Nothing can justify torture under any circumstances

Foreword by the President
A culture of solidarity against torture

Introduction by the Secretary-General
OMCT: A global movement supporting local change

Activities carried out in 2013
Coming to the aid of victims of torture and ill-treatment and protecting human rights defenders
Reinforcing the prevention of torture and ill-treatment and protection against these scourges
Mobilisation and support for members of the SOS-Torture Network towards the absolute prohibition of torture

In brief

Donors, Bodies and the International Secretariat

Publications and Reports

Annual Accounts
Balance sheet on 31 December 2013
Statement of Income and Expenditure
North Africa has established under law a nation-time that a country from the Middle East and
Introduction by the Secretary-General
Torture (Law No. 43 of 2013). This is the first
ting the National Forum for the Prevention of
Assembly of Tunisia adopted an organic law cre-

What is certain is that OMCT will continue to
work with Network members to respond to re-
quests they submit to us related to the preven-
tion of torture, to support those who are threat-
et, to help victims reintegrate into everyday life, and to fight against impunity. In addition, as in Tunisia, OMCT is also working with local organizations fighting against torture, to devel-
op methods and build instruments in response
to different emerging trends: countries which are
building democracy by freeing themselves from
the yoke of authoritarian regimes where torture is
deployed to extreme demands, countries which
are being transformed by new social expectations,
and countries experiencing civil war or anarchy.
The work carried out by OMCT in a number of
countries with different characteristics, will
provide us with a range of methods, tools and
references enabling us to offer relevant and ef-
fective support to local organizations struggling
against torture.

Local action is indeed essential to the fight
against torture and inhuman and degrading
treatment, and it is local organizations who best
understand the forces at work, know the people
in the political, judicial, military, police and me-
dia systems, and know how to approach them.
This was the intuition of those who, almost thir-
ty years ago now, started the SOS-Torture Net-
work and created OMCT to support its work.
In the coming months, OMCT will strengthen this
network not by extending it, but rather by pro-
moting its most active elements and establish-
ing a culture of cooperation to forge coalitions
for the national and regional implementation of
the conventions and recommendations of the
Committee against Torture (CAT). This could be
cooperation between organizations from the
same country, whether or not they are members
of the Network, to defend a cause or victim;
whether they are organized from different
countries to exchange experiences and
methods.

We are building a culture of cooperation and
a culture of solidarity between organizations.
Statements of support, emergency actions and
meetings with the authorities do not always
change the fate of victims of torture, but they
do provide moral support both for the victims
and the organizations that defend them. The
communications received by OMCT from all
countries are signs of the need for this solidarity
network.

Yves Berthelot
OMCT President

Introduction by the Secretary-General
OMCT: A GLOBAL MOVEMENT SUPPORTING LOCAL CHANGE

Driving the Convention Against Torture
home
The approach described goes through all our
programming.

Standards matter when they impact the reality
on the ground. The Convention Against Tor-
ture provides a blueprint for states wishing to
eradicate torture and a basis to mobilize civil
society as key constituency. For more than
twenty years we have worked with partners
around the world on its domestic realization.
The Convention provides crucially important
enforcement mechanism towards the UN
Committee Against Torture. The OMCT uses
this process as an entry to engage states on
their record of implementation. But the pro-
cess makes only sense if local civil society is
able to access, master and use the procedure,
and work subsequently on securing the real-
ization of its recommendations.
If not for the information provided by civil so-
ciety the experts would be unable to conduct
a credible evaluation with meaningful recom-
endations. If not for a mobilized civil soci-
ety there would be little incentive for states to
disseminate the findings and engage in a pro-
cess of follow-up implementation. Often it is
also specialized civil society expertise build by
OMCT that is decisive to implement construc-
tive reforms of the justice or prison system. In
turn a mobilized civil society uses the Commit-
teet Against Torture to trigger change making
a difference.

This annual report provides a number of such
examples in illustration ranging from anti-tor-
ture reforms in Togo, Mexico or Paraguay, or
again in Asia in the Philippines all influenced
through our work towards the Convention
Against Torture and our litigation support to
victims of torture. But one illustration of
the impact of our joint advocacy is the decision
of the Attorney General of Kenya made in a
meeting with in October to submit a long
waited torture prevention law – co-drafted by
our members - to parliament in early 2014.

2013 has been an important year as we have
committed to a new global innovative role at
the request of our network. We will coordinate
and mobilize civil society access and effective
use of this mechanism in close cooperation with
the Committee Against Torture and its
Secretariat. This means that we increase the
number of organizations enabled to attend,
provide mentoring to them to be effective, and
work to make the reviews known locally in the
media. Fundamentally we will systematically
support our partners in conducting follow-up
advocacy to drive the recommendations home.

It is about time after 30 years
I still owe you the answer to the second ques-
tion raised above. Yes torture is an egregious
human rights violation and the fact that it is
committed in the name of the state makes
things worse.
And true, it is tough to deal with this type of
violation especially when working in difficult
environments around the world, such as Libya.
But no - working on this cause is not depress-
ing. Working with activists who have the cour-
age to confront human rights violations under
personal threats and being able to give them
support is far more motivating and reward-
ing.
Ultimately, the driving feeling is one of
motivation, I am encouraged because I know;
together we can make a difference!

Gerald Staberock
Secretary-General

How we make an impact

“Nothing can justify torture under any circum-
stance” recalls the global OMCT campaign
against torture conducted over the last three
years in partnership with network members
across the globe.
The law could not be any clearer. In fact uni-
versal consensus is far from theoretical. It is
mirrored across regions, cultures and religions,
and lived daily in our work with partners across
the world.
Yet torture remains common and often I am
asked about the impact OMCT is having and
whether it is not too depressing to work on such
a dire topic?
The answer to the first question is not easy
conscious of the need to account for public
and private donor contributions. But it cannot
always be answered in a linear and simplistic
fashion. For example, I am convinced that we
have to raise our voice on torture or when a
human rights defender is attacked even if it
may not always be an immediate change in
side. Upholding values we believe in and soli-
darity to victims and human rights defenders
remains important.
Not to do so would be failing our cause as anti-
torture movement.
The question of impact is one of approach. As
a lawyer by background I believe that the law
matters and that it has to have a protective
reach. But ‘the law is the law’ approach is in
itself insufficient to achieve change.
A standard without implementation is a fig
leave and national institutions supposed to
work on torture while lacking independence,
resources and political backing in an environ-
ment in which anti-torture activists are harassed
gives too easily a false façade of progress. Much
more is thus needed to work on the domestic
implementation of international standards.
The OMCT engages states and their authori-
ties in a critical dialogue on legal and policy
changes daily in support of domestic partners.
This constructive engagement is fundamen-
tally important and the adoption in Tunisia of
the first national law on the prevention of torture
in North Africa and the Middle East because of
the OMCT is but one example mentioned in
this annual report.

The key to lasting success is to anchor the fight
against torture locally within society through
the mobilization of local civil society. This ap-
proach finds the essence of the global SOS tor-
ture network of the OMCT. It reflects that we
achieve lasting impact if we enable, mobilize
and accompany local actors, including in the
south, and protect them when threatened be-
cause of their anti-torture work.
Ultimately this theory of change results in con-
crete impact and change as the Annual Report
2013 documents.

OMCT that is decisive to implement construc-
tive reforms and keep the momentum going.
We will continue to support OMCT that is
decisive to implement constructive reforms and
keep the momentum going.

The world as it is not. The world as it can
be. The world as it should be! But the

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COMING TO THE AID OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Emergency assistance to victims of torture – comprehensive support

We have just received a positive asylum decision for (...), and this is fantastic news! I would like to warmly thank the OMCT who have offered us considerable support throughout the process. This has undoubtedly contributed to the successful outcome of this case.

Emerald City, Switzerland
Advisor on asylum procedure
Protestant Social Centre, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

For OMCT, emergency aid to victims of torture is an integral part of the struggle for the respect of human rights. It is not only a humanitarian measure to relieve individual suffering. It is essential that the victim recovers their health, and it is equally important that they can reintegrate into society and obtain redress. This approach is therefore comprehensive and, according to this principle, victims supported by OMCT in 2013 benefited from multidisciplinary assistance, including medical, legal and social aspects, according to their needs.

In the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), for example, Organization Against Torture (OAAT) and the City of Geneva, the OMCT has also supported the construction of a “Women’s House” in Goma, DRC, in collaboration with the local NGO “Women’s Synergy for Victims of Sexual Violence” (Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes de violences sexuelles - SFVS), a member of the SOS-Torture Network based in Goma, with the aim of offering support to victims of sexual violence and providing them with temporary accommodation during their convalescence or during family mediation. At the end of 2013, the Women’s House was nearing completion. In 2014, the House will offer psychosocial support to individual and group therapy, as well as vocational training to enable victims to develop income-generating activities.

OMCT has established two counselling centres for victims of torture in the cities of Sidi Bouzid and Kef, in Tunisia, in partnership with the Tunisian Organization Against Torture (Organisation Contre la Torture en Tunisie - OCTT), a member of the SOS-Torture Network. Known as the SANAD, these centres offer social and legal assistance, and medical monitoring via an active network of lawyers, doctors and other professionals working throughout the country. At the end of 2013, the Sixty-third Session of the UN Human Rights Council was taking place in Geneva, the OMCT had also supported the establishment of a “Women’s House” in Goma, DRC, in collaboration with the local NGO “Women’s Synergy for Victims of Sexual Violence” (Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes de violences sexuelles - SFVS), a member of the SOS-Torture Network based in Goma, with the aim of offering support to victims of sexual violence and providing them with temporary accommodation during their convalescence or during family mediation. At the end of 2013, the Women’s House was nearing completion. In 2014, the House will offer psychosocial support to individual and group therapy, as well as vocational training to enable victims to develop income-generating activities.

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Activities carried out in 2013

REINFORCING THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND ILL-TREATMENT AND PROTECTION AGAINST THESE SCOURGES

Supporting the work of the Committee against Torture

The UN Committee against Torture is a priority partner for OMCT in its struggle for the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, and their absolute prohibition. In 2013, in close cooperation with NGO members of the SOS-Torture Network, OMCT continued its work to submit alternative reports and follow-up communications, in order to offer members of this expert mechanism an objective view of the human rights situation in the countries it examined, incorporating gender perspectives and respect for the rights of the child.

In 2013, particular emphasis was placed on the implementation of recommendations adopted by the Committee against Torture during six missions to Mexico, Indonesia, the Philippines, Colombia, Chile and Togo. In addition to evaluating the implementation of the recommendations by the State concerned, these missions allowed for dialogue with the authorities and civil society on the effective prevention of torture, and the related struggle against impunity and respect for the victims’ right to reparation.

OMCT is also particularly involved in promoting the work of the Committee against Torture. In 2012 the “OMCT@CAT” newsletter was produced and disseminated after each session of the Committee to subscribers, and the OMCT also transmitted the sessions via the internet and sent out tweets during debates. In 2013, this strategy was complemented by two training seminars on the absolute prohibition of torture, organized in conjunction with meetings of the Committee and in partnership with the Gmedia Centre, for 22 journalists from Kenya, Guatemala, Mexico and Burkina Faso.

As a sign of the trust between the Committee against Torture with OMCT, for 22 journalists from Kenya, Guatemala, Mexico and Burkina Faso.

Protection of children deprived of freedom

OMCT has significantly supported the work of the Committee against Torture, by providing crucial information - from the field - on the real situation of torture and ill-treatment. Without this information, it would have been difficult to engage in a credible dialogue with States on the implementation of the Convention.

Claudio Grossman, President of the Committee against Torture, Geneva, Switzerland

In 2013, several visits to places of detention for children were made, 35 without prior notice in Benin and 10 in Uruguay, which allowed for interviews to be conducted with more than 400 children. In both countries, these visits permitted the gathering of accurate statistics on the conditions of child detention, including girls. A valuable tool was thereby built for advocacy with relevant authorities and to increase the transparency within detention centres. In Uruguay, OMCT and IELSUR also included journalists in their delegation to raise public awareness on the extremely precarious situation for detained children. The effects are undeniable, particularly in Uruguay, as more children were able to access education, detention centres have been renovated and others have been built. In the Philippines, OMCT and CRCDC held eight monitoring visits and met with the Council for Child Protection, the main inter-agency body of the Philippine government, and made several recommendations regarding better protection for children against torture and ill-treatment.

In all three countries, however, children still face daily violence, carried out with total impunity. This issue has been specifically addressed during field missions. In Benin, juvenile judges discussed the institutional difficulties in monitoring cases involving children in conflict with the law and sought the support of the OMCT and ESAM in their interaction with the police. Cases of violence against children have already been brought to the attention of local judges in Benin. Cases have also been reported to prison authorities in Uruguay and the Philippines. The struggle against impunity in cases of violence against children in detention will be also a priority in 2014.

In the Philippines, the NGO Children’s Legal Rights and Development Center (CRCDC), a partner of the OMCT, intervened as experts during the preparation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Law on Justice and the Protection of Minors of 2004, amended in 2013, thus ensuring compliance with international standards for the protection of children’s rights.

53 Monitoring visits to juvenile detention centres.
MOBILISATION AND SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS OF THE SOS-TORTURE NETWORK TOWARDS THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION OF TORTURE

OMCT Tunisia – an unwavering supporter in the struggle against torture

During the past year, OMCT strongly engaged with civil society, the government and its administrative bodies as well as the National Constituent Assembly (NCA), with regards to necessary reforms in the areas of justice and security, particularly in relation to the prevention of torture and monitoring of places of detention.

On October 9, 2013, the Tunisian NCA adopted the Organic Law on the National Body for the Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment - Tunisia is the first Arab state to establish such a mechanism. In the months that preceded the adoption, OMCT facilitated a platform for exchange and dialogue between Tunisian civil society partners, policy makers and legislators so that this body can be created as soon as possible. This contribution to the legislative process was recognized by the highest Tunisian authorities.

“The draft Organic Law for the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture has been the object of working meetings and follow-up between the President of the Commission and representatives of the World Organisation Against Torture.” Final Report on the draft law on the National Body for the Prevention of Torture developed by the NCA Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms and External Relations.

In December 2013, OMCT organized a symposium on international standards in the fight against torture and ill-treatment for 23 practising Tunisian magistrates, judges, and public prosecutors, in the presence of Dick Marty, Vice-President of the OMCT and former Attorney General of the Canton of Ticino (Switzerland), and Adel Maged, Vice-President of the Supreme Court of Egypt. These judges from all over Tunisia discussed the difficulties inherent in the judicial system, notably the lack of investigation available to judicial police officers, the overload created by the large number of cases, the pressures on magistrates and the withdrawal of the victims for fear of reprisals. Recommendations were adopted at the end of the symposium to bring the Tunisian judiciary in line with relevant international standards.

OMCT Libya – an office at the cutting edge of the struggle against torture

The Office of the OMCT in Tripoli is at the heart of the struggle against torture in Libya. In 2013, major progress was made in several areas, including the integration of anti-torture reforms into the political transition process, capacity strengthening for those who work to help victims (human rights defenders, lawyers, judges, civil society representatives), improving access to justice for victims and raising public awareness on the absolute prohibition of torture.

Thanks to the excellent relationships established with the General National Congress (GNC), the Ministry of Justice, the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights (NCCLHR) and civil society, OMCT took part in the process for the adoption of a Libyan law criminalizing torture (via the submission of comments). Following this adoption, OMCT organized a public meeting in April 2013 in which 48 people participated, including representatives of the three government bodies mentioned above, lawyers and activists from Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata and Sabha. Together, they wrote a memorandum entitled “10 Steps to End Torture” to mobilize all stakeholders.

A workshop was also held in Tunis in October 2013 in order to share Tunisian and Egyptian experiences on access to legal aid in the context of transitional justice. In addition to the Egyptian and Tunisian representatives from lawyers’ networks, the seminar brought together 27 Libyan lawyers, two members of the GNC and three representatives of NCCLHR, to consider the structure and management of a network of lawyers, as well as the roles of the legal community and civil society in the transitional justice process.

In 2013, the OMCT Libyan lawyers’ network consisting of 20 volunteer lawyers from the cities of Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata and Sabha, documented 280 cases of torture and ill-treatment to submit to the Office of the Attorney General and local courts, which will not be “limited” to the national justice system, but in the case of lack of access to justice, will be presented as case files to UN treaty bodies. In relation to this, in May 2014 OMCT will organize a training workshop on the submission of complaints to UN Committees.

In June 2013, OMCT contributed to the release of 30 prisoners arbitrarily detained in Tamina prison (Misrata), who were victims of torture. This release was the result of intense advocacy work carried out by OMCT, in partnership with a member of its lawyers’ network and a journalist, with the Director of the Tamina prison, the Attorney General of Misrata and the Ministry of Justice in Tripoli. OMCT continues the systematic examination of the files of arbitrarily detained prisoners both with detention centres and with the Attorney General of Misrata.

“... For three years now, since the revolution, the Tawergha people have been living in extremely precarious conditions. We have suffered many human rights violations; hundreds of prisoners have been arbitrarily detained and have suffered torture. Despite all the suffering and distress that we have known, two events organized by OMCT to raise awareness against Torture on 26 June and 10 December 2013 have enabled young Tawergha people and families to have the space to enjoy themselves a little and feel hope for one day, and above all to have professionals listening to them.”

Ali Harous, General Coordinator of the Tawergha camps, Libya.

“We are very grateful to the World Organisation Against Torture for all its support for our network, especially through training and legal expertise, which have helped to strengthen the capacity of our organisation. Thanks to this unwavering support, we have been able to document hundreds of cases of torture and provide legal assistance to the most urgent cases. In addition, thanks to the exemplary relations OMCT has with public institutions and local civil society, and its efforts to unite actions in the struggle against torture, we have seen significant improvements in the human rights situation, despite the insecurity and instability on the ground.”

Salah al-Din Yusuf Abukhzam, President of the Libyan Network for Legal Aid, Libya.

Activities carried out in 2013
Activities carried out in 2013

IN BRIEF

846 people received support directly from OMCT of whom 83 received legal, medical and social assistance.

Coming to the aid of victims of torture and ill-treatment

Emergency assistance funds
- 40 victims of torture assisted: 11 women, 17 men and 12 children, 33 of which were individual cases and 2 collective, in 12 countries: Algeria, Benin, Egypt, Russia, Nigeria, Palestine, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Zambia.

Urgent interventions
- 63 urgent interventions (emergency calls, press releases and confidential letters to the authorities) for 62 people and 6 groups (several thousand individuals) in 19 countries: Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Israel, Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Qatar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, Togo, Turkey and Vietnam.

- 1 joint statement at the 20th Annual Meeting of the United Nations Special Procedures.

Legal opinion / amicus curiae
- 1 legal opinion submitted to the Constitutional Court of Spain in the context of the case entitled “Bush Six” in partnership with member organizations and partners of the SOS-Torture Network.

- Monitoring of the legal opinion submitted to the Congress of the State of Guerrero, Mexico, in support of a legal initiative to criminalize torture (advocacy mission).

- 1 amicus curiae brief submitted to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Mujkanovic et al. v. Bosnia Herzegovina, in partnership with REDRESS.

Individual complaints
- 1 individual complaint to the Committee against Torture against Switzerland (1 victim) in partnership with ELSA.

- Monitoring of complaints submitted to the Committee of Human Rights against the Democratic Republic of Congo (1 victim) and the Committee against Torture against Switzerland (1 victim) and Mexico (4 victims).

- Monitoring the implementation of complaints submitted to the Committee of Human Rights against South Africa (1 victim), Côte d’Ivoire (1 victim) and Cameroon (1 victim) and to the Committee against torture against Tunisia (3 victims).

Protection of children deprived of liberty

Benin
- 35 monitoring visits without prior notice in juvenile detention facilities and individual private interviews with detained children; advocacy meetings with the authorities.

- 1 two-day training workshop for 10 juvenile judges serving in Benin.

- Advocacy with the authorities in favour of the adoption of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Uruguay
- 10 monitoring visits to detention facilities for minors and unlimited individual interviews in private with detained children.

- 1 training workshop on the rights of children deprived of liberty and their protection against torture, for more than 60 employees and directors of various juvenile detention centres.

- Advocacy with the authorities concerning new laws contrary to international standards for the protection of children’s rights, including lowering the age of criminal responsibility.

Philippines
- 1 preparatory mission to Manila and 8 visits to places of detention.

Support for women human rights defenders in DRC (North and South Kivu)

Training
- 2 training seminars in Bukavu, for 20 women human rights defenders from the provinces of North and South Kivu, on international standards of human rights and the effective use of international and regional mechanisms of protection for women against violence.

- Preparation of a training manual for participants in training seminars and their colleagues.

Advocacy activities
- 1 alternative joint report on violence against women in North and South Kivu, submitted to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in the presence of 4 women human rights defenders.

- 1 alternative joint report on violence against women in North and South Kivu submitted during the second examination of the DRC in the context of the Universal Periodic Review, in the presence of two women human rights defenders in the Human Rights Council.

- Advocacy by two women human rights defenders from North and South Kivu and one OMCT representative at the 54th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.
Protecting human rights defenders

Urgent interventions
- 245 emergency interventions – of which 108 followed up (44%) - in favour of 701 human rights defenders and 68 NGOs and other associations in 52 countries: Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territory, Kenya, Kirghizstan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Nepal, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

Material Support
- Material support for 43 human rights defenders and their families, and 3 NGOs in 10 countries: Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Gambia, Guatemala, Uzbekistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia, Sri Lanka, Syria.

Field missions and reports published
- 8 missions for judicial observation and defence for 1 NGO and 71 human rights defenders in Bahrain, Russia, Tunisia and Turkey.
- 2 fact-finding missions in Angola and Guatemala.
- 1 mission for solidarity and judicial observation in Bangladesh.
- 1 report on the judicial observation mission to Bahrain and 1 report on the fact-finding mission to Bangladesh.

Judicial or quasi-judicial complaints
- 9 submissions to the UN Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention and Enforced Disappearances, on behalf of human rights defenders in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iran, Sri Lanka and Syria.
- Follow up to a communication submitted to the UN Committee on Enforced disappearances on behalf of two human rights defenders from Mexico.
- 1 individual communication submitted to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) on obstacles to freedom of association of an NGO in Ethiopia.
- Follow up to an individual complaint submitted to the ACHPR on the arrest, torture and ill-treatment of three human rights defenders in Sudan.

Cooperation with international and regional mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders
* Advocacy at the United Nations, in particular before the Human Rights Council
- 3 oral interventions during the 22nd and 24th sessions of the Human Rights Council on the question of NGO access to funding, the situation of defenders in Bangladesh in the context of the Universal Periodic Review and the situation of women human rights defenders in the framework of the annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective, on behalf of the international Coalition of Women Human Rights Defenders.
- 4 events organised on 1) the issue of violations of the right of NGOs to funding: from harassment to criminalization”, with a focus on the situation in Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan (Vienna).
- 1 event jointly organized with “Front Line Defenders and Human Rights House” parallel to the “Human Dimension Implementation Meeting”, in the presence of defenders from Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Belarus and a representative of an LGBT network, to discuss the practical means necessary to strengthen the security of human rights defenders and NGOs in the OSCE region.

The “Defend the Defenders” Project
- 1 solidarity mission to Cambodia around the situation of human rights defenders working on the right to housing: 1 documentary produced, “The Rights of Others”, directed by Irish director Chris Kelly, for broadcast in 2014.
- Dissemination of the documentary “Indiens d’Amazonie en sursis”, (Amazon Indians living on borrowed time), directed by Daniel Schweizer, on indigenous peoples defending their habitat endangered by economic development in Brazil, at the World Social Forum in Tunis (Tunisia), at the University of Roraima in Boa Vista (Brazil) and at the documentary Film Festival in Lyon (France). 1,000 DVDs distributed at the Locarno Film Festival (Switzerland).
- Production and distribution of 900 postcards on behalf of Russian defender Stanislav Dmitrievsky, sponsored by Swiss clown Dimitri, in particular during his shows.
- Dissemination of documentaries produced by OMCT during the project (Mexico, Democratic Republic of Congo and Brazil) at the Open Day of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; participation of the Congolese defender Justine Masika Bihamba in a roundtable on the situation of human rights defenders.

* Advocacy with regional intergovernmental organizations, including the ACHPR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- 2 oral and written interventions submitted during the 53rd and 54th ordinary session of the ACHPR in Baruj, Gambia.
- Roundtable on the situation of violations of the right of NGOs to funding around the world, with a focus on the situation of African NGOs and participation of the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on human rights in Africa, the Commissioner of the ACHPR, and defenders from Zimbabwe, Algeria and Angola.

Participation in the 2nd meeting of the Study Group of the ACHPR on freedom of association and peaceful assembly in Cotonou; submission of comments on the draft report on the enjoyment of freedom of association and peaceful assembly in Africa.

Participation in the Meeting of experts to develop recommendations of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE for the protection of human rights (Warsaw) and submission of a note of the Observatory describing the main challenges and obstacles faced by defenders in the OSCE region and recommendations to improve their protection.

1 event held alongside the OSCE “Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting” on “Violations of the right of NGOs to funding: from harassment to criminalization”, with a focus on the situation in Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan (Vienna).

1 note submitted on the situation of LGBT defenders in the countries of the OSCE and 1 event jointly organized with “Front Line Defenders and Human Rights House” parallel to the “Human Dimension Implementation Meeting”, in the presence of defenders from Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Belarus and a representative of an LGBT network, to discuss the practical means necessary to strengthen the security of human rights defenders and NGOs in the OSCE region.

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OMCT | 2013 Annual Report
Activities carried out in 2013

IN BRIEF

Engagement and strengthening of NGO members of the SOS-Torture network

Support for local network members in their advocacy in Geneva or Brussels by facilitating meetings with the United Nations and the European Union; information sessions or bilateral meetings, interventions or joint advocacy letters.

1 regional training workshop on quasi-judicial procedures for 15 lawyers and legal experts from the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, the Republic of Korea and Cambodia, organized in cooperation with a member of the SOS-Torture Network in Malaysia (April).

Campaign and mobilization during the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June)

Intervention during the hearing held by the European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights on the struggle against torture in North Africa and the Middle East two years after the Arab Spring; participation in a roundtable discussion on the major challenges in the fight for the absolute prohibition of torture at the 20th anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights.

Campaign and mobilization during the International Human Rights Day (10 December)

Portraits produced of human rights defenders struggling against torture and impunity with video footage in favour of absolute prohibition; 3 events in Kenya, Lebanon and Pakistan, in partnership with members of the SOS-Torture Network; dissemination of press releases.

Nothing can justify torture
OMCT campaign for 10 December
http://vimeo.com/81499059

Dear friends,

I am back safely in Abidjan and I would like to say a big thank you to all at the OMCT office for the warm welcome and the excellent work done during my stay in Geneva. MIDH appreciate greatly the kind of relationship you are trying to establish with local organisations and we hope that very soon these relationships will benefit our people.

Kindest regard.

Yacouba Doumbia,
President, Ivorian Movement for Human Rights, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
Strengthening the prevention of torture and ill-treatment and protection against these crimes

Strengthening the implementation of international human rights standards and mechanisms

- 7 monitoring missions in the field: Mexico, Indonesia, Philippines, Colombia, Chile, Togo and Kenya to assess the implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Committee against Torture and the Committee on Human Rights about these countries and to start a dialogue with the authorities and civil society for the effective prevention of torture and increased accountability for acts of torture or ill-treatment.

- 1 alternative report on Kenya submitted to the Committee against Torture in partnership with a coalition of Kenyan NGOs.

- 1 alternative report on Indonesia submitted to the Committee on Human Rights, in partnership with a coalition of Indonesian NGOs.

- 2 follow-up notes on Morocco and Togo submitted to the Committee against Torture, in partnership with members of the SOS-Torture Network; publication of a brochure in easy French to sensitize the general public to recommendations on Togo adopted by the Committee against Torture.

Strengthening the range and impact of reports produced in relation to treaties

- Webcast sessions of the Committee against Torture in partnership with other international NGOs and leading debates on social networks based on the discussions of the Committee.

- Publication of an e-newsletter “OMCT@CAT” in English and French, in order to provide information to civil society, government officials, experts and researchers on the sessions of the Committee against Torture.

- 2 training sessions on the absolute prohibition of torture, organized in partnership with the Centre Gmédia parallel to sessions of the Committee against Torture, for 22 journalists from Kenya, Guatemala and Burkina Faso.

- 2 coordination meetings organized at the request of the Secretariat of the Committee against Torture, bringing together international NGOs based in Geneva, to discuss the interaction and participation of civil society in the meetings of the Committee; creation of a mailing list to facilitate the exchange of information.

- 1 seminar entitled “Litigation before the UN Committee against Torture: Strengthening This Important Tool against Torture” held in partnership with the American University Washington College of Law, with the participation of international human rights defenders and experts.

- Active participation in the context of the reform of the UN Treaty Bodies, advocacy work to improve and strengthen the system and the effectiveness of the implementation of decisions of international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

Advocacy before the Human Rights Council

- 5 oral interventions submitted in cooperation with member organisations and partners of the SOS-Torture Network, according to the agenda of the Council and in line with the mandate of the OMCT: respect for the absolute prohibition of torture; the situation of human rights in Iran and Côte d’Ivoire; the situation of girls and armed conflict in the provinces of North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo; operating procedures of the Universal Periodic Review.

- 5 parallel events organized in cooperation with member organisations and partners of the SOS-Torture Network, on the following issues: accountability for torture and “extraordinary rendition”; the role of the Human Rights Council in accountability and reparation for victims of torture; the situation of human rights in Algeria and Malaysia; the rights of indigenous peoples in Asia (the case of West Papua).

- 4 reports on Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua and the DRC submitted under the framework of the Universal Periodic Review, in partnership with members of the SOS-Torture Network; 2 parallel events on the situation of human rights in Mexico and Malaysia.
OMCT Libya

Support for victims of torture

- Creation of a network of 20 volunteer lawyers (from Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata and Sebha) with the aim of documenting cases of torture and ill-treatment; more than 100 cases taken on.

- 1 contribution submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, in partnership with TRIAL.

Training

- 1 workshop on the implementation of the new law criminalizing torture organized for 50 government officials, lawyers and activists in Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata and Sebha (April).

- 1 workshop on victims’ access to legal aid in the context of transitional justice organised in Tunis for 27 lawyer members of the Egyptian and Tunisian networks and 5 Libyan government officials.

Advocacy activities

- 1 comment on the draft law criminalizing torture submitted to the competent authorities, in partnership with Lawyers for Justice in Libya, REDRESS and Dignity.

- 1 memorandum entitled “10 Steps to End Torture” prepared and submitted to the relevant authorities, with the creation of a national coalition against torture.

Campaign and mobilisation during the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June)

- Several events organised in Benghazi in partnership with the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights: a one-day conference entitled “Past, Present, and Future of the Fight Against Torture in Libya”; creating a “wall against torture” produced by graffiti artists and young people; 1 human rights film festival; 1 concert of local artists.

Campaign and mobilisation during International Human Rights Day (10 December)

- Several events organised in Tripoli in partnership with the Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean, the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights and local associations: art and music workshop for 80 children (scouts from Tripoli and children from IDP camps, including Tawergha); group therapy session for Tawergha victims and their families; launch of an initiative “Art in the Street” with 40 young artists and taggers in two symbolic places in the city (Place des Martyrs and the Court of Tripoli); a public conference on the situation of torture and human rights in Libya, with the participation of the European Union Ambassador.

A “wall against torture”
**OMCT Tunisia**

**Support for victims of torture**
- 2 counselling centres for victims of torture established in Sidi Bouzid and Kef (known as SANAD) in partnership with the Organisation Against Torture in Tunisia (OCTT).
- Creation of a network of lawyers, in cooperation with the OCTT, in order to document cases and ensure legal representation: 31 cases documented.
- Establishment of a network of associations and contacts (doctors, psychologists, social services) which can be accessed by those being treated at SANAD centres.

