

1-10 DECEMBER 2013

NOTHING CAN JUSTIFY TORTURE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

10 Days of activism against torture and ill-treatment

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Torture and ill-treatment continue to occur all over the world and these human rights violations remain too often unpunished. Torture can affect any man, woman and child. It can take many features and can be inflicted in the name of national security or counter-terrorism, in the fight against organised crime or drug cartels or to repress social protests. But in the large majority of cases it is used against persons detained on ordinary criminal charges, notably to extract confession or obtain information, and disproportionately on those belonging to minorities, marginal groups or the poor.

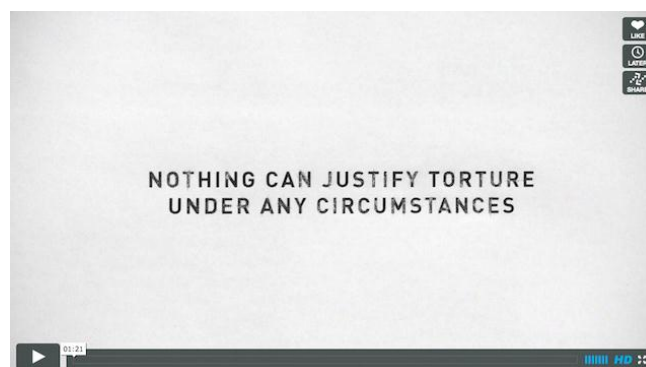
From the 1st to the 10th of December 2013, OMCT organised, for the second consecutive year, its Campaign **10 Days of activism against torture and ill-treatment** aiming at mobilizing and alerting public opinion around the world to the fact that torture and ill-treatment are a negation of basic principles of human rights and human dignity and that public support is fundamental to put an end to that scourge.

Through **10 videos** of human rights defenders speaking out against torture and ill-treatment as well as **events** organised across the world by our partner organisations, OMCT intended to highlight the main obstacles and challenges in the global fight against torture and impunity and to call for a change.

The Campaign also shed light on the essential role of human rights defenders, including those members of the OMCT's Network. *"These videos are a powerful reminder, that it is the courage of defenders working often amidst serious threats that makes a difference in the global fight against torture"* (Gerald Staberock, Secretary General of OMCT).

Human Rights Defenders are the voice of those who are deprived of it because they are victims of torture, ill-treatment or summary execution. The campaign would not have been possible without the valuable collaboration and support of human rights defenders across the world.

To mark the end of the Campaign and celebrate Human Rights Day, OMCT issued a final video urging the public to speak out against torture under the motto "Nothing can justify torture under any circumstances". OMCT is firmly convinced that anyone, anywhere can do something to support the global fight against torture and ill-treatment. Click on the video below:



Videos



Have you missed the videos? You can find them on OMCT's website, social medias or by clicking below on "video". OMCT asked 10 human rights defenders across the world to respond to a specific question in relation to torture and ill-treatment. Check out their responses!

[Video 1](#): Why is a world free of torture so important to you personally?

Aminata Dieye

Member of the Executive Council / World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
Senegal

[Video 2](#): What is today the biggest challenge in the fight against torture?

Isis Goldberg

Lawyer / Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH)
Mexico

[Video 3](#): What are the root causes of torture?

Rashid Rehman

Regional Coordinator / Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP)
Pakistan

[Video 4](#): Why is the ratification of the Convention against torture an important step in the process to end torture?

Nalini Elumalai

Executive Director/ Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
Malaysia

[Video 5](#): What are the main obstacles for the victims of torture to obtain justice?

Wadih Al-Asmar

Secretary General / Lebanese Center for Human Rights (CLDH)
Lebanon

[Video 6](#): Why is it important to believe children who are victims of torture?

Luis Pedernera

Children Coordinator / Instituto de Estudios Legales y Sociales del Uruguay (IELSUR)
Uruguay

[Video 7](#): Are minority groups more at risk of torture?

Panayote Dimitras

Spokesperson / Greek Helsinki Monitor (GHM)
Greece

[Video 8](#): Are women particularly vulnerable to torture?

Mariela Infante Erazo

Researcher and UN advocacy coordinator / Corporación Humanas
Chile

Video 9: What obstacles do you encounter when carrying out your activities as NGO fighting torture?

Joseph Muthuri
Program officer advocacy and Communications / Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU)
Kenya

Video 10: What should be the role of the public to support the fight against torture?

Gerald Staberock
Secretary General / World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)
Switzerland

Events

Lebanon

The Lebanese Centre for Human Rights (CLDH) together with OMCT and others organisations based in Lebanon organised on the 2nd of December 2013 in Beirut, a press conference to call upon the Lebanese Deputies to criminalise torture by enacting the draft law on torture criminalization that has been under study by the Parliament since December 2012.



Malaysia

On the 4th and 5th December 2013, in Kuala Lumpur, Suaram together with OMCT organised a theatre play entitled Secret Room in order to raise awareness and mobilise general public on torture in detention (*the events have been postponed due to technical reasons*).

Pakistan

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) together with OMCT organised a consultation on the 9th of December 2013 in the city of Lahore on opportunities and impediments in the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture.



Kenya

The Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU) together with OMCT organised on the 10th of December 2013, in Nairobi, a forum bringing together hawkers from Nairobi and its environs, who have in the recent past been on the receiving end of brutality and torture by the police. The main objective of the forum was to promote awareness among this vulnerable group of citizens on torture and related violations and empower them on how best to seek redress.

Special thanks to all the human rights defenders and their respective organisations who have participated in the Campaign and without whom the Campaign would not have been possible.

This campaign realised with the financial aid of the European Union and the Foundation Oak. The content of this campaign lies in the responsibility of the OMCT only and cannot be considered as reflecting the position of the European Union or the Foundation Oak.

