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DAYS AGAINST TORTURE

25-26 JUNE, 2013

BENGHAZI, LIBYA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY IN
SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE ON THE 26TH OF JUNE

Public conference, street art, film screenings, concert, blogging, poetry night, and more...
At the Children's Theater - Fouahat - Benghazi



CONTEXT

The General Assembly of the United Nations has named June 26th the **International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**, in view of the total elimination of torture and ill-treatment, and the effective application of the Convention Against Torture, which entered into force on June 26, 1987. In the preamble, the Convention recognizes that equal and inalienable rights are the rights of all individuals and are the foundation of freedom and peace in the world. In this spirit, on this day, we celebrate the right of every Libyan to preserve his or her dignity.

Libya is committed to respecting human rights, including the Convention Against Torture, to which it acceded in 1989. In the wake of the February 17th Revolution, now is the time for Libya to discuss accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture, which would further guide Libya in the establishment of national mechanisms to prevent torture. **Reducing violence and establishing effective preventive mechanisms are indispensable to a successful democratic transition. Making this happen demands a break with the past and the systematic abuses practiced by the Qaddafi regime.** The Libyan state has been assigned to restore the confidence of the Libyan people in the rule of law by means of independent and impartial investigations into cases of torture and ill-treatment that occurred before the February 17th Revolution, which sang out for freedom and justice. In a good first step, in April this year, the General National Congress adopted a law criminalizing torture, enforced disappearance, and discrimination, and Libyan civil society is committed to monitoring the implementation of the new law.

But there is still a lot to do. June 26th reminds us that all victims of torture and ill-treatment have the right to redress and compensation, regardless of the period and circumstances in which they were abused. **And we must draw force from the past to master our future and to prevent the recurrence of abuses.** Today, we stand united to support all victims of violence and to continue the march toward a Libya where every man, woman, and child can live in total security and dignity.



© Willis from Tunis

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH

10 am – 1 pm: Round-table – “No to torture inside jails”

Proposed by the Victims Organization for Human Rights, with the cooperation of the World Organization Against Torture, under the name ‘No to torture inside jails’, this round-table will discuss important subjects such as the position of Islam towards the phenomenon of torture, the role of media in the fight against torture, and the situation in Libya before and after the February 17th Revolution.

Film screenings – in cooperation with the Tripoli Human Rights Film Festival

4 pm: “The Forgotten” – Carles Caparrós, 2010, Spain



In the Western world, mental illnesses are considered diseases; in a number of African countries, psychological problems are often seen as a sign of being possessed by the devil. Marked individuals are bound in chains and excluded from mainstream society. The protagonist of this film is the charismatic Gregoire, who runs a network of centres that care for the mentally ill and homeless in the Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. In an environment where medical care is only available to those who can pay, his centres are the only hope for these people. “The Forgotten” is about the importance of human dignity amid poverty and ruin. 57 minutes.

5:30 pm – 7 pm: Concert – Songs celebrating the February 17th Revolution and the city of Benghazi



Malik L
DJ Ezoo
Mohammed Busaifi
Volcano & Black Tiger

8 pm: “Burma VJ” – Anders Østergaard, 2009, Denmark



“Burma VJ” reveals the incredible bravery of Burmese video journalists during the uprising of September 2007 against the military junta ruling the country. Going beyond the occasional news clip from Burma, “Burma VJ” brings us close to Burma’s video journalists who insist on keeping up the flow of news from their closed country despite risking torture and life in jail. Armed with small handycams they make their undercover reportages, smuggle the material out of the country, have it broadcast back into Burma via satellite and offered as free usage for international media. 80 minutes.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH

9 am – 6:30 pm: Public Conference – “Drawing force from the past to master our future” – in cooperation with the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights in Benghazi

This day-long conference aims to expose the past, present, and future of the fight against torture in Libya, focusing on issues of collective trauma and transitional justice. The first session will recall abuses of the Qaddafi regime before the February 17th Revolution and strategies employed to protect victims, e.g., complaints filed with the UN Human Rights Committee against the old regime for the prison massacre of Abu Salim in 1996. Then, Libyan civil society stakeholders from across the country will share their views on the current situation and practices of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance. Finally, the president of the Tunisian Organization Against Torture will present international and regional standards against torture and discuss the rights of detainees, and will ask what Libya and Libyans can do in the future to construct safe communities guided by the rule of law.

1 pm: Inauguration of ‘Graffiti against torture’ – a mural made by Benghazi and Tunisian artists, in cooperation with the Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean

This mural will be the result of a creative workshop with Benghazi youth and the participation of three Tunisian artists – **Willis from Tunis** and two graffiti artists from the **Zwewla** group – as well as two graffiti artists from Benghazi, **Hamzawi** and **Nadeer**.

Meeting point at the wall of the Al Fadeel militia.

7 pm – 9 pm: Poetry night

During all events, check out live coverage by bloggers of “Libyablog”: follow **#SOSTorture** and <http://libyablog.org> – in cooperation with “RFI – Atelier des Médias”

PARTNERS



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Conseil Culturel
de
l'Union pour la Méditerranée

Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean

Created by France in 2008, it aims to promote the cultural dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean, through cultural and artistic projects.

www.conseilculturel-upm.gouv.fr



مهرجان طرابلس لأفلام حقوق الإنسان
Tripoli Human Rights Film Festival

Tripoli Human Rights Film Festival

Organized for the first time in November 2012, this film festival was initiated by the National Awareness Movement and sponsored by Amnesty International's "Movies that Matter" Foundation.

<http://www.nam.org.ly/tripolihrrff/index.php>



RFI – Atelier des Médias

'Media Workshop' is a participatory radio program and a website of Radio France International (RFI). In Libya, they created, in cooperation with the France 24 program 'The Observers', a blog platform called 'Libyablog', giving Libyan bloggers the opportunity to be trained and to have their own blogs hosted online.

<http://libyablog.org/>

<http://atelier.rfi.fr/>



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