

2014 Annual Report

World Organisation Against Torture

**Nothing
can justify
torture
under any circumstances**

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The 30th anniversary of the signing of the Convention against Torture was celebrated in 2014, reminding us of the global consensus that resulted in an agreement between Governments on the prohibition of this grave crime and indignity, and mobilizing activists around the world to denounce violations and hold States accountable.

Today more than ever, it is crucial to maintain and increase this momentum, and confront each and every obstacle thrown in the path of the eradication of torture. Indeed, despite this broad consensus, torture and its many manifestations persist, not only under authoritarian regimes, but also in democratic states.

In authoritarian countries, torture is still used systematically to identify and neutralize political opponents. In many democratic countries, it is still seen in the eyes of the police forces as a legitimate form of collecting confessions for criminal acts. Without making its eradication a priority, these Governments justify this by claiming that it takes time to achieve a change in mentality. In yet other contexts, members of communities protesting against the confiscation of their lands and resources without compensation for the sake of “economic development” have experienced torture. And the situation is worse yet with the spread of terrorism: the Islamic State tortures and executes innocents, and even films these horrors to terrorize populations and expand its power. The countries attacked by this, in turn, who had banned torture, are once again resorting to it, supposedly, in order to protect themselves.

Endorsing this reality, the Governments that mobilise sufficiently in favour of respect for the Convention are too few indeed. Many others do not support it sufficiently either because they themselves still engage in torture, or because they are anxious not to jeopardize their economic interests by denouncing those who practice it, and yet others have lost credibility because of security policies developed after September 11 or similar terrorist attacks, or in the face of an influx of migrants and asylum seekers. In addition, public opinion has not been adequately mobilised against it. Maybe because the general public has become resigned, or perhaps because it has come to tolerate torture as a necessary evil to ensure public safety.

Cause for despair? Yes... But no. Because everywhere in the world, human rights defenders act against this injustice, often risking their own lives.

Working alone or gathered in associations (civil society organisations, CSOs, or non-governmental organisations, NGOs), they confront State power to prevent torture, to remind States of their obligations under the Convention, and to hold them accountable for fulfilling them; but they also work with Governments to train police officers, judges, and other public officials on the principles of the Convention and its requirements in their respective fields of work. In each country, these organisations denounce cases of torture and other ill treatment, educate the public to oppose it, and provide assistance to victims, whether it be medical, legal, psychological or socio-economic.

The OMCT is proud to be a part of and to support these activists and the more than 200 civil society organisations gathered within our SOS-Torture Network. As evidence of their effectiveness, they are increasingly coming under direct attack, a case in point being that of Leyla Yunus, Member of our OMCT General Assembly, who has been harassed, imprisoned and tortured in response to her work against torture in Azerbaijan.

We cannot accept the trivialisation of torture. We cannot accept the tolerance of torture, anywhere, at any time. It is in total contradiction of our human dignity, which is fundamental to respect for all persons and for our ability to live together. The OMCT will therefore continue to work, on the front lines with all partner organisations and movements, to denounce torture everywhere, to support victims, to push States for reforms that aim to eradicate torture, and to strengthen the global rejection and repudiation of torture among the general public.

Yves Berthelot
OMCT President

Word from the Secretary General MOBILIZING AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE AGAINST TORTURE



In December 2014 the international community celebrated the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture, the universal landmark that created a blueprint against torture in the midst of the Cold War.

Often I am asked in this context: are we making progress, are we doing the right thing?

There is little doubt that globally 2014 was a difficult year – with setbacks too numerous and victories too few. No doubt we are living in a politically increasingly divisive world. But still, we are making progress. Any annual reflection should, by its very nature, be a reflection on how 2014 added to or took away from the progress achieved in previous years, in struggles taking place in all corners of the world.

What makes the struggle against torture today so much more powerful is an anti-torture movement that is global. This was not so in 1985, when the OMCT was established. The OMCT's founding ambition of giving a voice to local anti-torture organisations has come a long way – in particular through the diverse but coordinated activities of our SOS-Torture Network. Today, these organisations are carrying the call against torture to every corner of the world. It is their struggle that needs to be supported and reinforced.

And new organisations are joining. Over the last three years the OMCT pioneered anti-torture work with an office in Tripoli providing training, mentoring and helping to create the first Libyan legal aid and defenders network to work against torture in very difficult circumstances. The situation in Libya may be dire, but it is those actors that are the best investment in the country's future, and their work will require our continuous support whether working within or outside Libya.

States carry the responsibility of implementing the Convention. But its implementation is illusory without local groups documenting and reporting on torture, assisting victims, providing expertise on anti-torture reforms, and holding States to account. This is why we have advanced our support to civil society in 2014. The OMCT is today, at the request of the UN, the formal coordinator of civil society engagement with the UN Committee against Torture, the main universal body overseeing the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture.

The results are promising. Last year, the OMCT coordinated the activities of more than 100 national and local civil society organisations with the sessions of Committee against Torture, and new communication tools made the proceedings of those sessions known nationally and locally. This resulted in the Committee taking up scores of recommendations in its concluding observations almost directly from strong alternative reports submitted by the OMCT with civil society partners – a victory at the international level they can take home to strengthen their national advocacy. It is on this basis that the OMCT, the members of SOS-Torture Network and other partners have been engaging governments on their implementation of the recommendations.

In the multiple struggles that we are involved in, there were other important victories, modest, but sustainable and impactful – victories that the OMCT contributed to and shared with its diverse peers in the global movement against torture.

And in the multiple struggles that we are involved in, there were other important victories, modest, but sustainable and impactful – victories that the OMCT contributed to and shared with its diverse peers in the global movement against torture:

- Children suffering inhumane conditions in prisons were freed, and those responsible for violations are being held to account; two entire prisons were permanently closed (in the Philippines and Uruguay).
- Interventions for the protection of over 300 human rights defenders subject to attacks have resulted in numerous improvements of their situations, including the dropping of charges, defenders being released from detention or confinement. This clear impact can be illustrated by cases such as those of Ruki Fernando in Sri Lanka, Vann Sophath in Cambodia, Pierre Claver in Burundi, and Pinar Selek in Turkey.

- New civil-society coalitions were formed and strengthened, and the OMCT commitment to work on a longer-term basis on focus countries is showing results with anti-torture legislation being actively proposed or enacted;

- And more than 200 victims of torture received direct assistance (medical, legal, social), or a combination of these, many reporting it was the first assistance since their torture, and more than 50 defenders under duress received legal, medical support or were relocated into safety.

The OMCT was not alone responsible for these victories. The vast majority of these achievements, including preventive actions taken by states, justice prevailing for victims, laws passed and implemented, authors of violations convicted, can only rightly be accomplished when networks of human rights organisations and defenders work in concert to call for justice, to push for new legislation, to demand protection, and to promote the realization of rights.

The conclusion from the above is that human rights gains are not possible without global networks, without solidarity, and without sustained, supportive relationships. It is this very conclusion that I call your attention to as you browse the work of the OMCT in this report during the past year. Most of what we have accomplished and is described in this report would not have been possible without the courage of individual human rights defenders or partner organisations with whom we work.

I therefore extend our thanks to all of you – defenders and human rights workers worldwide. I am grateful to all of our organisations and members in the OMCT SOS-Torture Network, with whom we have shared struggles, endured defeats, and celebrated victories for human rights during the past years. Sadly, we know that this struggle can be costly. Leyla Yunus, member of our General Assembly, is today in prison in Azerbaijan for no other reason but holding her government responsible to the very standards it had voluntarily signed up to. She is one of the many defenders working on torture facing threats today. Standing side by side with defenders working on torture, too, is a core responsibility of any global anti-torture network.

I am especially grateful to our private and institutional donors and supporters — choosing to support our work is choosing to be party to a long, difficult, but ultimately extremely rewarding struggle. Your work with us is highly appreciated, and indispensable.

I personally would like to thank the OMCT Staff in Geneva, Tunisia, Tripoli and Brussels, who bring so much to the organisation, and who share our principles of solidarity in diversity as we work through cases and problems on a daily basis. And on all of our behalf, I extend our profound gratitude to the distinguished members of the OMCT General Assembly and our Executive Council, for their vision, guidance, wisdom, and direct engagement in and contributions to the anti-torture movement. Finally, I am grateful to our volunteers, interns who give their time, creativity, and energy to work and learn with us.

Reflecting on all we have done last year, we want in 2015 to re-energize the OMCT in its role as member and hub of a network, a constellation of lights in the brutal darkness of torture, disappearance, executions, and ill treatment. Next year the OMCT will complete its own 30th year anniversary.

I am looking forward to celebrating it together, with you, our members, our donors, our staff, our volunteers, and the many people whose rights we believe in, promote, and struggle for day after day, and year after year.

Thank you.

Gerald Staberock
Secretary-General

STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY WORK AGAINST TORTURE AND ILL TREATMENT

LAUNCH OF THE OMCT CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVE BRINGING THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE HOME

Support to more than 100 civil society representatives attending the state reviews by the Committee Against Torture.

Supporting physical attendance of NGOs, organising pre-briefings on how to use the CAT and mentoring on their participation in the formal sessions.

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture – the principal global document in the fight against torture - the OMCT launched a global civil society initiative to reinforce the use of the Convention to eradicate torture.

Greater mobilization of civil society groups and the SOS-Torture Network on the Convention and access and effective participation in the review process of the Committee is critical, as it can mean the difference between 'just another low-impact international review' and the implementation of real anti-torture reforms.

A number of factors make it difficult to participate – the Committee meets in Geneva, it has strict rules and procedures for participation, and it does not automatically draw massive media attention in the State under review, and civil society itself may be intimidated to participate or sufficiently aware of how to use the process effectively.

At the request of the Committee and the SOS-Torture Network the OMCT has taken up the role as **civil society coordinator** for organisations participating in the review sessions of the Committee against Torture, which take place for all States every four years.

In its role the OMCT works to ensure civil society participation and maximize its impact, as well as draw greater attention to their State's Review – both by human rights advocates and the mainstream media and public in the target country. The OMCT has achieved progress toward mobilizing civil society through four strategies:

- Enabling access of local anti-torture organisations to participate in the sessions of the Committee, mentoring and advising more than 100 civil society representatives in how to use the process with success;
- Providing 8 authoritative reports on the practice of torture jointly with OMCT members securing real life recommendations reflecting needed reforms;

- Developing innovative communication tools giving visibility to the proceedings at home and providing information to organisations wishing to engage with the Committee; and,

- Supporting systematic domestic follow-up to turn recommendations into reforms through advocacy and high-level follow-up missions.

The results from these efforts in 2014 are compelling, and were recognized by the Chairperson of the UN Committee Against Torture itself:

"This initiative could hardly be more timely. It comes as the international community is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention Against Torture. This anniversary reminds us that torture remains a reality in today's world and calls us all to re-energize our efforts to turn commitment into reality and eradicate torture."

Claudio Grossman, Chairperson of the UN Committee Against Torture.

NEW AND INNOVATIVE VISIBILITY TO THE COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE PROCEEDINGS:

Domestic screenings of the public sessions of the Committee to raise awareness and involvement on the ground by activists, lawyers and journalists invited to watch, debate and exchange on the deliberations in Geneva.

A blog dedicated to the Committee's work, "Nothing can justify torture, engaging with the Committee against Torture" (<http://blog.omct.org/documentary-engagement-civil-society-organisations-reporting-process-un-committee-torture/>) and live tweets on CAT sessions, which further expand the reach of the Committee's recommendations, strengthening the hand of civil society organisations, experts, and national stakeholders to fight for the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture.

Informational documentaries such as "the Engagement of CSOs in the reporting process of the UN Committee against Torture" (<http://blog.omct.org>) filmed during the 53rd session of the Convention, which illustrate the critical role of civil society at different stages of the State review process, helping to bring it home for these advocates – how to build coalitions, how to target advocacy, and how to follow-up on recommendations to hold States to implementation of the Concluding Observations.

A regular **e-bulletin after every Committee session** on the main CAT findings for civil society, state officials, and anti-torture bodies.

5 authoritative country reports submitted to the Committee against Torture resulting in more than 50 recommendations based on our reports

- Venezuela: on the implementation of the Convention, in collaboration with El Comité de Familiares de las Víctimas de los sucesos ocurridos entre el 27 de febrero y los primeros días de marzo de 1989 (COFAVIC)
- Holy See: Submission for its Universal Periodic Review, on sexual abuse of children by Catholic Clerics as a Form of Torture or Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment, jointly with the CRIN
- Uruguay: Joint Alternative Report on the situation of torture in Uruguay, jointly with IELSUR
- USA: Rendered Silent: Ongoing violations arising from the denial of "High Value Detainees'" right to complain of torture and other ill treatment, jointly with Redress and ICJ
- USA: The United States' Abortion Restrictions on Foreign Assistance Deny Safe Abortion Services to Women and Girls Raped in Armed Conflict, jointly with Global Justice Centre

3 contributions to the list of issues for the State parties under review triggering the drafting of questions to states on the basis of the real problems in the country

- Togo: Issues Prior to Reporting, drafted in collaboration with CACIT, ACAT-Togo and FIACAT
- Venezuela: Issues of the Periodic Report to CAT, in collaboration with COFAVIC
- Paper on non-refoulement (Art3 of the Convention) submitted at the occasion of the CAT's annual meeting with NGO at its 52nd Session

6 follow-up actions on the implementation of OMCT individual complaints

- To the UN Human Rights Committee against Cameroon, Greece, Ivory Coast, South Africa
- To the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) against Tunisia
- One legal opinion and 1 policy paper submitted triggering domestic implementation and better protection by the CAT
- Submission in support of an amicus curiae by the CCJ to the Colombian Constitutional Court on the definition of torture in the Penal Code, in partnership with a member of the SOS-Torture Network

1 preparatory field mission in Venezuela building a coalition to present information to CAT

- 1 two-day workshop (3-4 September in Caracas) on the UN Treaty Bodies, State reporting to the CAT, and engagement of CSOs, with 19 participants from Venezuelan CSOs
- invitation of two representatives of Venezuelan NGOs to the 53rd CAT session

Mission to Guatemala engaging the government on CAT reforms on the highest level

- One high-level mission with the support of UDEFEGUA engaging the authorities on implementation of the Committee against Torture's recommendations, and creation of a civil society platform against torture

STRENGTHENING ADVOCACY WORK AGAINST TORTURE AND ILL TREATMENT



FOSTERING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION IN SIX FOCUS COUNTRIES

Defining countries of action

The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was a landmark, but to win sustainable gains against torture at the national level, the key factor in today's human rights struggle is the strategic and sustained engagement of civil society seeking policy change domestically. In 2014 the OMCT launched an additional project to engage in a three year effort to secure the domestic implementation of the Convention against Torture in six focus countries (Pakistan, Ivory Cost, Colombia, Mexico, Togo, Bangladesh). Our work in most of these countries has already begun to achieve visibility for the struggle toward implementation and accountability of the Convention.

Pakistan

Pakistan ratified the Convention in 2010, but has never reported to the Committee. In 2014 the OMCT undertook a mission to work with its partner, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), organising **two national consultations on the implementation of the Convention, launching campaign actions for UN Day Against Torture (26 June), and holding strategic meetings with civil society networks**, in Islamabad and Karachi – all aimed at mobilising civil society organisations' advocacy to engage Pakistan to submit its first report to the Committee and incorporate the Convention into national law.

The outcomes of this intensive work included a broad CSO consensus on a set of recommendations to civil society, the media, government and parliament to: build an anti-torture coalition; push the state to Report to the UN Committee against Torture; call for the improvement of trainings for police officers; ensure the safety of journalists and human rights activists; establish an inquiry commission on accusations of custodial torture, killings and disappearances; promote

knowledge-sharing on human rights and the prohibition of torture in schools; adopt a draft anti-torture law and introduce a prohibition of torture into the penal code; introduce new means of investigations into the criminal procedure; and to establish rehabilitation centers for torture victims.

Results: These activities attracted extensive media coverage in Pakistan, thus raising awareness on the struggle against torture with a broader national audience, and achieving a stronger consensus within civil society on key reform demands. The OMCT also received government assurances that a report to the CAT will be submitted in 2015.

Ivory Cost

Ivory Coast ratified the Convention Against Torture in 1995, but has never reported to the Committee. In 2014 the OMCT undertook a mission to work with its partner, Mouvement Ivoirien des Droits Humains (MIDH), to improve the situation on the ground related to torture, including the legal incorporation of the Convention, achievement of a broader consensus on the need to redress torture, and improvement of the capacity to provide specialized expertise and support to victims of torture.

