

THE OMCT HANDBOOK SERIES

The OMCT Handbook Series consists of four volumes, each providing a detailed guide to the practice, procedure and jurisprudence of the regional and international human rights bodies that are competent to consider complaints by individuals concerning violations of the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment. Through its comprehensive coverage of all systems, its availability in key languages and its specific focus on torture, the Handbook Series constitutes an invaluable resource for practitioners, advocates and victims seeking to hold states to account for serious human rights violations.

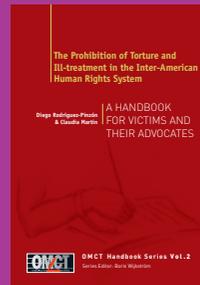


VOLUME 1

Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights: A Practitioner's Handbook, by Uğur Erdal & Hasan Bakırcı, available in English, French, Russian & Turkish July 2006 / ISBN 2-88477-110-7 / pp. 378

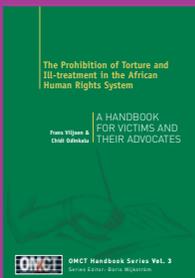
VOLUME 2

The Prohibition of Torture and Ill-Treatment in the Inter-American Human Rights System: A Handbook for Victims and their Advocates, by Diego Rodríguez-Pinzón & Claudia Martín, available in English, Spanish & Portuguese October 2006 / ISBN 2-88477-115-8 / pp. 294



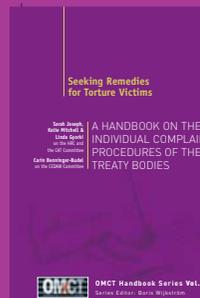
VOLUME 3

The Prohibition of Torture and Ill-Treatment in the African Human Rights System: A Handbook for Victims and their Advocates, by Frans Viljoen & Chidi Odinkalu, available in English, French & Arabic November 2006 / 2-88477-117-4 / pp. 163



VOLUME 4

Seeking Remedies for Torture Victims: A Handbook on the Individual Complaints Procedures of the UN Treaty Bodies, by Sarah Joseph, Katie Mitchell, Linda Gyorki & Carin Benninger-Budel, available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic & Russian November 2006 / 2-88477-121-2 / pp. 514



The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) coordinates the activities of the SOS-Torture Network, the world's largest coalition of non-governmental organisations fighting against torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, and other serious human rights violations. Through the activities described in this brochure, the OMCT seeks to strengthen the capacity of its network members to develop effective international litigation strategies to combat impunity and obtain redress for torture victims.

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The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) wishes to thank the European Commission for funding the OMCT Complaints Workshops.

OMCT COMPLAINTS WORKSHOPS

LITIGATING TORTURE CASES
BEFORE THE UN TREATY BODIES



2007 - 2008



OMCT COMPLAINTS WORKSHOPS

Litigating Torture Cases before the UN Treaty Bodies

BACKGROUND: litigating individual complaints before the UN Treaty Bodies is an important way of obtaining redress for victims of torture and a key strategy in the fight against impunity.

In 2007 – 2008 OMCT will host a series of workshops designed to train human rights advocates in the litigation of torture cases before the Human Rights Committee and Committee against Torture. The workshops will gather NGOs from around the world in a small group setting for intensive 3 day trainings focussing on the acquisition of practical litigation skills. The workshops will take place in July 2007, November 2007, May 2008 and July 2008.

PURPOSE: to equip participants with knowledge, skills and understanding in the following key areas:

- Filing procedures and admissibility rules of the Treaty Bodies
- Evidence and establishment of facts in torture cases
- Effective complaints drafting
- Remedies
- Client & case management
- Choice of forum: Treaty Bodies vs. regional systems
- Recent trends in torture jurisprudence
- Effective follow-up to Treaty Body views

METHODOLOGY: taking full advantage of OMCT's location in Geneva, participants will benefit from the contributions of leading experts in the field of human rights including UN personnel, academics, practitioners and OMCT staff. The programme of work will include, lectures by UN and academic experts, case studies, skills-development exercises and interactive group discussions.

TRAINING MATERIALS: the workshops will use *"Seeking Remedies for Torture Victims"*, Vol. 4 of the OMCT Handbook Series, as its main teaching resource. This book contains a detailed guide to the Treaty Body complaints procedures as well as exhaustive analyses of the relevant jurisprudence of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture.

PARTICIPANTS: the workshops are designed to benefit NGOs actively engaged in the struggle against torture and who are operating in countries that have accepted the right of individuals to complain about violations before the Treaty Bodies.

FOLLOW-UP: participants will be invited to maintain contact with the OMCT Secretariat in order to identify potential cases that can be litigated jointly. This exercise will serve to consolidate the lessons learned in Geneva and will assist participants in autonomously developing their own national case loads.

"... The fight against torture and ill-treatment is fuelled and strengthened by the courage of those who speak out against it. These voices are critical to the struggle against torture and other forms of ill-treatment because they remove acts of torture from the darkness and bring them into the light exposing them for what they are and seeking to hold those who perpetrate them accountable."

Manfred Nowak

Preface to "Seeking Remedies for Torture Victims: A Handbook on the Individual Complaints Procedures of the UN Treaty Bodies." Volume 4, OMCT 2006



Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture