

2011 Annual Report

World Organisation Against Torture



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Nothing can justify torture under any circumstances

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TRANSITIONS



The year 2011 will remain the year of hope, born of the Arab Spring. OMCT rejoiced that people rose up in the name of human rights, and to see among them many whom the Organisation had defended during the years of dictatorship and who had returned from exile or prison.

That initial period of joy has passed. Now our task is to do all we can to make sure that respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights is sustained and, as far as OMCT is concerned, that the practice of torture ends and never reappears. From this point of view, the months following the fall of an authoritarian regime or dictatorship are crucial. This is the time when the new constitution is being prepared, when figures connected with the old regime are being arrested and brought to trial, when order must be maintained and the security of the country ensured. In these three areas, OMCT was present in Tunisia at the invitation of human rights organisations and the authorities. We arranged debates on the different legal arrangements for preventing torture and, in the light of the Organisation's firm conviction that impunity is one of the principal causes of the perpetuation of violence and ill-treatment, for punishing the perpetrators.

The transition government had invited OMCT in acknowledgement of its activities on behalf of people who had been victims of torture under the old regime. Many ministers pondered with us the difficult question of how to fairly balance truth, justice, reconciliation and pardon. For the members of the OMCT delegation, which included senior human rights advocates who had themselves lived through transition processes following dictatorships in Spain and Chile, the discussions on how best to overcome the legacy of torture were moments of strong feeling, when the weight of the responsibility of power was felt in all its force. After these meetings, OMCT became the first international NGO able to freely visit Tunisia's prisons. Those visits confirmed that torture was not only inflicted on political prisoners but also on ordinary criminal suspects.

OMCT opened an office in Tunisia to support the numerous missions carried out in that country as well as the mission it was requested to undertake to Libya, and also to test the feasibility of more decentralized action in the Arab world and to see if such an approach would work in other regions. The priorities in the fight against torture differ from one region to another, and

the actions taken by the SOS-Torture Network, as well as its expansion in those countries where it has very little or no presence, can be made more efficient if undertaken on a regional basis.

The retirement of Eric Sottas and the arrival of Gerald Staberock to replace him were announced in the last Activity Report. The passing on of the torch was flawless. Before leaving, Eric was able to convince Dick Marty to join the Executive Council of the Organisation and today, Eric continues to undertake missions for OMCT. Gerald follows in Eric's footsteps, maintaining the holistic approach to the fight against torture: prevention; denunciation of acts of violence; bringing perpetrators of torture to justice; and ensuring reparations and compensation to victims. He has been able to quickly overcome any concern that may have existed on the part of those for whom Eric incarnated OMCT and, with the help of all the members of the staff, to gain their confidence in leading it into the future.

Yves Berthelot
President of OMCT

Introduction by the Secretary-General

SEIZING HISTORIC OPPORTUNITIES



The political transformations in the Arab region have marked the year 2011 like no other political development. Few would have predicted in the beginning of the year that a region so marked by the practice of torture could open up to reforms.

For over 15 years, OMCT has documented and litigated cases of torture in Tunisia and other countries in the region and supported human rights defenders when they were harassed, intimidated and/or physically threatened and attacked. In this spirit, in the midst of the popular uprising in Tunisia, OMCT deployed a solidarity mission in January 2011 to protect local human rights organisations and activists who had been threatened and targeted.

Yet none of us imagined that we would be invited back only three weeks later to participate in a highly emotional event: the Tunisian Organisation Against Torture (OCTT), a partner organization of long standing, was finally allowed to officially deposit its registration documents. For more than a decade OCTT had been refused formal registration, forcing it to operate without a proper institutional basis and under constant threat of being shut down. It is having stood side by side with local groups fighting torture under difficult circumstances that allows us now to take on a credible leadership role in supporting anti-torture reforms in the region.

Transitions can be turning points for societies. They can also be turning points in the fight against torture. Events in 2011 illustrated that OMCT is well placed to seize such opportunities. For our missions and advocacy we were able to draw on the expertise within our global SOS-Torture Network of individuals and organi-

sations who have themselves been key actors in transitions in their home countries. True, no two situations are identical, and each transformation needs to be judged in its own political and social context. Yet there are lessons to be learned, notably that the window of opportunity for reforms is often very small. This unique momentum in the fight against torture in the region is not to be missed!

It is in this light that OMCT sent three high-level missions to Tunisia and pressed the transitional authorities to make anti-torture reforms an integral part of the transition process. Some successes are to be seen, including legal changes that OMCT had advocated for a long time and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Significantly we received a political commitment during our high-level meetings with the transitional government to reopen cases of torture brought before the UN Committee against Torture, whose decisions the Ben Ali regime had refused to implement. OMCT was also permitted to conduct independent visits to prison facilities in post-revolution Tunisia, which we did in May 2011 - the first international non-governmental organisation to do so. What we discovered, however, was disquieting. We found that acts of torture and ill-treatment of ordinary prisoners continued after the revolution. While in countries in transition the use of torture as a tool of political repression might dissipate during a period of political transformation, "routine" torture and ill-treatment in police stations and prisons tend to persist. This is a long-term challenge that we need to address.

In September 2011 OMCT opened a small field representation in Tunis, a milestone for the Organisation. The office supports institutional

and legal reforms aimed at preventing torture, and works with civil society and the legal community to ensure effective remedies and compensation for victims of torture. Being present in Tunis is a first step towards a greater regionalisation of our work in the years to come, seeking to increase the impact of our efforts and bringing our advocacy closer to those we support.

Regaining universal consensus

Despite the understandable attention given to North Africa and the Middle East in 2011, it would be wrong to neglect the fight against torture and ill-treatment in other regions of the world. Unfortunately, we see in our work every day that torture and ill-treatment persist globally.

International law is crystal clear that torture and ill-treatment are prohibited in all circumstances. Furthermore, there exist sufficient international mechanisms to monitor respect for the commitment to end torture. Nevertheless, the absolute prohibition of torture has been challenged for a number of years. In the name of combating terrorist acts or forms of organized crime and stimulating economic growth, law enforcement, intelligence and security forces have been granted extensive powers while at the same time they have been systematically released from accountability. The aggressive security-dominated discourse over the last decade has led to a weakening of the public reaction against torture among certain segments of the population, including in established democracies. OMCT has reacted to this challenge, including through an international campaign implemented with its member organisations to reinforce the absolute prohibition of torture in the face of such challenges.

SEIZING HISTORIC OPPORTUNITIES

Reversing this trend is becoming a long-term challenge. In early 2011, OMCT submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the United States Supreme Court challenging the practice of all-encompassing invocations of State secrecy that ban any legal recourse in cases of the international crime of torture. We also continued to support victims of torture, including a number of persons formerly held in the Guantánamo Bay detention facility, following their resettlement, to allow them to regain their lives and to benefit from needed medical assistance.

In January 2011, OMCT, in a landmark victory, succeeded in preventing former US President George W. Bush from visiting Geneva. A day after OMCT decided to make public its memorandum to the Swiss authorities on Switzerland's obligations as a State party to the Convention against Torture, the visit was formally cancelled. This success is a small step on the road to accountability for the US policy of torture.

Bringing human rights home

OMCT has been among the first to systematically support local organisations and the members of its SOS-Torture Network to access universal and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights. These processes have matured over the years and have the potential to impact national policies on torture and ill-treatment. In 2011 we submitted authoritative reports on torture in Madagascar, Greece, Colombia, Mexico and Morocco. It is gratifying to see that the information we submit continues to be mirrored in the findings of universal and regional human rights bodies.

However, the core challenge is the lack of implementation. OMCT has started to develop new strategies, in partnership with its Network members, to strengthen the domestic follow-up on the recommendations issued to States. By the same token, OMCT maintained its vocal role in 2011 at the United Nations Human Rights Council, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Inter-American human rights system in demanding compliance with the absolute prohibition of torture.

Protecting victims of torture

OMCT continues to receive daily information on women, men and children subjected to torture and ill-treatment in every region of the globe. Remedies and reparation, including rehabilitation, even where they exist on paper, are rarely available or effective in practice.

The direct material, legal and/or social assistance OMCT provides, through its Fund for Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture, remains crucial in this regard. It directly impacts the lives of torture victims and human rights defenders by providing them increased security and better legal representation, and breaches their isolation. International remedies are often the last resort for victims of torture. Supporting them and enabling our partner organisations to use international procedures is an important element of our work and philosophy. In a positive development, in December 2011 OMCT secured the first-ever ruling by the UN Human Rights Committee on the practice of torture and ill-treatment in Côte d'Ivoire.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, OMCT has been engaged in the struggle to protect women and children from torture and other forms of violence. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, OMCT is involved in efforts to strengthen

the capacity of human rights NGOs, including members of its SOS-Torture Network, enhancing their knowledge on international standards and procedures and their ability to use them in a strategic manner. OMCT also started to support the construction of a rehabilitation centre for victims of sexual violence in North Kivu Province by one of its partner organisations.