The mission was led by OMCT President Yves Berthelot, a member of its Executive Council, Mokhtar Trifi, and its Deputy Secretary General, Anne-Laurence Lacroix. In the context of this work, the OMCT and its partner MIDH co-organised a National Consultation on the prevention and eradication of torture in December 2014, and then took the conclusions and findings from this consultation into advocacy meetings with the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Public Freedoms and the Vice President of the National Assembly to insist on the necessity to criminalise torture in their national penal code and to submit their initial State report to the UN Committee against Torture.

Results: A coalition was built between national anti-torture civil society organisations, already generating impactful national advocacy by Ivorian civil society; a working group on torture and detention in Ivory Coast was established; and then specific recommendations on legal reforms were pushed forward through these coordinated civil society engagements – one on the need to criminalise torture in the Ivorian criminal code, and another on the need to submit an initial report to the Committee on its progress. The OMCT and MIDH received a commitment by the authorities in high-level meetings during its visit on the governments' willingness to work with the OMCT on legal reforms incorporating the UN Convention against Torture.

Colombia

Colombia ratified the Convention in 1987, and has reported regularly to the Committee, but compliance with repeated recommendations has been slow to achieve, and impunity is the norm. Therefore the OMCT, with its partners the Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ) and the Colombian Coalition against Torture (CCCT), coordinated their engagement at all levels to seek more concrete measures for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee. In August of 2014 the OMCT carried out a mission to Colombia led by Eric Sottas, former OMCT Secretary General.

The mission and actions coordinated around it included: international advocacy for key policy and legislative reforms; two large strategy gatherings with national civil society organisations to coordinate national advocacy prior to the Committee's review of Colombia foreseen for April 2015; a key presentation on the "Istanbul Protocol for the investigation and documentation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" attended by more than 100 officers of the Institute of Legal Medicine (ILM) and other governmental bodies; and two long-overdue prison visits – to the High Security Penitentiary of Valledupar "La Tramacúa" (Cesar department) and the Penitentiary and Prison Complex of Ibagué "Picaleña, Coiba" (Tolima department).

Results: For the OMCT's work on Colombia, an important achievement was the authorisation to undertake, and the undertaking of the visits to these two notorious prisons (the OMCT's prior requests for authorisation for the visits had been denied). The findings of the visits were then used directly in the preparation of an evidence-based alternative report for the Review of the Committee. In addition, the OMCT's actions revitalised and further reinforced the networks of anti-torture organisations in Colombia, including for members of the SOS-Torture Network that are not part of the CCCT.

Mexico

Mexico ratified the Convention in 1986, and has reported regularly to the Committee. But torture remains widespread as the OMCT had documented with its network members for many years, and as has recently been recognized by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Méndez. The OMCT and the Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) therefore launched efforts to coordinate national and international advocacy for the better implementation of the Committee's recommendations.

In 2014, a series of coordinated actions were built around a mission carried out by OMCT in October to Mexico City and Querétaro State, and included: meetings with high ranking officials of the Attorney General's Office; organisation of a civil society strategy meeting in Mexico City on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee bringing together the main national organisations in-

involved in the fight against torture, including key grassroots organisations from several regions; a workshop for officials of the General Attorney's Office (PGR) to strengthen investigation torture prosecutions; and the agreement of action plans and policy priorities for the OMCT's continued work on Mexico.

Results: The OMCT's coordinated series of actions resulted in the compilation of common strategies for more effective advocacy, as well as the formation of an informal platform of NGOs fighting torture – both with a view to ensuring coordinated follow-up on the recommendations of the Committee against Torture. It also contributed to innovative, media-oriented mechanisms for tracking implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, increasing the public visibility of the progress in complying with the Convention. And finally, the workshop with the Attorney General's office opened a dialogue on the systemic problem of impunity in Mexico to be resumed in subsequent missions.

Togo

Togo ratified the UN Convention against Torture in 1987, and it engages formally in the reporting process with the UN Committee; however, torture and impunity continue as a systematic practice. In 2014, in close partnership with the Togolese organisation Collectif des Associations contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT) and ACAT Togo, the OMCT's Deputy Secretary General Anne-Laurence Lacroix and former prison doctor, forensic medical examiner and current President of the Swiss National Prevention Mechanism (MNP), Dr Jean Pierre Restellini, coordinated a mission to Togo for an advocacy push, training and awareness building activities, and coalition-building to drive engagement of civil society to implement the recommendations to Togo by the Committee against Torture.

The mission included two prison visits as well as a civil-society-wide joint assessment of the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee Against Torture during the 2012 examination; **meetings with the Togolese authorities**, including the Minister of human Rights and the Consolidation of Democracy, in charge of the implementation; and organisation, with CACIT and Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture in Togo (ACAT Togo) of a workshop on the identification and psycho-medical care of torture victims, targeting the members of the National Union of Togo Hospital Practitioners (SYNPHOT).

Results: The work of the OMCT and its Togolese partners achieved a high level of media presence in Togo, including a popular radio show and a Press Conference, and was thus able to raise public awareness on prison conditions and the slow implementation of the Committee's previous recommendations. Visibility of the need for medical support to victims of torture was increased among health practitioners, and there was a strong response by journalists to pay particular and more sustained attention to Togo's obligations to take clear actions against torture.

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND ILL TREATMENT

PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TORTURE

Today, the OMCT is the only international non-governmental organisation that provides urgent assistance directly to the women, men and children who are victims of torture through a global fund for victims, providing assistance where others do not or cannot. Thanks to the SOS-Torture Network, the OMCT is able to identify and verify requests for urgent assistance and to provide – quickly and efficiently – the necessary help. Since 2004, the OMCT's fund has provided assistance for 1242 victims in cases where such help would have otherwise been inaccessible.

More recently the OMCT has taken this one step further, not only providing assistance to victims through general financial aid but also through establishing two Rehabilitation Centres in Tunisia called Sanad Centres. Those centres enabled over 80 victims of torture to access legal aid, socio-medical assistance, and legal assistance in more than 50 lawsuits.

Providing wide range of support to victims worldwide

In 2014, the OMCT assisted 124 victims through its emergency assistance funds, in 17 countries: *Algeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Libya, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Palestine, Republic of the Congo, Russia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Togo and Uruguay*), 41 of which were individual cases and 6 of which were collective cases.

As victims of torture suffer complex trauma, the OMCT often **provides multifaceted assistance combining medical, legal and socio-economic assistance. Indeed to enable rehabilitation of victims**, we provide support through:

- Covering health care costs to restore physical and psychological well being;
- Ensuring protection and/or relocation to ensure their safety;
- Providing legal assistance to seek justice and reparation;
- Covering basic living costs to facilitate rehabilitation and reintegration; and,
- Engaging in timely and effective **follow-up on victims' cases**, through direct contact with victims or their legal representatives and SOS-Torture Network partners.

Filling in where specific demands exceed the means provided internationally:

The example of victims of torture and war refugees in Turkey

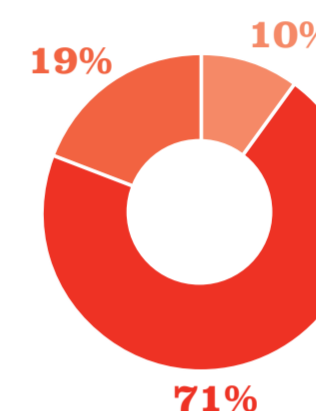
The demand for victim support is overwhelming and far exceeds the assistance available internationally. For example, more than two million people have taken refuge in Turkey since the beginning of the war in Syria. These refugees face highly adverse and traumatic living conditions, often without access to basic rehabilitation support. The OMCT has been supporting its member organisation SOHRAM-CASRA in Diyarbakir to provide support to the reintegration of victims of torture, violence and refugees of war. This support is individual and concrete. One typical example is that of a Syrian national from Aleppo who was arrested and tortured by armed militias. Through its emergency assistance fund, the OMCT covered the required medical costs as well as the costs of psychological assistance, which allowed the victim to gradually recover, both physically and psychologically.

Yavuz Binbay, President of SOHRAM-CASRA expressed its gratitude and the importance of the Fund: "It is because of the support of OMCT that SOHRAM-CASRA could bring on site substantial assistance to many victims of torture and war. Thanks to this support, over the years, we have managed to ensure the continuity of our operations and to reduce the suffering of thousands of victims of torture and conflict. The OMCT's funds are very important and represent an essential source for our centre to continue to provide treatment services to victims of torture and war."

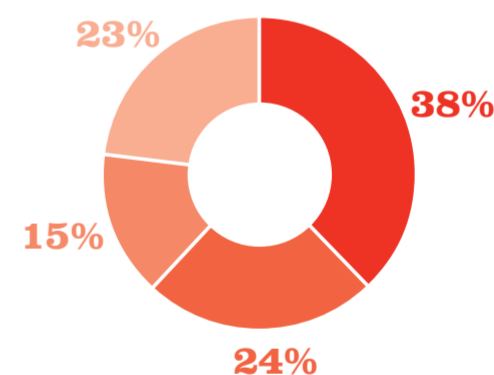
Supporting women victims of sexual violence in DRC

In 2014, the OMCT has supported the construction of a "Women's House" in Goma, DRC, by the local NGO "Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles – SFVS", a member of the SOS-Torture Network based in Goma, to support victims of sexual violence and provide them with temporary accommodation during their convalescence or during family mediation. In February 2014, OMCT Staff visited the DRC to see the facilities and evaluate the progress made.

124 VICTIMS ASSISTED



TYPE OF ASSISTANCE



- medical assistance
- social assistance
- legal assistance
- multifaceted assistance

NEW EDITION OF THE HANDBOOK ON VICTIMS REMEDIES



Seeking justice for torture victims is always an uphill battle because torture is practiced in secret and providing evidence is an overwhelming challenge. Too many cannot and do not pursue it. For others, international remedies are often the only and last resort.

The OMCT has built extensive expertise over the years in seeking justice and reparation for victims. In 2014 the OMCT launched the 2nd edition of its landmark publication - the "Handbook Series on Torture Remedies". As a publication, it can only be as effective as those who use it, which is why the OMCT specifically worked to make it a key tool for litigation of the SOS-Torture Network members around the world, seeking to augment both their litigation and their victories – to provide relief to victims, and to end the impunity of the authors.

In a global effort to secure justice for a diversity of victims, Volume 4, the Handbook on the Individual Complaints Procedures of the UN Treaty Bodies, is now available in five languages: French, English, Spanish, Arabic, and Russian.

(Link: <http://www.omct.org/monitoring-protection-mechanisms/reports-and-publications/2014/11/d22956/>)

DENOUNCING ABUSES AGAINST CHILDREN FOCUSING ON THOSE DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

Children deprived of liberty are particularly vulnerable to torture and violence, with impunity being the rule rather than the exception. Insufficient attention to their plight in detention and the call to be tough on juvenile delinquents has led to abusive policies in many countries around the world.

Through its Child Rights Programme the OMCT seeks to improve the protection of children deprived of liberty. Global advocacy on child rights protection is complemented by specific initiatives helping children suffering from ill treatment in Uruguay, Benin, the Philippines, and Brazil. Our work has reduced abuse through establishing systems of civil society monitoring of places of juvenile detention, through high-impact advocacy on legal and policy reforms for better protection, and by strengthening local protection capacities.

IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF CHILDREN IN DETENTION CENTRES IN FOUR FOCUS COUNTRIES

In 2014 the OMCT expanded its existing country projects in Benin, Uruguay and the Philippines with a project in Brazil. The OMCT's Child Rights Programme Staff conducted visits to places of detention for children in the above-mentioned countries and in total over 300 children were interviewed.

Benin

Actions conducted in Benin

- 17 monitoring visits to juvenile detention facilities without prior notice, individual private interviews with detained children, advocacy meetings with the authorities;
- 1 two-day training for 30 police officers and gendarmes on child rights protection;
- 1 meeting for civil society groups working on protection of detained children;
- Advocacy and high-level engagement with the authorities on the adoption of the new Children's Code.

Achievements

- The OMCT and its member organisation Solidarity for Children in Africa and the World (*Enfants Solidaires d'Afrique et du Monde - ESAM*) protected children deprived of liberty through regular visits, successfully taking up cases of abuse with the authorities following its visits, and advocating for improved conditions of detention.
- The OMCT and ESAM successfully advocated for modifications of Benin's new Children's Code to improve protection of children.
- The OMCT and ESAM trained police officers and gendarmes on the limits of the use of force and the protection of children contributing to the understanding of the vulnerability of children and countering the acceptability of some forms of violence to 'educate children' in custody.
- The OMCT and ESAM organised a meeting of a civil society working group for the protection of children from torture, aiming at sharing experiences and building a more effective platform in support for children deprived of liberty.

Uruguay

Actions conducted in Uruguay

- 8 monitoring visits to juvenile detention facilities without prior notice and individual private interviews with detained children;
- 1 round-table discussion on the impact of judging children as adults;
- Advocacy meetings against the new law initiative to lower the age of criminal responsibility, in contradiction with international children's rights;
- 1 open letter to the President on changes in the Constitution that allow children to be tried as adults;
- 1 joint alternative report to the Committee against Torture;
- 1 statement on the adoption of the outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review on Uruguay;
- Provision of evidence in prosecutions of employees of juvenile detention centres for the violence perpetrated against children in those centres.

Achievements

- The OMCT and its member, the Institute of Legal and Social Studies (Instituto de Estudios Legales y Sociales - IELSUR) presented a joint alternative report to the Committee against Torture, denouncing violations endured by children deprived of liberty, resulting in key recommendations adopted by the Committee against Torture.
- The OMCT and IELSUR contributed to an intense advocacy campaign defeating a proposal in a constitutional referendum that would have lowered the age of criminal responsibility in contradiction with international children's rights.
- Eight prison officers were charged with violence against children deprived of liberty, and the Supreme Court issued an order that priority should be given to similar cases.

Brazil

Actions conducted in Brazil

- 2 visits to detention centres in the state of Espírito Santo.
- 1 visit to juvenile detention centre in Rio de Janeiro.

Achievements

In 2014, the OMCT, together with its member Justiça Global (JG), launched a new project to address violence against children deprived of liberty. By the end of 2014 we obtained access to undertake three visits to juvenile detention centres and to assess the situation of children deprived of liberty. A dialogue was started with the authorities on the effective implementation of recommendations from the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture. These visits and the engagement with the authorities will continue throughout 2015.

Philippines

Actions conducted in Philippines

- 13 monitoring visits to juvenile detention facilities;
- 35 detained children legally assisted and 28 of them released as a result;
- 1 media advocacy statement on the initiative to reduce age of criminal responsibility;
- Advocacy meetings against the new draft law to lower the age of criminal responsibility, in contradiction with international children's rights.

Achievements

In the Philippines, the OMCT and the Children's Legal Rights and Development Center (CLRDC), an OMCT partner, undertook 13 monitoring visits, and provided assistance to 35 children deprived of liberty, many receiving legal assistance to seek their release, and others receiving counselling and assistance for injuries from physical and other abuses. As a result, 28 children had been released from detention by the publication of this report.

Through this partnership, the CLRDC, provided direct legal assistance to children in conflict with the law, to facilitate their release and their reintegration into their communities and families. Also, with support from the OMCT, the CLRDC created support groups allowing these children to express themselves in a safe environment and to become advocates for children's rights.

ACTING GLOBALLY FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN

To advance the overall goals of the Child Rights Programme worldwide, the OMCT engaged in numerous additional activities during 2014:

- One joint alternative report to the UN Committee Against Torture on child sexual abuse in the Holy See, resulting in multiple recommendations on the prevention of abuse.
- One joint oral statement delivered during the 25th session of the Human Rights Council on Children and Armed Conflict and on Violence against Children.
- Participation and one statement submitted during the Global Consultation on the Right to Challenge the Lawfulness of Detention before Court.
- Organisation of one Discussion Panel on accelerating global efforts to end violence against children and one joint statement by the OMCT and Defence for Children International (DCI).
- Provision of expert advice to the Special Rapporteur on Torture for the preparation of his report on children and torture to be presented in 2016.
- Participation at the High Level Panel on the Rights of the Child at the UN General Assembly in New York.



Philippines -

SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND REINFORCING THEIR CAPACITIES

Every year, hundreds of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) are victims of threats and intimidation, smear campaigns, harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention, abuse and even murder in retaliation for their activities to promote and defend human rights.

In addition to these individual attacks against human rights defenders, there is a worrying and growing trend of laws restricting freedom of association currently being considered or already approved across the world. The treatment of HRDs is a strong indicator for the general HR situation: where the situation of defenders deteriorates, so does the broader situation of human rights in their countries, and vice versa.

In this context it is crucial to protect human rights defenders and their work on the ground, and to support them in their struggles.

AN EFFECTIVE URGENT RESPONSE FOR DEFENDERS IN NEED

As part of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (a long-term joint program between the OMCT and the International Federation for Human Rights (IFHR)), the OMCT continues to play a leading role in protecting human rights defenders under imminent threat and in setting a protection agenda at the global level.

In 2014, the OMCT intervened through **267 appeals, press releases or other statements in favour of 591 human rights defenders and 53 NGOs and other associations in 51 countries. These appeals are complemented by advocacy with international and regional protection bodies to take action on behalf of these defenders, and with decision makers and those who may have influence on them to improve the situation of human rights defenders. As a result, the OMCT contributed to achieving effective changes for many of them, including attraction of media attention, provision of critical support, or even their release and acquittal.**

"My family and defenders informed me of the statements that you recently made on behalf of my case, and for this reason I want to convey my sincerest thanks for the concerns you expressed, demanding that human rights and due process are respected in all corners of the world. The good offices of people and organisations like yours make it possible for the hope of a better world to continue to shine even in this darkness." - Damián Gallardo Martínez, Indigenous Rights Defender who was detained and tortured.

The OMCT also provided emergency assistance for 20 defenders and 5 NGOs from 11 countries, enabling them to secure their offices, access legal or medical support where needed, or receive assistance for relocation to safety, when their lives were at risk.

SETTING A PROTECTION AGENDA: SPECIAL FOCUS ON LAND RIGHTS DEFENDERS

As land rights defenders have increasingly become victims of unbridled development, the ground-breaking 2014 Annual Report of the Observatory carried out the first ever comprehensive global analysis of their situation.

Indeed, the tensions on land and natural resources have become extremely critical, and so any mobilisation to defend the economic, social and cultural rights of affected communities has become a high-risk activity. Ensuring the participation of these communities and respecting the work of human rights defenders are essential steps in preventing escalation of land disputes and putting an end to serious human rights violations. Between 2011 and 2014, the Observatory documented **43 assassinations of land rights defenders and the judicial harassment of 123 defenders**, sometimes together with their arbitrary detention. These figures only reflect a small fraction of the real picture worldwide, with Asia and Latin America being the most affected regions.

Illustrated by 74 case studies in 29 countries, the 2014 report kicks off an ambitious programme on land rights defenders by the Observatory: Cambodia was the first country engaged, with the release of a documentary film, an advocacy push in the country and internationally, and training seminars. In addition, a mission report on the situation of land rights defenders in the Philippines was initiated in 2014, as well as a report and a documentary on defenders in Guatemala (see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6PI7EjJfNk>).

DRC: SUPPORTING ADVOCACY WORK OF WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In 2014, the OMCT also continued close cooperation with *Synergie des femmes pour les victimes des violences sexuelles (SFVS)* in North and South Kivu, DRC.

A follow-up advocacy mission in Bukavu, Goma and Kinshasa was undertaken in February 2014, and two advocacy strategy meetings were organised with the 20 women human rights defenders who had previously been trained in use of international and regional human rights mechanisms to eliminate violence against women.

In addition, multiple advocacy meetings were held with various stakeholders including policymakers, NGOs and the legal community, thereby building grassroots popular support for eliminating violence against women.

With reinforced capacities and strategic thinking, this group of Women Human Rights Defenders achieved constructive dialogues with local and national authorities. As a result, the authorities and the governor of North Kivu suggested organising trimestral meetings with this Defenders group. At the provincial level, the authorities also promised to install the "l'Entité de liaison", a discussion forum between the ministries of justice and human rights, members of the security service, NGO representatives, and diplomats created by ministerial decree in 2009.



DRC -

Defend the defenders program Protection for land rights defenders in Cambodia

Over the last few years, the Cambodian Government has granted land concessions to private national and international companies at an alarming rate for agriculture, mining, and infrastructure development. Most of these lands were inhabited by **small-scale farmers and indigenous peoples, evicted and relocated**, often to areas without access to even basic services.

Human Rights Defenders and activists who engage in peaceful demonstrations in order to defend land rights and other fundamental human rights are frequently harassed and arrested in violation of international and domestic legal obligations. In addition, the Cambodian Prime Minister and government maintain a strong influence on the judiciary, thereby rendering the separation of power illusory, and cutting off hope for access to justice.

Against this background, the OMCT, together with its SOS-Torture Network Member the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights (CCHR) developed a comprehensive global strategy to address the human rights crisis in the country. The strategy included a fact-finding mission to Cambodia, audio-visual materials to raise awareness on the situation, advocacy activities at the national and international levels and capacity-building activities for Cambodian human rights defenders.

A two-day seminar in Phnom Penh on the protection of human rights defenders, was organised, focusing particularly on the Swiss and EU Guidelines, as well as on the establishment of an effective national human rights defenders network. The participants, civil society representatives, union leaders, and community activists adopted a resolution declaring their commitment to develop a solidarity network for human rights defenders. During the OMCT visit its legal advisor was granted access to the defenders in detention.

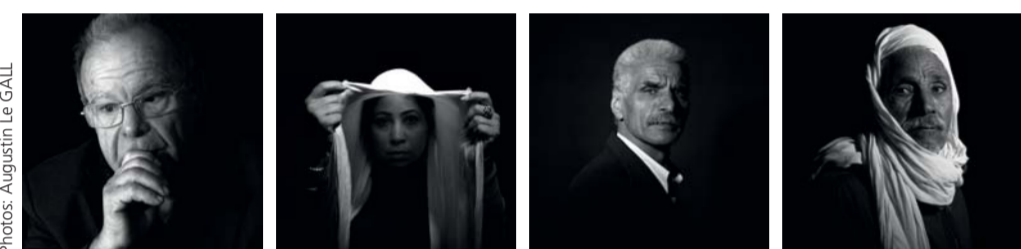
In parallel, a documentary called "The Rights of Others" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjkPaD4YaCg>), filmed by the Irish director Chris Kelly and produced by the OMCT, was screened in a cinema to raise awareness on the struggles of land rights defenders. Ms Tep Vanny, imprisoned in November 2014 after peaceful protests, is featured in the film, where she bears witness about her prison conditions and the support she has received from the OMCT. The documentary was also screened in the **Maison des Arts du Grütli in Geneva** in September 2014, together with a panel discussion, during which Ms Chhunly Chhay from the CCHR and Mr Am Sam Ath - featured in the documentary - denounced the worsening situation of human rights defenders in Cambodia, with dozens of them detained.

This deplorable situation has also been raised through a **CCHR and OMCT joint oral statement before the UN Human Rights Council**, after the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia delivered his annual report.

ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL OMCT PRESENCES

In 2011, the political transitions in the Arab region provided new opportunities, but also challenges, for human rights and the fight against torture in the region.

This led in 2011 to the opening, for the first time in the OMCT's history, of a field presence in Tunisia and in 2012, to a field presence in Tripoli with the objective to use the momentum of transition to embark on institutional and legal reforms for the prevention of torture, to ensure effective remedies and reparations for victims of torture, and to build local capacity in the fight against torture and ill treatment.



OMCT - Tunis, exhibition "Sous Le Jasmin"



OMCT - Tunis, graffiti workshop

OMCT ENGAGEMENT IN TUNISIA

In 2014 Tunisia adopted a new constitution, passed with a majority of 200 votes out of 216, including Article 23: "The state protects human dignity and physical integrity, and prohibits mental and physical torture. Crimes of torture are not subject to any statute of limitations." This was a major victory for human rights in Tunisia. Throughout 2014, the **OMCT Office in Tunis (OMCT-Tunis) engaged with parliament and relevant ministries in revising draft legislation** such as the draft counter-terrorism law, the criminal procedure code and the draft law establishing a National Human Rights Institution.

In February, five members of the parliamentary commission on rights and liberties together with representatives from the OMCT-Tunis travelled to Vienna to visit the Austrian Preventive Mechanism and to draw inspiration for the Tunisia model. Regrettably the commission constituting the Tunisian NPM did not see light until the end of 2014. However, in June, the OMCT, together with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Juan Mendez, the OHCHR and the ACAT co-organised a **roundtable discussion with Tunisian civil society partners to discuss access to justice, rehabilitation, and conditions of detention**. This broadened the consensus and energized work against torture in Tunisia.

Also during 2014, the Sanad Centres, established in Kef and Sidi Bouzid in partnership with the Organisation Against Torture in Tunis (OCTT), **provided over 80 victims of torture with access to legal aid, and facilitated support for socio-medical assistance**. Sanad submitted more than 50 lawsuits, of which the majority is at the stage of preliminary investigation. The OMCT organised two trainings for lawyers in Tunis and Sfax and hosted **workshops for legal professionals** (criminal police, prosecutor, investigative judges) in Tabarka and Sousse in 2014, en-

abling coordination which otherwise does not take place. The counselling centres Sanad and its personnel received **continuous coaching** in order to ensure comprehensive and tailor-made assistance for victims of torture and ill treatment.

On 26 June, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, the **exhibition "Sous Le Jasmin"** completed its one year national at the National Constituent Assembly in Tunis. The exhibition has toured all governorates of Tunisia and has been viewed by more than 14,000 Tunisians. It continues to be displayed at various events and cities within Tunisia and made its first international debut in Montreal/Canada in September. Several international venues are planned for 2015.

As part of its awareness-raising mission, the OMCT-Tunis regularly organises events throughout the year with Tunisian civil society. On the occasion of 26 June, the OMCT and partners screened a documentary, undertook a **peaceful march** to the former prison "9 avril", held candle light vigils and continued the display of "Sous le Jasmin", and organised a press conference on the administration of justice in Tunis.

Following incidents of disproportionate police violence against human rights activists and suspects of terrorism, the **OMCT co-organised a sit-in in front of the Ministry of Interior on 15 October 2014 calling security forces for the adherence with their code of conduct and the respect for human rights**. In the framework of December 10th, International Human Rights Day, the OMCT-Tunis and the then OMCT-Libya invited local activists and community-members to a **graffiti workshop** in a popular neighbourhood outside of Tunis. Libyan and Tunisian artists, as well as local youth, painted anti-torture graffiti messages and calls for peace in the Arab world on the side of a highly visible local theatre – always seeking to increase broad public attention to the struggle against torture.

THE OMCT OFFICE IN LIBYA

Supporting torture activists in crisis

Over the last three years the OMCT has played a major role supporting the creation of an anti-torture organisation in Libya. The record of these three years was impressive:

- Supported lawyers in over 200 cases of victims of torture and other forms of abuse;
- Secured the release of some 35 persons from detention;
- Contributed to the adoption of an anti-torture law;
- Undertook trainings for more than 100 activists and 50 law enforcement officials;
- And organised large-scale public awareness campaigns.

The political developments in Libya have become increasingly perilous. But it should not be forgotten that – helped by the OMCT's work there over the last years - there is today a Libyan human rights community that is willing to take on torture and other difficult issues, often at great risk – the Libyan Legal Aid Network, an organisation that emerged from OMCT training activities over the last three years. These are the key actors that require the anti-torture movement's continuous support.

Until mid-year 2014 the OMCT supported these groups through its presence on the ground. However, faced with the challenge of the civil war coming to Tripoli, the OMCT was forced to evacuate, along with most other international actors. This is seen as a major loss, but an OMCT legacy remains.

As one of the few actors who had built relationships on the ground we continued to support activists in Libya from our office in Tunis. We provided ongoing support to our partners working to protect individuals from torture within the country, and small grants to alleviate the plight of refugees and internally displaced communities, and protected defenders under imminent threat, including by supporting their relocation to Tunis when there was no other choice.

During the second part of 2014, our office in Tunis became a constant meeting space for human rights defenders and the Libyan Legal Aid Network. As part of its crisis response activities, the OMCT steered a process of reflection of how Libyan human rights defenders can address human rights issues in their country and coordinate more closely in case of imminent threats.

In November 2014 the OMCT conducted a workshop with Libyan human rights defenders in Tunis on the implementation of the Swiss Guidelines for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. The result of the workshop was the establishment, by our Libyan colleagues, of a human rights defenders protection network to collect information on threats, provide support and coordinate national and international advocacy. The workshop also demonstrated the strengths of the SOS-Torture Network, as the OMCT was able to draw on the expertise of member organisations having set up similar protection mechanisms in their countries.

The situation in Libya is dire. Any serious response must support civil society actors willing to continue their human rights work, even at great risk. While international pressure for a solution to the conflict remains vital, sustainable change can only come if there are Libyan actors who are willing to spearhead the case for human rights.

Libya remains at the heart of the OMCT's engagement in the MENA region.

Legal training and legal aid

- 100+ lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and jurists from Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata, and Sabha trained in the documentation of cases of torture and ill treatment through a 5-part workshop series.
- Mobilization of the Libyan Network for Legal Aid (LNLA), now an independent association.
- 200+ cases from across the country documented alongside LNLA and deposited with local prosecutors' offices.
- 35 prisoners released to date through direct advocacy.

Support to civil society

- 3 small grants projects designed and implemented with grassroots associations to build their organisational capacity and advance the fight against torture.
- Professionalization of the Libyan Network for Legal Aid through case management assistance and training.
- Weekly socio-legal clinics set up for detained migrants in two prisons with the Organisation for International Cooperation and Emergency Aid.
- Torture documentation units established for internally displaced persons in Janzour and Fellah camps with Al Rahma Association.

Awareness-raising

- 200+ Libyan youths empowered to speak out against violence through graffiti and music 'playsops' in Benghazi and Tripoli.
- More than 1 kilometer of public wall-space painted with socially responsible murals and messages.
- 2 hip-hop concerts hosted with local artists, featuring an original song against torture and attended by more than 500 spectators.

Security sector reform

- 50+ prison managers under the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Defense trained in minimal standards for the treatment of detainees, the use of force and restraint, and a human rights approach to prison management.
- Participants from 10 cities across Libya attended the 3-day workshop.

Local advocacy

- Commentaries submitted in March 2013 to the General National Congress on the draft law criminalizing torture.
- 1 national consultation held in Tripoli following the law's adoption, where participants drafted "10 Steps to End Torture", intended to guide state and civic actors on monitoring and implementing the new law.
- Contributions to UNHCR's working group on migrant detention, leading to a draft asylum law.

International advocacy

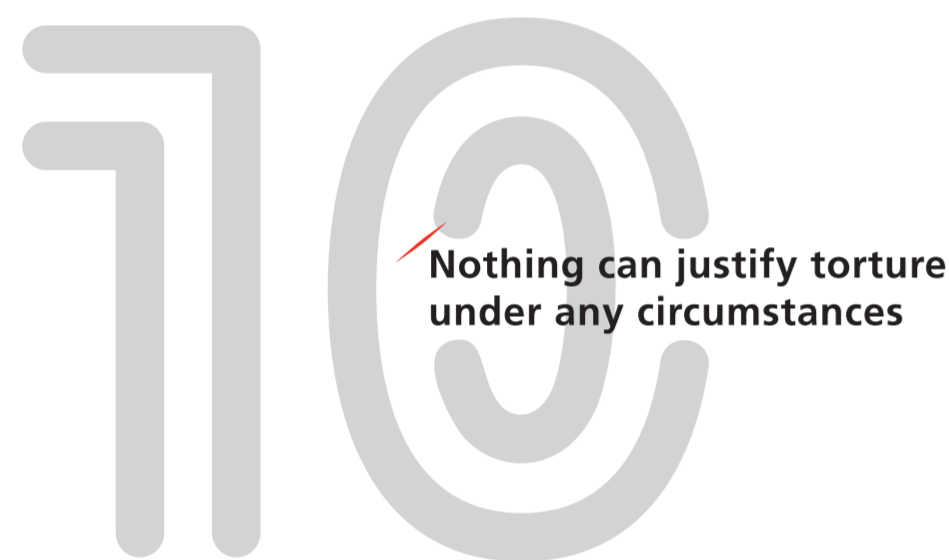
- Delivery in September 2014 of a stakeholder submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Libya, focused on arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearances, and vulnerable populations.
- Contributions made at a special session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2014 on the state of human rights in Libya.
- Submission of a 26-page briefing note to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, focused on the situation of mass graves in Libya.

CAMPAIGNING ACTIVITIES AGAINST TORTURE

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention against Torture celebrated on 10 December 2014, the OMCT launched a Campaign: **10 Days of Activism against torture and ill treatment.**

It featured videos of 10 leading human rights defenders speaking out against torture, setting out the challenges they face in protecting victims, and discussing the importance of the UN Convention against Torture and its implementation in their respective countries.

The campaign was conducted in partnership with the global SOS-Torture Network, raising awareness and mobilising public support against torture and ill treatment worldwide.



OVERVIEW OF ADVOCACY ACTIONS BEFORE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

ADVOCACY BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

25th SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (3-28 MARCH 2014)

- 7 written and oral statements in cooperation with members and partners of the SOS-Torture Network, on various items of the agenda relevant to the mandate of the OMCT, and on the consideration of the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPRs) of Mexico, China and Malaysia. Participation in the interactive dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and on the annual report of the OHCHR office in Colombia. Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Ivory Coast.
- 3 parallel events co-organised on challenges to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by the Malaysian government after the 2nd UPR; progressive diplomacy, normative advances and human rights violations in Mexico; failure to reform in light of Bahrain's UPR recommendations.

26th SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (10-26 JUNE 2014)

- 2 oral statements during the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and, in cooperation with a member of the SOS-Torture Network, on the situation of human rights in Ivory Coast.
- 2 parallel events organised or co-sponsored on human rights defenders in Cambodia, including the screening of the documentary "The Rights of Others" and on the rise of enforced disappearances in Iraq, Syria and Libya.

27th SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (8-26 SEPTEMBER 2014)

- 2 oral statements in cooperation with members of the SOS-Torture Network, on the consideration of the UPRs of Ivory Coast and Nicaragua.

INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE, 26 JUNE

In 2014, the OMCT supported mobilisation and awareness raising activities with the support of the OMCT network. Activities included:

In **Pakistan**, the HRCP together with other human rights organisations organised walks, rallies seminars, street theatre on police torture and demonstrations in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Quetta, Peshawar and Gilgit. Focusing on the need for an anti-torture law, the criminalization of torture, and the establishment of a focal point for torture complaints, the events attracted a large audience (human rights activists, torture victims, lawyers, political activists, journalists, representatives of political parties, social workers as well as the general public) and received important media coverage (*the Daily Times, the Dawn, the Nawa-i-Waqt, the News, Express Tribune, the Daily Express, the Balochistan Times, Dhoom TV, Sindh TV, Awaz, Dharti TV, AbbTak, Express telecast news. Radio Voice of Sindh-London, Net-Radio, and FM93*).

In **Ivory Coast**, various activities such as an opening ceremony, a panel, a press conference, and radio shows on issues related to torture were organised in Abidjan and attended by numerous key influential people, leaders from civil society, journalists, as well as the general public.

In **Togo**, interviews of Togolese activists from CACIT as well as the OMCT representatives on prison conditions and slow implementation of the CAT were broadcasted on several radio and TV stations in Lomé, Dapaong and Kara, calling on national authorities to improve the human rights situation and the situation of victims of torture (Coverage included: Victory FM Radio, Métropolys radio program, Radio Lomé, Radio Courtoisie, Rural Community Radio, FM Radio Kozahon and La Chaîne du Futur), and then relayed in many more media (Savoir News, IciLomé.com, aLomé-com, Radio Lomé, and Togolese Republic website).

In **Colombia**, the OMCT, in partnership with SOS-Torture Network members and the Colombian Coalition Against Torture, organised an event in 'el Parque de los Periodistas', that included theatre plays, musical pieces and a photographic memory gallery. Close to 1,000 people attended the event and were thus sensitized on the severe impact of torture on victims and the need to provide full redress and end impunity. Press releases were circulated in Colombia: "Torture exists in Colombia, in multiple forms", and Mexico: "Torture in Mexico continues to be common place, victims deserve justice".

In **Bangladesh**, Odhikar organised a discussion meeting in Dhaka with human rights activists, lawyers, political activists and journalists. Odhikar also organised rallies and human chains in 39 districts across the country, calling for an end to torture and systemic impunity, and calling for the ratification the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture by the government.

ADVOCACY BEFORE REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

- 1 written and oral statement to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Counter-Terrorism Conference in Interlaken "The Role of the OSCE in Addressing Current Terrorist Challenges" (April 2014).
- Participation in a restricted workshop organised by the European Union (EU) on a EU temporary relocation programme for human rights defenders at risk (December 2014).

Supporting the work of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

In May 2014, the OMCT organised a retreat gathering CEDAW members and experts to draft a General Recommendation on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women. The OMCT's advocacy work here paid off as the General recommendation was adopted on November 2014. (ref. CEDAW/C/GC/32).



1 On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention against Torture could you elaborate on the main achievements and challenges?

Juan E. Méndez
UN Special Rapporteur on Torture



2 Why is it important that the Committee against Torture examines the situation in Bangladesh, 16 years after the ratification?

Adilur Rahman Khan
Secretary / Odhikar
Bangladesh



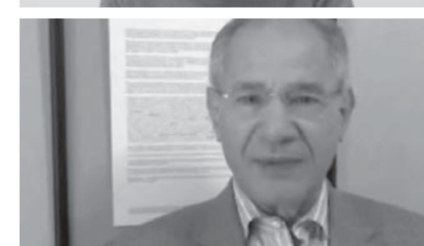
3 Why is it important for civil society organisations to engage in the reporting process of the Committee against Torture?

Liliana Ortega
Executive Director / COFAVIC
Venezuela



4 What is the role of civil society organisations in implementing the final recommendations of the Committee against Torture?

Tatiana Chernobil
Expert / Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law
Kazakhstan



5 Why is the National Prevention Mechanism, provided by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, so important to prevent torture in Tunisia?

Mokhtar Trifi
Honorary Chairman / Ligue Tunisienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'homme
Tunisia



6 Why is it essential that Colombia accepts the competence of the CAT Committee to examine individual complaints?

Ana María Rodríguez
Representative before the United Nations / Comisión Colombiana de Juristas
(Colombian Commission of Jurists)
Colombia



7 What is the role of civil society organisations in the implementation of the Convention against Torture in Togo?

André Kangni Afanou
Executive Director / CACIT
Togo



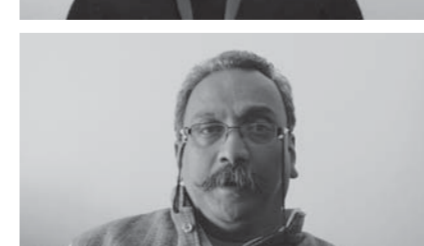
8 How can the Convention against Torture help in fighting impunity for cases of torture of children in the Philippines?

Rowena Legaspi
Director / Children's Legal Rights and Development Center
The Philippines



9 What role does the Convention against Torture play in protecting women from violence in Guatemala?

Claudia Samayoa
Funder y coordinator / UDEFEGUA



10 Why is it important that the Committee against Torture examines the situation in Bangladesh, 16 years after the ratification?

Henri Tiphagne
Honorary Executive Director / People's Watch

<http://www.omct.org/human-rights-defenders/events/2014/11/d22908/>



DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND THE OMCT INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Philanthropies	International and Inter-governmental organisations
Agir Ensemble pour les Droits de l'Homme	European Commission
American Jewish World Service	Special fund for the OPCAT UN
Bread for the World	United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
Banque Pictet	
Loterie Romande	
SIG	Cantonal Grants (Switzerland)
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf	Republic and Canton of Geneva
The Sigrid Rausing Trust	Canton of Basel-Stadt
The National Endowment for Democracy	
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Africa BIHAMBIA MASIKA Justine, RDC CHUKWUMA Innocent, Nigeria DIALLO Oumar, Senegal DIEYE Aminata, Senegal DOUGAN BEACA José D., Equatorial Guinea MESSAOUD Boubacar, Mauritania MOHOCHI MUKIRA Samwel, Kenya
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Other Contributions
SOS-Torture Network Membership Fees
Private Donations

The OMCT extends its sincere thanks to all individuals, institutions, and governments for their generous support during 2014.

Benjamin Amsler, Nicole Bürli, Emma Hunter, Christopher Keeler, Valerie Paulet, Alba Bes-cos Pou, Laura Pugieu, Ivan Shalev, and Garance Tardieu Ziolkowski in Geneva, and Nicole Fauster, Natasha Turak, Khoulood Nsiri, Sonia, Bouchareb, and Marina Tognola in Tunis. What the OMCT has achieved this year would not have been possible without their contributions and dedication.

