcards to the Chairman of the Parliament, the President of the Republic and the President of the Government urging them to declare Croatia a Torture Free Zone and to support AI's campaign against torture.

In previous reports AI expressed concern that the authorities in Croatia had failed to make serious efforts to investigate and prosecute members of the Croatian armed forces or police suspected of war crimes and other human rights violations during the war. The new authorities have made considerable efforts to increase cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. But despite these positive steps, the new authorities should investigate all the previous concerns regarding Croatia's human rights record.

On 24 January 2001, in order to secure a serious commitment to human rights from the authorities, members and supporters of AI Croatia surrounded the Parliament building with 300-m long TFZ tape, after a long march from the main city square Trg bana Jelacica in central Zagreb.



Inside the Parliament building, the Chairman, 52 MPs and government ministers signed a Pledge to *"...prevent torture from happening in any of my areas of responsibility and the areas of responsibility of the institution I represent, by supporting the implementation of AI's 12- Point Program for the Prevention of Torture by Agents of the State"*.

Now the people of Croatia and AI can use this symbolic gesture to hold the government accountable for a specific program to eradicate torture and to protect those at risk.

AI Croatia members expect more support from the members of the parliament, especially after the pledge from its Chairman. AI members in Croatia will continue to lobby and pressure other political leaders including the President of the Republic and Government.

Pictures - members and supporters of AI Croatia marching to the Parliament building, and Zlatko Tomcic, Chairman of the Croatian Parliament, signing the Pledge. ©ai



Association for the Prevention of Torture

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) focuses on prevention and actively intervenes to avoid and eliminate torture. This means working proactively to change conditions under which torture is committed. The APT helps torture survivors in a different way, therefore, working to prevent such treatment being meted out on others.

The APT strives to establish effective control measures which will reduce the risk of torture in places of detention. External control measures such as inspection visits should ensure that detention conditions comply with human rights norms. Internal measures, for instance staff training and an independent complaints procedure for detainees, should guarantee that conditions such as incommunicado detention do not exist either officially or unofficially.

In order to reduce the risk of persons being deprived of their liberty and being tortured, the APT believes that secrecy surrounding places where torture takes place has to be replaced by openness and transparency. The APT, which was partly responsible for the establishment of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, promotes visits to places of detention by appropriate international experts. We encourage the formation of national visiting committees, ombudsmen, independent committees, parliamentary commissions and even non-governmental organisations. In order to work effectively, these visiting bodies should insist on certain procedures such as access at any time, access to all premises and private interviews with detainees.

The preventive impact of international or national visits is now recognised by international bodies as shown by their recent recommendations:

"The European Union will urge third countries to take, inter alia, the following measures: "Allow visits by suitably qualified representatives of civil society to places where persons deprived of their liberty are held".

Guidelines to EU policy towards third countries on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, 9 April 2001.

"(The Rapporteur) consistently recommends external supervision of all places of detention, such as judges, prosecutors, ombudsman, and national or human rights commissions, as well as by civil society".

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Sir Nigel Rodley, UN CHR Report 2001.

"An independent monitoring body with the right to access places of detention without prior notice and the right to report on conditions should be established (or supported, where an institution suitable for such purpose already exists NGOs should be trained, encouraged and permitted to monitor places of detention including places of pre-trial detention."

OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on Human Rights and Inhuman Treatment or Punishment, 27 March 2000.



International Federation of ACAT

(Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture)



Ilie Ilascu was arrested in 1992 by the authorities in Transnistria, a secessionist region of Moldova. In 1993, he was sentenced to death, following a sham trial.

For 6 years, FI.ACAT and the whole of its network campaigned regularly in different ways to denounce his sentencing and the inhuman conditions in which he was detained. He was subjected to torture and mock executions, and his state of health steadily deteriorated. In 1999 one of his friends reported: *'Ilie is forced to remain*

undressed in his concrete cell to ensure that he doesn't conceal anything in his clothes. He is constantly subjected to psychological pressure and is even advised to hang himself ; they went as far as to throw a rope into his cell'.

In November 1995, FI.ACAT's President was able to meet Ilie Ilascu in his cell during a visit to the region. Following this visit, the network of 30 national ACATs around the world was asked to write regularly to the relevant authorities and to encourage all their members to campaign for Ilie Ilascu's release, publicise the case and remember him in their prayers. FI.ACAT itself sought the support of various partner organisations to back up its action, in particular the Interparliamentary Union, as Ilascu is a parliamentarian. FI.ACAT also went to meet the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, urging it to visit the prisoner as soon as possible, given his poor state of health. It contacted representatives of a number of international and regional organisations (UN, European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, Council of Europe rapporteurs, OSCE, European Parliament) asking them to bring pressure to bear on governments in the region. Its members were able to meet the President of Moldova, and wrote to some of the more influential political figures in the region (in particular in Russia). In 2000, Ilie Ilascu lodged an appeal with the European Court of Human Rights against Moldova and the Russian Federation.

Ilie Ilascu was finally released on 5 May 2001, after 9 years of detention. The campaigning undertaken by various organisations on his behalf and the political pressure from different sides had eventually paid off. Efforts must now continue to help with his rehabilitation and obtain justice. FI.ACAT will be closely following the forthcoming hearings of the European Court on this case.



In connection with the return of the Kosovo-Albanian refugees, the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (KRCT) was founded in Pristina 1999, with the assistance of the IRCT. To date, the KRCT and its six satellites throughout Kosovo have provided treatment to more than 8,000 victims of torture and related human rights violations. The establishment of the KRCT was financially supported by ECHO and is today supported by DANIDA. On 26 June 2000, the UN International Day in Support of Torture Victims, the KRCT and IRCT organised a global event at which members of Kosovo civil society and the international community signed the 'Prishtina Declaration on National Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Peaceful Co-existence and Prevention of Torture'. The Declaration recognised the needs of victims of torture and extreme trauma in a post-conflict society.



Staff at the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims have helped more than 8,000 victims of torture.

A Kosovo Albanian woman and mother of seven children was separated from her family and raped by Serbian soldiers in the days after her village was invaded. After the war she was reunited with her husband and children, but found it very hard to resume her relationships as wife and mother. She continued to re-live her experience of torture with a mixture of emotions: guilt, shame, and anxiety that she could no longer fulfil her role within the family. During the period of separation, her husband had imagined his own scenario of what had happened to his wife, and it was very hard for him to reconcile this with reality. Locked in emotional conflict, neither was able to give sufficient support to their children, who had also been traumatised by the experience of war. Working with the whole family, both individually and together, the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims is helping the family to deal with the after-effects of the mother's rape and separation from the family, and to enable both parents and children to rebuild relationships together.



World Organisation Against Torture



On August 9 1999, a 22 year-old Congolese citizen was arbitrarily arrested and detained at Mimosa camp in the Ngaliema municipality because he was found at the home of another Congolese citizen, who was himself being pursued. During the five months of his detention in the offices of the Detection of Unpatriotic Activities Police (DEMIAP), he was subjected to physical and psychological torture, which has had a severe impact on his health.

Thanks to pressure exerted on the authorities, as a result of the circulation of two OMCT urgent appeals, the young man was released on December 28 1999. He subsequently found himself financially unable to leave his country and has continued to be the target of threats ever since.

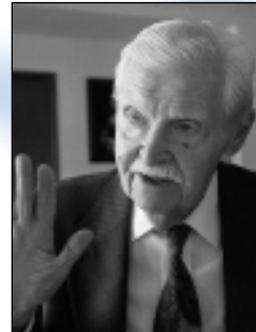
In January 2000, in light of the threats made against him and at the request of a member organisation of the SOS-Torture network, OMCT agreed to pay for his transfer to a European country where members of his family live. However, since he had been forced to find refuge in Congo-Brazzaville, due to the threats being levelled against him, he was only able to secure a visa for the European country in April 2001. This was achieved after pressure was placed on the relevant authorities, notably by OMCT and the SOS-Torture network member organisation. He arrived in the European country in question in early May 2001.

REDRESS*Seeking Reparation for Torture Survivors*

Professor Michael Bazylar, Chair of REDRESS USA, acted on behalf of José Siderman in what became a landmark case.

José Siderman, an Argentinian Jewish refugee, was abducted, tortured and robbed of property during Argentina's 1976 military coup.

Mr Siderman's arrest and abduction by the military was a prelude to seven days of torture in a detention centre. He was beaten, deprived of food and water, given electric shocks, punched, kicked and insulted. He was blindfolded throughout and told repeatedly, *"We are going to kill you, you Jew."*



In his statement, Mr Siderman recalled: *"At various points I didn't even know if I was dead or alive. I lived in Dante's stories of hell, the inferno. I could see animals flying. I saw everything that Dante had written about."*

When released, he fled to the United States, but was continually pursued by Argentina's military government. In 1981, José Siderman brought a case against the Argentine government for illegal confiscation of property and human rights violations. Eleven years later in 1992, the US Court of Appeal's Ninth Circuit decided that Argentina was not entitled to claim sovereign immunity.

With a trial date set for September 1996, Argentina finally settled out of court with Mr Siderman. By doing this it avoided becoming the first government to be put on trial in the United States for human rights violations committed in its own country. This legal battle had lasted an incredible 14 years. On winning his case Mr. Siderman said, *"I am so happy - and do you know why? Because now everyone will know what happened, and that human rights won out"*

Support the work of CINAT

➔ RATIFICATION

➔ ➔ ➔ PREVENTION

➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ ➔ INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS

Support our joint actions to:

- denounce cases of torture
- bring torturers to account
- provide victims with physical and psychological treatment
- enable torture survivors to obtain justice and reparation
- encourage training for police, prison and security personnel in human rights standards
- develop and enforce national and international legislation against torture, and
- promote human rights education from an early age.

Call on your government to make an unambiguous statement of their commitment to the prevention of torture.

- ➔ *by ratifying without reservations, and implementing, the UN Convention against Torture*
- ➔ *by promoting the establishment of a system of inspection visits to places of detention based on the principle of 'any time, any place', aimed at the prevention of torture, and by giving their full backing to the Draft Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture*
- ➔ *and by providing effective and enforceable criminal and civil remedies for torture survivors*

C I N A T

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