Children deprived of their liberty are among the most threatened. OMCT and its local partners are working to sensitise national authorities, civil society and the broader public on the vulnerability of children in detention through various advocacy activities, such as dialogue with the relevant stakeholders complemented by consultative seminars and workshops. Over the past years, OMCT has conducted 48 monitoring visits to prisons and juvenile detention centres in Benin and Uruguay, reaching more than 500 children. The visits have increased the transparency of the conditions in the detention centres and the protection from torture of the child detainees. In 2012 OMCT will build upon this work, seeking to capitalise on the political momentum following the publication of detailed recommendations by the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture following its visit to Benin.

Enabling actors for change

The promotion and protection of human rights continues to be a high-risk activity in more than 80 countries around the world, in Africa and the Middle East, Central Asia and countries of the former Soviet Union, as well as in many parts of Asia and Latin America, where human rights defenders become the targets of enforced disappearances, summary executions, arbitrary detentions and torture to keep them quiet. Repression also takes the form of stalking, threats and intimidation, including of family members; defamation campaigns orchestrated by the official media; preventing defenders from leaving or returning to their country; harassment at work; ill-treatment; and even murder.

OMCT remains today the only anti-torture organisation whose work prioritises protecting human rights defenders. In the course of this year I was able to learn first hand from those affected about how much our support is appreciated by those in the field. Many of the cases never reach the public eye. But our work remains crucial, providing vital protection to those under imminent threat, including through emergency assistance to leave the country temporarily or through legal or other support. The work of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, operated in partnership with the International Federation for Human Rights, continues to be fundamental in this regard.

While we have made progress over the years in bringing the protection of human rights defenders onto the international agenda, new challenges have emerged. Authoritarian regimes, too, adapt their ways of repressing legitimate human rights work. A particularly worrying trend in 2011 was the increasing criminalisation of movements of social protest, such as those in Latin America or South Asia, as well as the criminalisation of foreign funding of human rights organisations. The arbitrary detention of Ales Bialecki and leading human rights defenders in Belarus for having received funds from EU member States for legitimate human rights work is but one dramatic case in which OMCT had to intervene in the course of the year. In other parts of the world, notably in Asia, Lat-

in America and sub-Saharan Africa, it is those defending land rights or access to economic, social and cultural rights who are increasingly threatened, not only by State agents but also by powerful private actors. These threats will also require our continuous attention and new strategies to confront them.

By encouraging Swiss personalities to rally around human rights defenders who have become victims of persecution and acts of harassment, OMCT has begun to forge a chain of solidarity that extends beyond the restricted circle of "specialists" and aims at mobilising public opinion, the only real counterweight to the arbitrary power of States. We will need to develop new communications tools to reach beyond those already convinced. In a breathtaking mission - with the participation of Swiss actress Noémie Kocher - OMCT documented threats against people defending the rights of indigenous communities in Amazonas, Brazil. A film documenting their difficult situation will be released in 2012.

A global movement against torture and ill-treatment

An effective response to torture and ill-treatment requires the collective voice of civil society organisations around the world. OMCT, with its SOS-Torture Network based on genuine partnership, will continue to play a crucial role in that regard. In 2011, we continued to issue numerous joint statements, interventions and support and training to members of the Network. Our philosophy is one of supporting and reinforcing, not replacing, local action.

It is also in this spirit that OMCT embarked on a universal campaign to secure respect for the absolute prohibition of torture which has provided support to local campaigns undertaken by our Network partners, including on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, in countries on all continents.

Finally, the work that you find reflected in this Annual Report is the result of a small team of exceptionally committed staff, working, often under great pressure, to satisfy multiple and immediate needs and demands from the field. I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to them for their unrelenting efforts to bring the promise of universal respect for all international human rights standards home.

By the same token, I would like to extend my gratitude to all those, whether private individuals, foundations or State authorities, who supported our work in 2011. The strong global movement against torture that is the OMCT SOS-Torture Network is needed now more than ever. Your fidelity in the years to come is vital to our success.

Gerald Staberock
Secretary-General

I TO INCREASE PROTECTION AGAINST TORTURE AND SECURE THE REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS

Protecting potential victims from torture and providing for the rehabilitation those who have been tortured is one of the priorities of OMCT. The action strategy developed by the Organisation, articulated at the time of its founding and based on urgent interventions and emergency medical, legal and/or social assistance, has been progressively refined over the years in order to adapt, on the one hand, to the specific features of certain groups and the acts of violence to which they are subjected and, on the other, to the need to diversify the tools used so as to be able to respond in the most appropriate manner to the needs expressed by the victims themselves and to the human rights violations that have come to light.

Listening to the victims of torture

Since the establishment in 1986 of the Fund for Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture, OMCT, convinced that assuaging the suffering endured by victims must include the identification, prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators of the crime of torture, has sought to provide urgent assistance as part of a global approach

to the situation of the victim. Activities aimed at recovery must include restoring the right of the victim to justice, and comprise medical and social rehabilitation, compensation and reparations at the national, regional and international levels; this will contribute not only to recovery, but also to the fight against impunity.

Armed with this conviction, and at the request of the members of the SOS-Torture Network, OMCT sought to complement its legal, medical and/or social emergency assistance to victims of torture, women, men and children, with a medium- and long-term intervention strategy. The submission of individual complaints to the regional and international mechanisms for the protection of human rights and of amicus curiae briefs and legal opinions to judicial and quasi-judicial bodies and the organisation of training seminars (see sect. III below) are part of the Organisation's desire not only to obtain compensation for the victims and punishment of the perpetrators, but also to advance jurisprudence in the field of torture prevention and to strengthen the absolute prohibition against torture.

Restoring the rights of victims: a long-term struggle

OMCT's work in 2011 was therefore characterised by greater efforts to follow up complaints previously submitted, in collaboration with the member organisations and other partners of the SOS-Torture Network, to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture, concerning Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, the Russian Federation, South Africa and Tunisia.

The difficulty encountered in monitoring the implementation of the decisions issued by the quasi-judicial organs poses the larger question of the responsibility of States with regard to their international human rights obligations and their willingness to respect them. For a number of years OMCT has engaged in strategic thinking about this question and considers the implementation of these decisions to be crucial.

The "Jasmine Revolution" in Tunisia was extremely encouraging with regard to the implementation of the decisions of the Committee against Torture in the *Ali Ben Salem*¹ and *Saadia Ali*² cases, which OMCT took on. The evolving situation in Libya as it affects the outcome of the *Milhoud Ahmed Hussein Bashasha*³ case, submitted to the Human Rights Committee, must also be monitored. In addition, changes in Côte d'Ivoire were encouraging for the resolution of the *Traoré v. Côte d'Ivoire* case,⁴ which the Human Rights Committee adjudicated in December 2011, finding in favour of the victims, who were represented by OMCT. The decision in this case was the first concerning torture and forced disappearance in that country.

Advancing international jurisprudence on the question of torture

During 2011, OMCT also intervened in cases of great strategic and legal importance to the rights to an effective remedy and to compensation for victims of torture, and to the obligation of States to investigate allegations of torture.

In January 2011, at the request of partner organisations in the United States, OMCT drafted and submitted, jointly with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and Redress, an amicus curiae brief⁵ to the United States Supreme Court in a representative case of extraordinary rendition concerning respect for the right under international law to an effective remedy and to compensation in the face of excessive recourse to the principle of "State secrets". This case also raised the question of the civil responsibility of a private enterprise – Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc., an affiliate of Boeing – implicated in extraordinary rendition circuits involving, in addition, secret detentions and acts of torture.

This case also raises questions with regard to impunity for the acts of torture that were committed and the American policy of secret detention. At the request of OMCT, well-known international jurists associated themselves with the amicus curiae brief: Manfred Nowak, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture; Dick Marty, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Vice-President of OMCT; Bob Goldman, former President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; and Stefan Trechsel, former President of the European Commission on Human Rights.

In February 2011, OMCT submitted a legal opinion concerning the obligations of the Swiss Confederation under the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhu-

man or Degrading Treatment or Punishment with respect to the arrival on Swiss territory of former American President George W. Bush. OMCT reminded the President of the Confederation and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Confederation Prosecutor and the Prosecutor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva that there existed a solid body of evidence that under the Bush administration the United States conducted a policy of torture and ill-treatment. OMCT therefore called upon the competent Swiss authorities to respect their international obligation under the Convention to undertake an effective investigation of any person present on the territory with respect to whom reliable information exists that he or she has committed the crime of torture.

The day after the publication of this legal opinion, it was learned that the visit of former President Bush to Switzerland had been cancelled.

Assisting the victims of torture, ill-treatment and other human rights violations

Urgent interventions:

Dissemination of 174 urgent interventions (urgent appeals, press releases and confidential letters to governmental authorities), either for specific victims (women and children) or of general applicability, on behalf of 3,741 persons, in the following countries: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burma, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco/Western Sahara, Panama, Nepal, Nicaragua, Philippines, Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Venezuela.

Urgent assistance to victims:

Medical, legal and/or social assistance to 64 victims of torture (48 individual cases and one collective case), in cooperation with members of the SOS-Torture Network, in the following 17 countries: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Occupied Palestinian Territory, South Africa, Tunisia and Turkey.

Legal opinions/complaints:

- Submission and follow-up of one individual complaint to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights concerning the ill-treatment following arrest in 2008 of three Sudanese human rights defenders (in the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders).
- Securing the first ruling of the United Nations Human Rights Committee in favour of a victim of torture and ill-treatment, in *Côte d'Ivoire (Traoré v. Côte d'Ivoire)*.
- Follow-up of individual complaints submitted by OMCT to the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture on behalf of victims of torture and ill-treatment, and of the implementation of the views and/or decisions adopted in those cases, including, as appropriate, the prosecution of the presumed authors of the violations (Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Russian Federation, South Africa and Tunisia).
- Submission of an amicus curiae brief to the United States Supreme Court in the *Jeppesen Dataplan* case (respect for the right to an effective remedy and to compensation by persons subjected to torture in the context of extraordinary rendition, justified by inappropriate invoking of the "State secrets privilege"); submission of an amicus curiae brief to the European Court of Human Rights in a case against Switzerland in connection with obtaining a civil remedy for acts of torture; submission of a legal opinion on the draft general comment by the Committee against Torture on article 14 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (compensation and rehabilitation).
- Submission of a legal opinion to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation on the occasion of the planned visit to Geneva by former US President George W. Bush and leading role in the activities undertaken by a number of organisations that led to the visit being cancelled.

4,738

people received support directly from OMCT of whom

110

received legal, medical and social assistance.



¹ Communication No. 269/2005, *Ali Ben Salem v. Tunisia*.
² Communication No. 291/2006, *Saadia Ali v. Tunisia*.
³ Communication No. 1776/2008, *Milhoud Ahmed Hussein Bashasha v. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*.
⁴ Communication No. 1759/2008, *Zoumana Sorifing Traoré et al. v. Côte d'Ivoire*.
⁵ Brief of amici curiae No. 10-778 in the Supreme Court of the United States, *Binyam Mohamed, Abou Elkassim Britel, Ahmed Agiza, Mohamed Farag, Ahmad Bashimlah, Bisher Al-Rawi v. Jeppesen Dataplan, Inc.*

“ L'assistance de l'OMCT, à part son aspect financier, a joué un rôle important pour nous :
 - l'OMCT a été à nos côtés comme un assistant, un soutien moral. Car les problèmes qui se posent au loin sur les enfants affectent les parents au plus haut degré surtout quand on est à l'incapacité de les résoudre. La ponctualité de résoudre ces problèmes était pour nous un réconfort moral sans concurrent (exemples : factures logement, hospitalisation, etc.); (...)
 - Nous avons le sentiment que l'OMCT est notre partenaire non seulement financier, mais aussi moral;
 - Tous les membres de ma famille présentent la gratitude à l'OMCT pour avoir pris en charge de sa mission auprès de nous jusqu'à la fin sans faillir. J'en parle à maintes reprises à mes enfants nouvellement arrivés de l'OMCT et de son apport à notre famille victime de torture. ”

A victim, Democratic Republic of the Congo, November 2011

“ Les mots me manquent pour vous remercier de tout ce que vous avez fait pour la famille K.. Depuis le 26 septembre 2011, elle est en Suède. Que vos efforts pour soutenir tous les défenseurs de droits de l'homme dans le monde soient un succès. Encore une fois in-fini merci pour tout. Meilleures salutations. ”

A Congolese human rights defender, Democratic Republic of the Congo, September 2011

“ Thank you for kind continued support. [...] Victims express their sincere thanks to OMCT and Observatory team. This works gave them moral support to continue their human rights. Thanking you for your kind cooperation. ”

Core Manipur - India, August 2011

The right of victims to compensation – general comment No. 3 of the Committee against Torture on article 14 of the United Nations Convention against Torture (forty-sixth session, June 2011)

Backed by its experience in assisting victims using a global approach to their problems and its involvement with the Committee against Torture, OMCT submitted a legal opinion on draft general comment No. 3. In the opinion OMCT welcomed the Committee's interpretation of article 14 in the light of the rules of general international law and its definition of rehabilitation as a holistic concept that includes social, legal and medical elements and whose implications are not necessarily limited to the victim but may also extend to family, descendants and, sometimes, even the wider community. OMCT also stressed the need to strengthen several aspects of the draft to include: taking account of the specificities, linked to the right to compensation, of child victims' need for heightened protection; recognition of the fact that invoking exceptional circumstances relating to reasons of national security can inhibit access to an effective remedy and compensation and that this must be opposed; and recognition of the fact that private military or security firms acting on behalf of a country, and the countries themselves, must be held accountable for any acts of torture that they cause, so that the victims can obtain compensation.

Human rights defenders: a proven protection strategy in constant evolution

OMCT's long experience in the protection of human rights defenders has clearly demonstrated that there is a correlation between the situation of defenders and that of the societies in which they live, because a worsening of the conditions; in which they work necessarily prefigures a general deterioration of freedom in their countries, and that strengthening the protection of defenders contributes to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

OMCT has placed protection at the heart of its action in favour of defenders. This takes the form of urgent appeals; of inquiry, observation and legal defence missions; alerting the competent international and regional mechanisms; granting material assistance to defenders within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, created in 1997 in partnership with the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH); and mobilising public opinion through solidarity missions undertaken in connection with audio-visual reporting and photographic exhibitions under the “Defend the Defenders” project begun in 2007.

Protecting human rights defenders

Protection of threatened or harassed defenders:

- Sending of 331 urgent interventions (urgent appeals, press releases, open or confidential letters to governmental authorities), within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, on behalf of 887 defenders and 41 NGOs and other organisations, in the following 58 countries: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

- Distribution of eight audio-visual testimonies on the situation of defenders in Belarus, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; an audio-visual report filmed during the inquiry mission to Nicaragua which was released at the same time as the mission report was published; a series of interviews conducted during the fiftieth session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights with defenders from sub-Saharan and North Africa who described the obstacles confronting them in their work on the continent; a short documentary on the situation of defenders in Europe during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

- Support for the making of a documentary film by Thierry Michel about the Chebeya-Bazana affair in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for release in February 2012.

Material assistance/help in leaving the country and with resettlement:

Granting of material assistance to 46 defenders and their families as well as seven NGOs, and general assistance (financial support for Syrians removed to France) in the following 24 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Cambodia, Chad, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Honduras, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Rwanda, Syria, Togo, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Yemen.

Missions to the field, judicial observation missions, round tables:

- Conducting three solidarity mission to Tunisia (January 2011) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (June and July).
- Conducting eight judicial observation missions covering a total of six cases in Burundi (January), Turkey (February), the Russian Federation (March, May and October), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (March), Malaysia (August) and Belarus (November).
- Conducting two inquiry missions to Colombia (November/December) and Zimbabwe (December).
- Publication of five reports on judicial observation missions to Syria (February), France (March), Burundi (April), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (June) and the Russian Federation (July).
 Publication of two reports of inquiry missions to the Gambia (July) and Nicaragua (November).
- Co-organisation, in April 2011, of a seminar in Brussels on the criminalisation of human rights defenders in the context of the fight against the harmful effects of the activities of transnational corporations in Latin America.
- Support for the organisation of and participation in the round table organised in May 2011 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo) for members of civil society and governmental authorities on the protection of the rights of human rights defenders in the country. More than 150 people participated in the meeting, whose purpose was to draft recommendations for the adoption or effective implementation of specific mechanisms for the protection of defenders and to work towards the normalisation of relations between the defenders and the national authorities.

I TO INCREASE PROTECTION AGAINST TORTURE AND SECURE THE REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS

A complex strategy that pays heed to the needs of defenders

In view of the sophisticated forms of repression of which they are targets, the necessary strengthening of the strategy for protecting defenders poses major challenges. These include the concurrent needs to take immediate urgent action and to plan for longer-term mobilisation; the link between individual protection through immediate responses targeted at individual cases (urgent interventions and material assistance) and wider protection through daily monitoring of the legal framework within which the defenders operate; the complementarity of the responses to situations of repression by the international and the regional protection mechanisms; the identification of the interlocutors within the State, intergovernmental entities and the media capable of taking concrete and effective action on behalf of defenders.

OMCT and its partner FIDH, within the framework of the Observatory, continually strive to identify new means of further strengthening the protection of human rights defenders. This effort led to the convening in June 2011, in Kinshasa, of a round table gathering together defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and governmental authorities with a view to advocating for the establishment of a national human rights commission and the adoption of a law on the protection of human rights defenders.

This initiative was innovative in more than one respect. It reflected the desire of the Observatory not only to take concrete steps to strengthen the dialogue between civil society and State authorities on the question of the conformity of national legislation with the relevant regional and international instruments for the protection of human rights, but also to initiate and/or deepen the political dialogue with States with respect to the protection of defenders. The objective was to create the conditions for an environment respectful of human rights and basic freedoms in which defenders can carry out their activities without hindrance.

The Arab Spring opened the way for new possibilities and opportunities for reforms leading to the establishment of the rule of law and democracy. It would be wrong to say that the peaceful revolutions that took place in Egypt and Tunisia were the work of a handful of defenders; that would be an injustice to the women and men who mobilised, despite the peril to their lives. However, it was those same defenders who for years had documented and denounced human rights violations and called for a response by the international community who laid the foundation for the aspirations expressed by their countrymen and –women.

Public opinion, the media and social networks: partners in protection

The mobilisation of public opinion, the media and the social networks has become crucial. Recognition of the fundamental role of defenders in the establishment and strengthening of the rule of law and democracy must be taken up by the media and the social networks, which alone can raise awareness in the greatest number of people and promote solidarity with defenders. The participation of the media, social networks and public opinion is, in other words, determinant in making States that repress defenders loosen their stranglehold and create conditions that are favourable to activities in defence of human rights. The Observa-

tory has also distinguished itself in this field by using the available audio-visual tools to give greater visibility to defenders who are in especially dangerous situations.

For example, during the OECD Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in September 2011, the Observatory filmed a six-minute documentary that painted a sombre picture of the situation of human rights defenders in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, who operate in a very restricted environment and are faced with similar acts of repression: obstacles to the exercise of freedom of assembly and association, obstacles to registering non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and accessing funds; criminalisation of non-registered organisations; judicial harassment; and arbitrary detention. In addition, during the fiftieth session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul in October 2011, at which it presented its Annual Report 2011, the Observatory conducted a series of interviews with human rights defenders from Algeria, the Gambia, Guinea, Burundi, Uganda and Nigeria that illustrated the obstacles put in the way of their work in Africa.

Publication of its 14th Annual Report: a key moment for the Observatory

On 24 October 2011, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders published its 14th Annual Report on the situation of defenders. A press conference was held during the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Present were Margaret Sekagya, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, and Tawakkoi Karman, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for 2011.

The report underlines the universality of the demands of the Arab Spring and details the struggle being waged, in the face of personal danger, by human rights defenders in some 70 countries. They are civil society activists, journalists, trade union members, lawyers and ordinary citizens who have become "Indignados"; outraged by injustice, the arbitrary use of State power and terror.

The Observatory organised a total of 20 press conferences and other events from October 2011 to January 2012 in a number of key countries, in association with local partners, in order to present the main conclusions of the report: in New York during a side event sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur and Congolese and Mexican defenders; in Banjul during the fiftieth session of the African Commission, with the participation of the Commission's Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa and defenders from Senegal, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Algeria and the Sudan; in Washington, D.C. at the 143rd session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organisation of American States (OAS), with the participation of the Commission's Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders and defenders from Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela; and in the cities of Baku, Cairo, Cuenca, Dakar,

Helsinki, Islamabad, Kampala, Kiev, Kinshasa, Lima, Manila, Mexico City, Quito, Santiago, Tegucigalpa and Tunis.

The use of Web applications as an additional tool for the mobilisation of a wider public is under study, as well as the establishment of an "Observatory" Internet site for defenders to centralise information and resources and to increase their visibility.

The sponsorship project "Defend the Defenders" is intended to be an innovative, integrated and media-friendly approach to strengthening the protection of human rights defenders by focusing on the complexity of the problems they face.

Its originality rests first of all on the fact that the project associates international and Swiss personalities from the worlds of politics, economics, sports and culture with defenders of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights with a view to making the public more aware of the work of defenders and the risks they run. The sponsors thus act both as links between the defenders and the public and as sources of support at times when the defenders are at particular risk.

It is integrated in the sense that the project takes advantage of the expertise of OMCT in this area and the tools that have been in place for several years, in particular within the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The field missions, urgent interventions, advocacy with the international and regional mechanisms for protecting defenders, and governmental delegations are all included in OMCT's global protection strategy, thereby ensuring coherence of action.

Finally, the project is media-friendly in that it attempts to mobilise members of the public as active partners in raising awareness about the causes championed by human rights defenders by, for example, making short documentary films. The term "human rights defender" has entered into popular language; the defender is now perceived as a key actor for change leading to the establishment and strengthening of democracy and the rule of law and whose role must be protected.

Benin and Uruguay: an innovative strategy for protecting children deprived of liberty

At the beginning of 2011, the pilot project "Monitoring the treatment of children deprived of liberty" came to an end. Begun in September 2009, the project was the fruit of collaboration between OMCT and two national partners, members of the SOS-Torture Network: Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde (ESAM) in Benin and the Instituto de Estudios Legales y Sociales (IELSUR) in Uruguay. The project clearly was the beginning of a process of improvement in the protection of children deprived of liberty from all forms of violence, including torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and from situations that could lead to such abuse.

Thus, in Uruguay, but even more in Benin, regular monitoring visits to the places where children are detained (a total of 48 visits) led to greater transparency in the conditions of detention and thereby to the strengthening of respect for the physical and psychological integrity of those children. In addition, by submitting legal opinions to the competent authorities, OMCT and its partners contributed to the preservation and reinforcement of the national legal frameworks concerning children in conflict with the law and deprived of liberty. Furthermore, the training workshops organised for 87 professionals in the field of the administration of justice, the prison administration, NGO representatives and journalists allowed them to expand their practical and theoretical knowledge. Finally, thanks to the opening of a constructive dialogue and to the awareness-raising activities, the national authorities, civil society and the public in the two countries acquired greater understanding of the vulnerability of children in conflict with the law and deprived of liberty and of the vital importance of protecting them.

To cite only one of the areas in which concrete progress was made thanks to the project, in December 2010 in Benin, under the patronage of OMCT and the Ministry of Justice, a road map of actions to be taken to improve the protection of such children was adopted by judges, lawyers, prison guards and directors, police, civil servants and NGOs.

Encouraged by this positive result, OMCT proceeded to design and operationalise follow-up to the pilot project by planning activities over the next three years to solidify the achievements by concentrating on the effective application by the authorities in Benin and Uruguay of the recommendations of several international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, in particular the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee against Torture, the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture and the Special Rapporteur on torture. In close cooperation with its partners, OMCT will maintain the momentum by institutionalising the monitoring visits by NGOs to the places where children are detained; expanding the training of judges and officials charged with enforcing the law, including prison officials; contributing to the reform of legislation and of implementation policies; and coordinating activities in the field with OMCT's initiatives in the area of the protection of detained children at the international level.

“AMAZONIAN INDIANS UNDER THREAT”

Sponsorship project “Defend the Defenders”

Following the first documentary filmed during the solidarity mission to Mexico in September 2008 about the women of Ciudad Juárez fighting for justice during a wave of murders of women in that city, and a second filmed during the solidarity mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in February 2010 about the human rights defenders working to secure justice for Congolese women victims of rape, OMCT produced a third documentary filmed during a mission to Brazil from 25 November to 6 December 2011.

The mission, which included Swiss actress Noémie Kocher, who also took part in the mission to Mexico, and director Daniel Schweizer, a prize-winner at the Film Festival and International Human Rights Forum in March 2011, visited Amazonia and the Xingu reservation in order to spotlight the situation of Yanomami and Kayapo human rights defenders who are being threatened because of their involvement in defending the lands of their peoples, demanding respect for their cultures and resisting the exploitation of the riches of their subsoil and forests.

A short documentary, entitled “Amazonian Indians under Threat”, will be released in early 2012. The Film Festival and International Human Rights Forum held in Geneva in March 2012 will devote an evening to a screening of the film followed by a debate on a theme linked to the subject. In addition, the weekly television magazine *Temps présent* on Radio Télévision Suisse (RTS) will broadcast the film in prime time.