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Secretary-General Gerald Staberock
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Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture GENTE Marina (<i>Project Officer</i>)
Monitoring Protection Mechanisms BENGA Seynabou (<i>Human Rights Advisor</i>) BENNINGER-BUDEL Carin (<i>Human Rights Advisor</i>) BÜRLI Nicole (<i>Human Rights Advisor</i>) SOLÀ MARTIN Helena (<i>Human Rights Advisor</i>)

Rights of the Child BARBARA Carolina (<i>Coordinator</i>)
Human Rights Defenders/ Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders RECULEAU Delphine (<i>Coordinator</i>) MARTIN ZUMALACÁRREGUI Miguel (<i>Human Rights Advisor</i>)
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SANAD, Legal Advice and Social Assistance Centre
Kef GATRI Sabine (<i>Social Coordinator</i>) TALBI Najla (<i>Legal Coordinator</i>) TRABELSI Bilel (<i>Legal Coordinator</i>)

Sidi Bouzid CHOKRI Afef (<i>Social Coordinator</i>) ISSAOUI Moez (<i>Legal Coordinator</i>) RABHI Housseem (<i>Legal Coordinator</i>)

Interns in 2014

The OMCT would like to extend its sincere thanks for the important contributions of time, energy, creativity, and lived experiences with Interns to the OMCT during 2014:

Benjamin Amsler, Nicole Bürli, Emma Hunter, Christopher Keeler, Valerie Paulet, Alba Bes-cos Pou, Laura Pugieu, Ivan Shalev, and Garance Tardieu Ziolkowski in Geneva, and Nicole Fauster, Natasha Turak, Khoulood Nsiri, Sonia, Bouchareb, and Marina Tognola in Tunis. What the OMCT has achieved this year would not have been possible without their contributions and dedication.

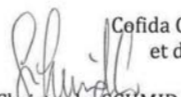
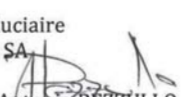
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: BALANCE SHEET ON 31 DECEMBER 2014 STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

BILAN AU 31 DECEMBRE 2014 (avec comparatif 2013)
BALANCE SHEET ON 31 DECEMBER 2014 (with 2013 comparative)

ACTIF / ASSETS	ANNEE 2014 YEAR 2014	ANNEE 2013 YEAR 2013
LIQUIDITES / CASH	262'344.16	692'927.48
Caisses / Cash funds	4'213.33	1'892.47
CCP / Postal cheque account	47'236.65	13'999.07
Banque Lombard et Odier / Bank Lombard & Odier	19'041.21	159'352.81
Banque UBS / Bank UBS	191'852.97	517'683.13
AUTRES ACTIFS / OTHER ASSETS	895'968.84	257'978.30
Impôts anticipés / Withholding tax recoverable	46.04	388.77
Actifs transitoires / Other assets	235'367.34	56'078.92
Garanties / Guarantees	10'468.20	10'468.20
Débiteurs et subventions à recevoir / Debtors and grants to be received	650'087.26	191'042.41
TOTAL DE L'ACTIF / TOTAL ASSETS	1'158'313.00	950'905.78

PASSIF / LIABILITIES	ANNEE 2014 YEAR 2014	ANNEE 2013 YEAR 2013
CREANCIERS / CREDITORS	1'110'707.16	809'682.66
Créanciers / Creditors	92'416.85	118'942.98
Passifs transitoires / Other liabilities	249'388.93	235'434.26
Subventions et produits reçus d'avance / Grants paid in advance	768'901.38	455'305.42
PROVISIONS / OTHER LIABILITIES	70'000.00	175'000.00
Provisions	70'000.00	175'000.00
COMPTE DE RESULTAT / RESULTS	-22'394.16	-33'776.88
Report au 1 ^{er} janvier 2014 / Carried forward at 1 January 2014	-33'776.88	-40'178.38
Excédent de recettes de l'exercice / Excess of incomes	11'382.72	6'401.50
TOTAL DU PASSIF / TOTAL LIABILITIES	1'158'313.00	950'905.78

Genève, le 12 mai 2015 / Geneva, 17 May 2015

Report from the Auditor for the Annual Accounts ending on December 31, 2014 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, 2014.	
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:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 incomes for 2014 of CHF 11'382.72 and taking into account the amount carried forward at 1 January 2014, an excess of expenditures in the balance sheet of CHF 22'394.16.	
 Christophe SCHMID Certified Auditor	 Antonio PEZZULLO Certified Auditor Responsible Auditor
May 27, 2015 Carouge	
Enclose: - Annual accounts 2014 (Statements of accounts and balance sheet)	

COMPTE DE RECETTES ET DEPENSES DE L'EXERCICE AU 31 DECEMBRE 2014
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ON 31 DECEMBER 2014

RECETTES	ANNEE 2014 YEAR 2014
2'460'596.50	
Assistance d'urgence aux victimes de la torture / Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture	118'946.27
Droits de l'enfant / Children's Rights	154'181.48
Violence contre les femmes / Violence against Women	20'025.22
Défenseurs des droits de l'homme - Observatoire / Human Rights Defenders - Observatory	287'805.87
Campagnes d'urgence / Urgent Campaigns	0.00
Suivi des mécanismes de protection / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms	715'069.69
Suivi des mécanismes de protection - Libye / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms - Libya	315'345.46
Suivi des mécanismes de protection - Tunisie / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms - Tunisia	337'791.63
Division opérations (gestion) / Operations Division (management)	0.00
TOTAL DIVISION OPERATIONS / TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION	1'949'165.62
Droits économiques, sociaux et culturels / Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	0.00
Formation / Training	11'504.98
Division recherche & développement (gestion) / Research and Development Division (management)	0.00
TOTAL DIVISION RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT / TOTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	11'504.98

Division recherche de fonds & communication (gestion) / Fundraising and Commission 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	0.00
Contributions privées / Private donations	202'216.69
Bulletins et produits divers / Bulletins and various donations	20'925.44
Subventions fédérales, cantonales, communales / Federal, cantonal, communal grants	168'600.00
Subventions gouvernementales européennes / Grants from European governments	15'000.00
Subventions de fondations et autres / Grants from foundations and others	93'183.77

TOTAL EXTENSION, DEVELOPPEMENT DU RESEAU, REPRESENTATION EN DEHORS DU SIEGE ET GESTION / TOTAL EXTENSIONS, DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK, REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE GENEVA HEADQUARTERS	499'925.90
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DEPENSES	ANNEE 2014 YEAR 2014
-2'457'948.50	
Assistance d'urgence aux victimes de la torture / Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture	118'946.27
Droits de l'enfant / Children's Rights	147'467.75
Violence contre les femmes / Violence against Women	61'347.35
Défenseurs des droits de l'homme - Observatoire / Human Rights Defenders - Observatory	292'213.21
Campagnes d'urgence / Urgent Campaigns	49'826.78
Suivi des mécanismes de protection / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms	815'164.48
Suivi des mécanismes de protection - Libye / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms - Libya	372'326.33
Suivi des mécanismes de protection - Tunisie / Monitoring of Protection Mechanisms - Tunisia	339'674.12
Division opérations (gestion) / Operations Division (management)	0.00
TOTAL DIVISION OPERATIONS / TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION	2'196'966.29

Droits économiques, sociaux et culturels / Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	22'042.53
Formation / Training	11'504.98
Conférence et réunions statutaires / Conference and statutory meetings	46'762.12
Division recherche & développement (gestion) / Research and Development Division (management)	3'647.40
TOTAL DIVISION RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT / TOTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	83'957.03

Promotion	70'118.83
Communication	16'406.40
Division recherche de fonds & comm. (gestion) / Fundraising and Comm. Division (management)	47'989.15
TOTAL DIVISION RECHERCHE DE FONDS ET COMMUNICATION / TOTAL FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATION DIVISION	134'514.38

Extensions et développement du réseau / Extensions and development of the network	8'193.11
Représentation en dehors du siège / Representation outside Geneva Headquarters	16'290.44
Gestion / Management	18'027.25
TOTAL EXTENSION, DEVELOPPEMENT DU RESEAU, REPRESENTATION EN DEHORS DU SIEGE ET GESTION / TOTAL EXTENSIONS, DEVELOPMENT OF THE NETWORK, REPRESENTATION OUTSIDE GENEVA HEADQUARTERS	42'510.80

RESULTAT AVANT INTERETS CREANCIERS ET AUTRES PRODUITS / RESULTS BEFORE CREDITORS INTERESTS AND OTHER INCOMES	2'648.00
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INTERETS CREANCIERS ET AUTRES PRODUITS / CREDITORS INTERESTS AND OTHER INCOMES	8'734.72
Intérêts créanciers / Creditors interests	40.77
Autres produits / Other incomes	8'693.95

EXCEDENT DES RECETTES DE L'EXERCICE / EXCESS OF INCOMES	11'382.72
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Genève, le 12 mai 2015 / Geneva, 17 May 2015

Countries where OMCT intervened in 2014



“ Help us to help victims of torture ”

Contacts

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 Holder: OMCT SOS TORTURE
 IBAN: CH91 0027 9279 C810 6675 0
 Swift Code: UBSWCHZH80A

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 2014 Annual Report

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 300 French

Graphic design
 www.mostra-design.com



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