Photographs: Daniel Schweizer/Horizon Films



II WORKING TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

OMCT, in partnership with the NGO members of the SOS-Torture Network and its other partners, works towards achieving respect for the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment by advocating with the various intergovernmental human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies that monitor the application by States of their obligations under the conventions to which they are party, as well as in the Human Rights Council and its special procedures. OMCT maintains very close working relations with those mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Committee against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on torture. The regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights are also important partners for OMCT.

The crucial contribution of OMCT to the work of the United Nations treaty bodies

Since 1992, the year it presented its first report to the Committee against Torture, OMCT has been deeply involved with the treaty bodies, including through its support for local NGOs wishing to further contribute to these mechanisms, its innovative and pioneering efforts to integrate a gender and child-rights dimension in the work of the committees, and its insistence on the importance of implementing the international human rights standards.

Throughout the last 20 years, OMCT has listened closely to the members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network and to the treaty bodies. This attention, backed up by the results of internal as well as external evaluations, enabled OMCT to diversify and refine its intervention tools. Thus, OMCT multiplied the number of its field missions, hosted NGO representatives at sessions of the committees in Geneva and New York and prioritised the drafting of follow-up notes evaluating the implementation by States parties of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the treaty bodies.

Value added of OMCT preparatory missions

In 2011, OMCT carried out preparatory missions to Madagascar, Morocco and Tunisia in order to draft and submit alternative reports and follow-up notes to the United Nations treaty bodies, notably the Committee against Torture. These missions were undertaken at the request of NGO members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network that wished to be accompanied and supported in this process. The missions allowed OMCT to strengthen its cooperation with national NGOs, gather first-hand information and data and meet the competent authorities to apprise them of the initiatives being undertaken. They also laid the foundation for future cooperation, for example follow-up missions on the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee against Torture.

In Morocco, as part of the meetings that OMCT organised for NGOs, OMCT explained the provisions of the Convention against Torture, how the Committee against Torture functioned, and what kind of information was required by the Committee's expert members.

A targeted and proactive strategy

The implementation of the recommendations adopted by the United Nations treaty bodies is one of OMCT's priorities. The procedure adopted by OMCT consists of submitting alternative reports and/or follow-up notes to the various committees on the status in particular countries of the implementation of the conventions to which they are party or of the recommendations addressed to them. With a view to greater effectiveness, OMCT will sometimes concentrate on a single theme in a given country, for example violence against women in Mexico (see box below).

A follow-up note on Mexico, entitled "La Tortura Sexual de Mujeres en San Salvador Atenco, México: Cuatro Años y Media

Strengthen the international and national human rights standards and mechanisms

- Submission, in partnership with NGOs in the field and members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network, of:
 - Three alternative reports to the Committee against Torture concerning Greece, Madagascar and Morocco (November).
 - A follow-up report to the Committee against Torture concerning Colombia on the situation of torture in the country and the implementation of the Committee's recommendations (August).
 - A follow-up note to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture concerning sexual torture of the women of San Salvador Atenco (Mexico) (January).
- Carrying out of two preparatory missions to Madagascar (4-8 July) and to Morocco (10-15 July) and three missions to Tunisia: an exploratory mission from 21 to 26 February; a consultation and programming mission from 17 to 20 March; and a high-level mission from 17 to 23 May.
- Inviting four representatives of 15 national NGOs from Madagascar and Morocco to participate in the forty-seventh session of the Committee against Torture, including in the formal briefing of the experts.
- Webcast of the sessions of the Committee against Torture and publication of the first e-bulletin (omct@cat) on the forty-seventh session of the Committee.

Después", to the Committee against Torture in December 2010 and to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in January 2011, jointly with the Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez (Centro Prodh), a member of the SOS-Torture Network, exemplifies OMCT's strategy. The paper presented an in-depth evaluation of the implementation by the Mexican authorities of the treaty body recommendations specifically relevant to the mandate of OMCT and encouraged the members of the two committees to take a unanimous position on a particular problem, thereby increasing pressure on the authorities to act.

In 2012, OMCT, along with Mexican NGO members of the SOS-Torture Network, will continue its advocacy through the submission of an alternative report on Mexico to the Committee against Torture at its forty-eighth session in May 2012. This will be preceded by a preparatory mission. A follow-up mission will also be organised to continue advocacy with the Mexican authorities.

As part of this strategy, in November 2011 OMCT drafted and submitted to the Committee against Torture alternative reports on Madagascar and Morocco; alternative reports on these two countries had already been submitted to the Human Rights Committee at its eighty-ninth session in March 2007 and to the Committee against Torture at its thirty-first session in November 2003. Morocco was chosen because, reacting to the Arab Spring, it had adopted a new constitution in July 2011 giving rise to hopes that the international human rights standards would be fully implemented. Madagascar was chosen in order to monitor the application of the national anti-torture law adopted in 2008, shortly after the country was examined by the Human Rights Committee.

The "Jasmine Revolution" in Tunisia also opened new vistas. On the basis of the experience acquired from its long association with Tunisian NGO members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network, OMCT wished to assess how the decisions and recommendations adopted by the treaty bodies were being followed and to contribute to the ongoing process of transition towards decisive legal reforms that would provide justice to victims of acts of torture and end the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of human rights violations (see sect. III below). This analysis was undertaken during three missions carried out in the first half of 2011.

Forty-seventh session of the Committee against Torture

At the forty-seventh session of the Committee against Torture, held in Geneva from 31 October to 25 November 2011, OMCT contributed to the debates on Greece, Madagascar, Morocco and Paraguay, four of the nine States parties that presented their reports on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention against Torture.

OMCT submitted three alternative reports jointly with member organisations of the SOS-Torture Network and facilitated the travel to Geneva of their representatives. Accompanying NGO members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network is an integral part of OMCT's activities in support of field organisations. Owing to its presence in Geneva and its close relationship with the Office of the United Nations

High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), OMCT is in a good position to bolster NGO action at the international level and to maximise its impact.

In addition, in order to ensure wide dissemination and greater awareness of the work of the Committee, OMCT "tweeted" the session and, in partnership with other NGOs, webcast the proceedings on its Internet site. The videos are available at www.ustream.tv/channel/cat-webcast1. That experience, which was very positive, will be repeated at subsequent sessions of the Committee. Also, at the end of the session, OMCT published a newsletter, entitled omct@cat, to inform targeted audiences.

“ Je vous adresse mes plus vifs remerciements pour avoir permis à l'ACAT Madagascar [...] d'avoir eu, une seconde fois, l'heureuse possibilité de soutenir son rapport alternatif devant le CAT [...].

C'était une expérience fort intéressante à tous points de vue, tant sur le plan du renforcement de capacités en ce qui concerne les organes des traités, que sur le plan des relations humaines et du développement personnel.

Ce genre d'expérience permet aux associations et ONG de prendre un nouveau souffle, lorsque le doute sur la pertinence de leurs actions commence à poindre à l'horizon.... Cette expérience a conforté ma conviction selon laquelle, sans un travail de collaboration, d'équipe et de Réseau, aux plans national et international, il est difficile d'atteindre les objectifs assignés. Ceci étant valable pour la société civile. De même pour l'Etat dont la surveillance des engagements est une nécessité.

J'ai pu également en rendre compte au représentant du Haut Commissariat aux droits de l'Homme qui l'a très bien apprécié et a sollicité une collaboration acroue avec l'ACAT dans l'accomplissement de sa mission. ”

Maria Raharinarivonirina, lawyer and President of ACAT-Madagascar, whose travel to Geneva was provided by OMCT

Support for the treaty body reform process

Because of its expertise and long history of collaboration with the United Nations treaty bodies, OMCT was invited to take part in the ongoing discussions on treaty body reform being conducted by OHCHR. At the consultation organised for members of civil society in Seoul on 19 and 20 April 2011, OMCT made proposals concerning better application of the decisions and recommendations of the committees; greater involvement by national NGOs; more precise and concise committee recommendations; an increase in the staffing of the Office; and creation of a page on the website of the Office dedicated to the follow-up to individual communications.

In its intervention OMCT also proposed that the temporary protection offered by the international mechanisms to victims of an alleged violation of their human rights should be extended to the individuals that submit such information. To that end, OMCT took the initiative to organise in May 2011, with TRIAL and Redress, two information meetings for the expert members of the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee (June 2011). It also submitted to the Committee against Torture proposed amendments to article 114 of its rules of procedure to expressly include any person who transmits information about an individual case and who risks reprisals for doing so, for example witnesses and human rights defenders. The Committee indicated its willingness to revise its rules of procedure accordingly.

OMCT also took part in similar initiatives within the African system for the protection of human rights in order to strengthen the follow-up to individual communications.

OMCT and the United Nations Human Rights Council

As OMCT consistently reminds the Human Rights Council – an eminently political body – the prohibition of torture is absolute and must be respected in all circumstances. It makes this point during the interactive debates (see box) and organises parallel events at the sessions of the Council in close collaboration with the members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network.

At the sixteenth session of the Human Rights Council, in March 2011, OMCT, together with the ICJ, organised a discussion about the problem of the lack of legal responsibility for grave violations of human rights committed in the name of national security. This debate, in which the new Special Rapporteur on torture, Juan Méndez, participated, sought to identify ways in which the Council and its special procedures could ensure respect for the right to compensation in accordance with international law and that actions taken in the name of national security adhere to the relevant international standards.

OMCT also follows the Council with a view to ensuring that the situations of grave violations of human rights are kept or put on its agenda. OMCT associated itself with initiatives calling for a special session of the Council on the situation in Syria.⁶ OMCT also intervened on violations of human rights, in particular torture and excessive use of force, committed in repressing the Arab Spring in Bahrain, Egypt, Libya and Yemen in 2011.

In addition, at the Council sessions held in March and June 2011, OMCT, together with its Mexican partners, organised two discussions on the human rights situation in Mexico. The first was on the situation in San Salvador Atenco (see box), with the participation of a female torture victim and human rights defenders. The purpose of the discussion was twofold: to draw the attention of delegations and States members of the Council to the human rights situation in Mexico, in particular the use of torture and the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators, and to remind Mexico of its obligations in this domain. In fact, while Mexico plays a crucial role within the Council, the level of violence raging throughout the country is very worrying, in particular in the context of the fight against drug traffickers, and the level of compliance by Mexico with the recommendations adopted by various United Nations bodies is very inadequate. The Mexican delegation to the Council took part in both events.

San Salvador Atenco: the facts

On 3 and 4 May 2006, more than 2,000 federal, state and local police took part in an operation in Texcoco and San Salvador Atenco, in the State of Mexico, to end demonstrations led by a local peasant organi-

Advocacy before the regional human rights mechanisms

- Participation in the NGO Forum at the forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** (April/May and October/November 2011, in Banjul, with written and oral interventions on the situation of torture and ill-treatment in Africa as well as the situation of human rights defenders on the continent; organisation of three parallel events on the protection of victims and witnesses in the fight against impunity and on human rights defenders (including presentation of the report of the judicial observation mission to Burundi by the Observatory and of its Annual Report); accompanying defenders from Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, Senegal and Burundi at the sessions.
- Participation at a hearing held during the 141st session of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (March/April 2011) on the situation of human rights and defenders in Nicaragua; organisation of a parallel event on human rights defenders at the 143rd session of the Commission (October/November 2011) in Washington, D.C.
- Participation in the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the **Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** (September/October 2011) in Warsaw, submitting of a written and making an oral statement on the situation of human rights defenders in the member States of the OSCE; co-organisation of a parallel event on how to improve the protection of defenders in the OSCE region; accompanying of a Kyrgyz defender.
- Participation in the round table organised on 27 and 28 October 2011 in Strasbourg (France) by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the **Council of Europe** on the situation of human rights in the region. One of the purposes of the round table was to discuss the obstacles to activities in defence of human rights and possible solutions, and access to the mechanisms for human rights protection.

sation, Peoples' Front for the Defence of the Land (Frente de Pueblos en Defensa de la Tierra, FPDT). The police operation ended with the arrest of 207 people and the death of two civilians. At least 27 of the 47 women who were arrested were subjected to torture, including sexual abuse, during their detention. More than five years later, impunity for these crimes continues. OMCT, which documented the facts in a follow-up note (see above), supports in various ways the demands by its Mexican partner organisations for an end to impunity and for full and effective compensation to be awarded to the victims.

OMCT also continued its activities with the Human Rights Council within the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. In March 2011, the Observatory organised a parallel event at the sixteenth session of the Council on the theme "Social protests and democracies: lessons learned for the protection of human rights defenders". During the session the Observatory also provided the funding to enable a Colombian human rights defender to attend, co-organised a parallel event on women defenders and made two joint statements during the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. At the July and September 2011 sessions, the Observatory made statements during the interactive dialogue with the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, focusing on the former's missions to Burundi in November 2010 and January 2011 and the latter's numerous activities denouncing the draft law on associations and NGOs in Cambodia.

OMCT and the regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights

OMCT works regularly with the regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights, in particular the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. It provides these bodies with information on human rights violations documented by its partners in the field, and takes part in debates during their meetings to highlight situations of concern in certain countries and to remind States of their obligations.

Advocacy before the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly

- Eleven interventions at the **Human Rights Council** under various items of its agenda relevant to the mandate of OMCT. Participation in the interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on torture; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, and during the annual day of discussion on the rights of the child.
- Organisation and facilitation of nine parallel events on the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment (2), human rights defenders (2), the rights of the child and country situations: Mexico (2), Iraq (Camp Ashraf) and United States of America.
- Convening of a press conference and a parallel event at the **United Nations General Assembly** on human rights defenders.

⁶ In 2011, the Council held three special sessions to address the events taking place in that country.

III MOBILISATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE NGO MEMBERS OF THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK BY MEANS OF TRAINING

OMCT's philosophy rests on the principles of collaboration, networking, building the capacities of NGOs and solidarity. It conceives of its role as providing to its NGO affiliates in the field the tools and services that will best allow them to carry out their work successfully, that is, helping them to strengthen their capacity and effectiveness in preventing and denouncing torture and ill-treatment, seeing that the perpetrators of grave human rights violations are prosecuted and providing assistance to the victims, including their rehabilitation. The SOS-Torture Network, by virtue of the diversity of its members, their expertise and their reputation, is the keystone of OMCT's work. Its role is crucial, in particular in identifying and documenting human rights violations, supporting victims of torture, and pleading their cases with the competent authorities and the international and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

Mobilisation of the members of the SOS-Torture Network

The SOS-Torture Network is at the heart of the international media campaign launched in June 2010 by Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General. The campaign Manifesto, "Nothing can justify torture under any circumstances", was signed by several Nobel laureates, including Martti Ahtisaari, Jimmy Carter, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio, Roberta Menchú, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, José Ramos Horta, Joseph Stiglitz and Desmond Tutu.

On 26 June 2011, the 311 members of the SOS-Torture Network were encouraged to work alongside the International Secretariat in (1) disseminating the Manifesto in their countries and among a wider public, asking everyone to sign the document online; (2) contacting national personalities to support the Manifesto; and (3) identifying recommendations and resolutions adopted by international bodies and requesting national authorities to take the necessary measures to put an end to torture, prevent its resurgence, provide compensation to the victims and punish the perpetrators.

National activities were also organised in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe and the Maghreb/Middle East. Among them was a debate on the theme of truth and reconcilia-

tion in Burundi; a conference-debate on torture with students from the National Gendarmerie in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; an exhibition of paintings by children in Honduras depicting acts of violence to which they and their families had been subjected by the military; publication of a brochure on psychological support for victims of torture in China; and a debate following the screening of a film on the fight against torture in Lebanon. A list of the activities organised in connection with the International Day is available on the OMCT website (www.omct.org/events/2011/06/d21318/).

On 10 December 2011, the SOS-Torture Network, in particular the NGO partners and members in North Africa and the Middle East, was mobilised to respond to the call for liberty and justice launched by the Arab Spring. Fourteen organisations in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Lebanon, Libya, Syria and Tunisia associated themselves with OMCT's call to all the Governments in the region to ensure that the absolute prohibition of torture becomes a reality. To that end, OMCT and the other organisations drew up a 10-point agenda for putting an end to torture once and for all; to investigate acts of torture and bring the perpetrators to justice; to guarantee to the victims their right to a remedy and to compensation; to dismantle the apparatus of repression; to demilitarise the system of justice and to establish a system of protection; to prevent torture and end incommunicado detention; to establish a mechanism for independent follow-up and monitoring; to create an environment favourable to human rights defenders and civil society; to use the international legislation against torture as the principle reference and to strengthen the determination of the international community to fight against this scourge.

The outcome of the international media campaign by OMCT on 26 June and 10 December 2011 was very positive; it succeeded in mobilising members of the SOS-Torture Network around the call to respect the absolute prohibition of torture and to alert the public to the dangers threatening this prohibition (see box below). The reactions to the diverse and creative activities organised by the members of the Network in many countries, including the Manifesto, which gained many new signatures, demonstrated that the initiative was welcomed. It goes without saying that in the months ahead a

great deal of work will be required to maintain the momentum generated by this mobilisation. OMCT will also reflect on whether it is relevant to identify more specific themes, notably in connection with the categories of victims considered to be vulnerable, in view of the success of the regionalisation of the campaign on 10 December 2011.

Strengthening the NGO members of the SOS-Torture Network by training

Training sessions in Burundi and Tunisia

- Organisation of a three-day training seminar, from 17 to 20 October 2011, in Bujumbura, on the effective and complementary use of the international and regional conventional and non-conventional human rights mechanisms, for 16 human rights defenders from Burundi, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Togo.

- Organisation of a two-day training seminar, on 19 and 20 November 2011, in Tunis on the application of the international standards and the procedures concerning the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, for 18 young activists, human rights defenders and judges working closely with the principal civil society organisations in Tunisia.

OMCT is determined to work alongside the NGOs in the field in their fight against torture and ill-treatment. This action takes the form of supporting their advocacy with the national authorities for the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, as well as supporting them in their interactions with these mechanisms (see sect. II above).

Such support is expressed in particular by the organisation of training workshops in the field. In 2011, OMCT organised two seminars, in Burundi in October and in Tunisia in November, in order to respond to the questions and difficulties that arise daily in the work of those struggling to secure better respect for human rights. The training explained in detail the conventional and non-conventional human rights mechanisms and how they work in a practical and concrete fashion, stressing the vital importance of national implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by these mechanisms.

The purpose of the training in Bujumbura was to train the participants - human rights defenders - in the effective and strategic use of the United Nations and African Union human rights protection mechanisms and of the regional courts with a human rights mandate, such as the Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The workshop in Tunis, aimed at young activists, human rights lawyers and judges working closely with the principal organisations of civil society, in the capital and outside it, focused on the role of the international standards in the

context of the transition under way in Tunisia, the scope of the international prohibition of torture and the legal requirements of the United Nations Convention against Torture.

At the two workshops, the practical challenges linked to the use of such instruments were also discussed, based on the OMCT practical guides. In accordance with OMCT's strategy, the participants were also trained in drafting individual communications and alternative reports. Such guidance will encourage defenders to resort to these mechanisms and will support them in using them strategically on their own.

In this regard, discussions are under way with some of the participants with a view, for example, to collaborating in the drafting of a joint alternative report to the second periodic report of the United Nations Committee against Torture. Following the visit of the new United Nations independent expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, Doudou Diène, in November 2011, the Ivorian participants asked OMCT to help them draft a note to him. There is also the possibility of collaboration with some of the new partners in identifying complaints that could be submitted to the United Nations treaty bodies, concerning in particular Côte d'Ivoire.

Regional training seminars are important as venues where human rights defenders in the same region can gather, creating networks of actors who would not otherwise have the possibility of working together (general NGOs, women's NGOs and Church-affiliated NGOs), as well places where good practices can be exchanged and defenders draw inspiration from actions and strategies put forward by others in their region. The Bujumbura seminar, for example, was attended by defenders from Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Togo as well as the host country.

26 June 2011 – International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

■ Organisation of an international media campaign on the absolute prohibition of torture, in close collaboration with the NGO members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network, and support for national campaigns in Africa (Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal and Togo), Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines), Europe (Georgia and Turkey), Latin America (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico) and the Middle East (Israel and Lebanon).

■ Holding on 15 June 2011, by the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament, of a hearing devoted to OMCT and the International Day. During the event, Heidi Hautala, President of the Subcommittee; Hina Jilani, former Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, human rights lawyer and founding member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan; and Eric Sottas, Secretary-General of OMCT, called attention to the threats to the absolute prohibition of torture. The hearing was organised by OMCT-Europe, which represents the OMCT International Secretariat at the European institutions in Brussels and Strasbourg.

10 December 2011 – International Human Rights Day

■ Joint statement issued by OMCT and 14 organisation members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network on the 10 steps to be taken to end torture and ill-treatment in North Africa and the Middle East.

“ Toutes les matières et compétences apprises seront utiles à notre organisation. Elles nous ont permis de connaître les différentes voies de recours dont nous disposons tant au niveau régional que international en tant qu'organisation de défense des droits humains. Et vont nous permettre de recadrer nos actions futures dans différents domaines de travail de notre organisation (Droits civils et politiques, droits économiques et socioculturels, droits de l'enfant et droits des personnes vulnérables). ”

Congolese participant at the Burundi training workshop

“ Cet atelier m'a permis de mieux maîtriser la procédure de soumission des communications et des rapports aux mécanismes de protection des droits de l'Homme. Je suis capable de présenter désormais une communication ou un rapport au nom de mon ONG à ces mécanismes. ”

Ivoirian participant at the Burundi training workshop

“ The Syrian Organization for Human Rights sends our warmest greetings to you and expresses its deep thanks and gratitude for this attention targeted to the struggle of the lawyers for human rights in Syria. We are certain that your efforts will have a good impact and contribute to effective and great benefit to spread and circulate the education of human rights in Syria. [...] ”

Mohannad Al Hassani, winner of the Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders, Syria, August 2011.



OMCT in Tunis

OMCT opened its first field office, in Tunis on 1 September 2011. This act was a concrete expression of the Organisation's desire to influence the process of transition taking place in Tunisia and to encourage the adoption of decisive legal reforms that will deliver justice to the victims of acts of torture and create an environment in which the absolute prohibition of torture is respected and where the member and partner organisations of the SOS-Torture Network – strengthened as a result – can function with complete independence.

The staff of the Tunis office spent the first few months meeting the principal actors, governmental and non-governmental, in the country who were involved in the protection of human rights, informing them of the presence of OMCT in Tunisia and about the objectives and future activities of the Organisation. Contacts were initiated with the Minister of Justice, the Minister of the Interior, the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for the Establishment of the National Fact-Finding Commission to investigate abuses and excesses committed during the revolution.

In November 2011, OMCT initiated the first forum for exchanges between NGOs working in the fight against torture, in order to strengthening coordination and cooperation among the various actors and to develop common strategies for action and advocacy. Support was given to Tunisian NGOs for a submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Also, on 10 December 2011, during the “Ten days of activism for human rights” campaign, OMCT organised a series of radio discussions with experts on the theme of torture in order to reach out to the public and support the reforms in this area.

It should be noted that the opening of the office in Tunis was preceded by three field missions during the first half of 2011, one of which (in May) was a high-level mission, to analyse the transition process from the perspective of OMCT, that is, to identify the key areas of the functioning of the rule of law in the country that required substantial reforms in order to be in conformity with the United Nations Convention against Torture. These included the legislative framework, the administration of justice and impunity for human rights violations perpetrated by the old regime.

It should further be mentioned that during that mission, OMCT was able to carry out the first independent inspection of the country's prison system.

*Report from the Auditor for the Annual Accounts ending on December 31, 2011
to the
Ordinary General Assembly of the "World Organisation Against Torture"
Association
Geneva*

Dear Sirs,

Upon request of your Executive Council and in compliance with article 19 of the statutes of your Association we carried out the auditing of the annual accounts (statements of accounts, balance sheet and annexes) of the "World Organisation Against Torture" Association for the period ending on December 31, 2011.

The responsibility for establishing the annual accounts lies with the Executive Council of the Association, whereas our mission consists of controlling these accounts. We testify that we fulfil the legal demand of qualification and independence.


Following our monitoring, we are able to state that:

- The statement of accounts and balance sheet are in conformity with accounting.
- Accounting is properly kept.
- Assets and liabilities are in accordance with the law and statutes.

In conclusion, we recommend the approval of the annual accounts stating an excess of expenditures for 2011 of **CHF 3'259.43** and taking into account the amount carried forward at 1 January 2011, an excess of expenditures in the balance sheet of **CHF 90'055.01**.

The Fondation supporting the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) decided to its dissolution and the allocation of its assets, to the benefit of your Association. According to the liquidators, after a first advance paid in 2011, the remaining available assets for the OMCT are about **CHF 40.000.00** which have already been advanced to the OMCT on March 27, 2012.

Cofida Compagnie Fiduciaire
et d'Informatique SA


Pierre-Yves COTS
Certified Auditor


Michel BLANCHUT
Certified Auditor

April 4, 2012 Carouge

Enclose : Annual accounts 2011
(Statements of accounts, balance sheet and annexes)

BALANCE SHEET ON 31 DECEMBER 2011

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

BALANCE SHEET ON 31 DECEMBER 2011 (WITH 2010 COMPARATIVE)
BILAN AU 31 DECEMBRE 2011 (AVEC COMPARATIF 2010)

ACTIF / ASSETS	ANNEE 2011 YEAR 2011	ANNEE 2010 YEAR 2010
LIQUIDITES / CASH	971'855.26	906'419.19
Caisses / Cash funds	1'446.02	4'018.20
CCP / Postal cheque account	10'001.24	59'612.33
Banque Lombard et Odier / Bank Lombard & Odier	765'846.73	754'658.02
Banque UBS / Bank UBS	194'561.27	88'130.64
AUTRES ACTIFS / OTHER ASSETS	110'187.15	149'605.69
Impôts anticipés / Withholding tax recoverable	257.81	1'157.34
Actifs transitoires / Other assets	34'894.34	64'006.56
Garanties / Guarantees	10'468.20	10'468.20
Débiteurs et subventions à recevoir / Debtors and grants to be received	64'566.80	73'973.59
TOTAL DE L'ACTIF / TOTAL ASSETS	1'082'042.41	1'056'024.88
PASSIF / LIABILITIES		
CREANCIERS / CREDITORS	904'247.42	984'970.46
Créanciers / Creditors	91'998.21	40'972.53
Frais échus / Other liabilities	69'523.28	83'319.17
Subventions et produits reçus d'avance / Grants paid in advance	742'725.93	860'678.76
PROVISIONS / OTHER LIABILITIES	267'850.00	357'850.00
Provision Assemblée biennale / Provision for Biennial Assembly	7'850.00	57'850.00
Provision Conseil exécutif / Provision for Executive Council	10'000.00	50'000.00
Provision garantie sur salaires et charges sociales / Provision for salaries and social charges	250'000.00	250'000.00
COMPTE DE RESULTAT / RESULTS	-90'055.01	-286'795.58
Report au 1 ^{er} janvier 2011 / Carried forward at 1 January 2011	-286'795.58	-12'347.15
Attribution de la Fondation de soutien à l'OMCT / Contribution from the Foundation supporting OMCT	200'000.00	0.00
Excédent de dépenses de l'exercice / Excess of expenditures	-3'259.43	-274'448.43
TOTAL DU PASSIF / TOTAL LIABILITIES	1'082'042.41	1'056'024.88

Genève, le 3 avril 2012 / Geneva, 3 April 2012



urgent interventions, either of a general nature (including economic, social and cultural rights) or on behalf of specific victims (children, women and human rights defenders).

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES ON 31 DECEMBER 2011
COMPTE DE RECETTES ET DEPENSES DE L'EXERCICE AU 31 DECEMBRE 2011

	ANNEE 2011 YEAR 2011
RECETTES/INCOME	2'432'719.53
Assistance d'urgence aux victimes de la torture / Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture	74'893.12
Droits de l'enfant / Children's Rights	50'500.00
Violence contre les femmes / Violence against Women	2'500.00
Défenseurs des droits de l'homme - Observatoire / Human Rights Defenders - Observatory	676'345.94
Campagnes d'urgence / Urgent Campaigns	0.00
Suivi des mécanismes de protection / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms	475'047.23
Division opérations (gestion) / Operations Division (management)	0.00
TOTAL DIVISION OPERATIONS / TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION	1'279'286.29
Droits économiques, sociaux et culturels / Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	0.00
Formation / Training	0.00
Division recherche & développement (gestion) / Research and Development Division (management)	0.00
TOTAL DIVISION RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT / TOTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	0.00
Division recherche de fonds & communication (gestion) / Fundraising and Communication Division (management)	0.00
TOTAL DIVISION RECHERCHE DE FONDS ET COMMUNICATION / TOTAL FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION	0.00
Cotisations des membres du réseau / Membership fees	3'323.90
Dons "Club des Cent" / Donation "Club des Cent"	170'000.00
Contributions privées / Private donations	371'730.66
Soirées - Mailings / Gala evenings - Mailings	44'993.96
Bulletins et produits divers / Bulletins and various donations	20'153.80
Subventions fédérales, cantonales, communales / Federal, cantonal, communal grants	169'600.00
Subventions gouvernementales européennes / Grants from European governments	15'000.00
Subventions de fondations et autres / Grants from foundations and others	358'630.92
TOTAL EXTENSION, DEVELOPPEMENT DU RESEAU, REPRESENTATION EN DEHORS DU SIEGE ET GESTION / TOTAL EXTENSIONS, DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK, REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE GENEVA HEADQUARTERS	1'153'433.24
DEPENSES/EXPENDITURES	-2'437'268.77
Assistance d'urgence aux victimes de la torture / Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture	122'102.09
Droits de l'enfant / Children's Rights	86'836.68
Violence contre les femmes / Violence against Women	4'726.53
Défenseurs des droits de l'homme - Observatoire / Human Rights Defenders - Observatory	966'075.68
Campagnes d'urgence / Urgent Campaigns	224'759.66
Suivi des mécanismes de protection / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms	460'363.21
Division opérations (gestion) / Operations Division (management)	3'280.37
TOTAL DIVISION OPERATIONS / TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION	1'868'144.22
Droits économiques, sociaux et culturels / Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	7'954.62
Formation / Training	26'225.62
Conférence et réunions statutaires / Conference and statutory meetings	13'332.20
Division recherche & développement (gestion) / Research and Development Division (management)	4'330.23
TOTAL DIVISION RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT / TOTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	51'842.67
Promotion	291'288.86
Communication	101'119.84
Division recherche de fonds & comm. (gestion) / Fundraising and Comm. Division (management)	34'137.99
TOTAL DIVISION RECHERCHE DE FONDS ET COMMUNICATION / TOTAL FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION	426'546.69
Extensions et développement du réseau / Extensions and development of the network	23'340.04
Représentation en dehors du siège / Representation outside Geneva Headquarters	18'313.94
Gestion / Management	49'081.21
TOTAL EXTENSION, DEVELOPPEMENT DU RESEAU, REPRESENTATION EN DEHORS DU SIEGE ET GESTION / TOTAL EXTENSIONS, DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK, REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE GENEVA HEADQUARTERS	90'735.19
RESULTAT AVANT INTERETS CREANCIERS ET AUTRES PRODUITS / RESULTS BEFORE CREDITORS INTERESTS AND OTHER INCOMES	-4'549.24
INTERETS CREANCIERS ET AUTRES PRODUITS / CREDITORS INTERESTS AND OTHER INCOMES	1'289.81
Intérêts créanciers / Creditors interests	441.39
Autres produits / Other incomes	848.42
EXCEDENT DES DEPENSES DE L'EXERCICE / EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES	-3'259.43

Genève, le 3 avril 2012 / Geneva, 3 April 2012

DONORS AND BODIES

Non-governmental grants

American Jewish World Service
Brot für die Welt
Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development
Fondation de la Banque Pictet
Oak Foundation

Government grants

Germany
Liechtenstein
Norway
Switzerland

Grants from international or intergovernmental organisations

European Commission
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Cantonal grants (Switzerland)

Geneva
Schwyz

Municipal grants (Switzerland)

Jussy
Geneva
Lausanne
Sion
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Others

SOS-Torture network membership fees
Private donations - Club des Cent

OMCT extends its sincere thanks to all the contributing individuals, institutions and governments for their support and generosity.

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Secretary-General (from 1 September 2011) Gerald Staberock

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Deputy Secretary-General (until 31 August 2011) Gerald Staberock

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Project Coordinator Gabriele Reiter
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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Human Rights Defenders/ Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Annual Report

- *Steadfast in Protest, Annual Report 2011 of the Observatory*, October 2011 (French, English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian).

Judicial observation missions reports

- *Syria: The Trial of Human Rights Lawyer Haytham Al-Maleh Before the Second Military Court of Damascus - February-July 2010*, February 2011 (French, English, Arabic).
- *France : Procès en appel d'André Barthélemy*, March 2011 (French).
- *Burundi : L'assassinat d'Ernest Manirumva, défenseur des droits de l'Homme: deux ans après, un déni de justice*, April 2011 (French).
- *République démocratique du Congo : rapport de mission internationale d'observation judiciaire du procès des assassins présumés des défenseurs des droits de l'Homme Floribert Chebeya et Fidèle Bazana*, June 2011 (French).
- *Russian Federation : Trial against human rights defender Aleksei Sokolov*, July 2011 (English).

Fact-finding missions reports

- *The Gambia : Climate of fear amongst the community of human rights defenders*, July 2011 (French, English).
- *Nicaragua : Violaciones en contra de los defensores de derechos humanos en un contexto de polarización política frente a las elecciones*, November 2011 (Spanish).

Monitoring Protection Mechanisms

UN Committee against Torture

- *Informe de Seguimiento a las Recomendaciones del Comité contra la Tortura las Naciones Unidas en Colombia*, August 2011 (Spanish).
- *Evaluation de la mise en oeuvre de la Convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants par le Maroc*, November 2011 (French).
- *State Violence in Greece*, November 2011 (English).
- *Mise en œuvre de la Convention contre la torture et autres peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants par Madagascar*, November 2011 (French).

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

- *La Tortura Sexual de Mujeres en San Salvador Atenco, México : Cuatro Años y Medio Después*, January 2011 (Spanish).
- *The Case of the Women of San Salvador Atenco*, October 2011 (English).



Urgent assistance provided worldwide by OMCT in 2011



“ Help us to help victims of torture ”

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