**Training and workshops**
- 4 training sessions for SANAD staff on international standards on human rights, NGO office management, social assistance, psychological support to victims of torture and the documentation of cases.
- 2 training sessions in Sousse and Monastir on international human rights standards and their effective implementation in the Tunisian context, organized in cooperation with OCTT, ACAT France and Dignity for the benefit of 31 lawyer members of the aforementioned network. Two follow-up meetings to assess progress made on cases.
- 1 symposium on international standards in the fight against torture and ill-treatment organized for 23 practicing Tunisian judges.

**Advocacy activities**
- Monitoring of the legislative process for the adoption of the Organic Law on the establishment of a national preventive mechanism, namely via the creation of a platform for the coordination of Tunisian associations active in the fight against torture; regular exchanges with deputies from the National Constituent Assembly (NCA).
- Monitoring legislative reforms: Code of Criminal Procedure, Law against terrorism and money laundering.
- Research on an initiative for the development of a complaint mechanism for prisoners.

**Inauguration of the SANAD rehabilitation centres, in the presence of the OCTT President and the OMCT Secretary General.**

**Campaign and mobilisation during the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (26 June)**
- Establishment of a photographic exhibition entitled “Sous le Jasmin. Puiser dans le passé des forces pour l’avenir” (Under the Jasmine. Looking into the past to understand the future), bringing together photos of 34 people submitted to torture in Tunisia between 1956 and 2013, in cooperation with the photographer Augustin Le Gall, Dekradage and the Tunisian Ministry of Culture.
- Several events organised in Tunis with the participation of some of the 34 people from the “Sous le Jasmin” photographic exhibition: a round table leading to a series of recommendations to the Tunisian legislation; press conference and presentation of the song called “Parole d’Hugo” (Hugo’s Words) with the participation of OMCT alongside other Tunisian and international NGOs active in combating torture, at the “Ibn Rachiq” Cultural Centre and on Avenue Bourguiba.
- Presentation in several Tunisian cities of the photographic exhibition “Sous le Jasmin” launched by the President of the OMCT in the presence of the Tunisian Minister of Culture, the Minister for Human Rights and Transitional Justice, and the Minister of Health; this exhibition was accompanied by public debates, witness statements and films and documentaries on the issue were shown.

**Campaign and mobilisation during International Human Rights Day (10 December)**
- Organisation of a series of events in Sfax, including the inauguration of the exhibition “Sous le Jasmin” and a documentary by Hichem Ben Ammar entitled “La mémoire noire” (Black Memory), with the intervention of the French actor François Le Grange and victims’ testimonies.
- Participation of the exhibition in an International Human Rights Festival for school children.

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**26 June celebration in Tunis**
- Public meeting on Avenue Bourguiba and collection of signatures in favour of the absolute prohibition of torture.

"Under the Jasmin. Looking into the past to understand the future“
Photographic exhibition with portraits of thirty-four Tunisian torture victims (1956 to 2013).
DONORS, BODIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Non-governmental grants
American Jewish World Service
Bread for the World
Cardaid
Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean
Banque Pictet Foundation
Oak Foundation
Sigrid Rausing Trust

Grants from international and intergovernmental organisations
European Commission
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
United Nations Development Programme

Governments
Denmark
Finland
Germany
Liechtenstein
The Netherlands
Switzerland

Cantonal Grants (Switzerland)
Geneva

Municipal Grants (Switzerland)
Geneva
Plan-les-Ouates

Others
SOS-Torture Network membership fees
Private donations

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

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Vice-Presidents
José Domingo Dougan Beaca, Equatorial Guinea
Dick Marty, Switzerland
Treasurer
Anthony Travers, United Kingdom
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Special Adviser
Christine Sayegh, Switzerland

General Assembly
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Floribert Chebeya †, Democratic Republic of the Congo
Aminata Dieye, Senegal
José Domingo Dougan Beaca, Equatorial Guinea
Boubacar Messaoud, Mauritania
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Vtinda Grover, India
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Osamu Shiraishi, Japan
Renee Xia, China

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Luis Amiga, Mexico
Santiago Alejandro Canton, Argentina
José Burle de Figueiredo, Brazil

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Tinatin Khidasheli, Georgia
Dick Marty, Switzerland
Michael O’Flaherty, Ireland
Olgia Sadoskaya, Russian Federation
Christine Sayegh, Switzerland
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Leila Yunus, Azerbaijan

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Georges Asaf, Lebanon
Abdel-Khal Benabdessalam, Morocco
Nasreen Dastour, Afghanistan
Hadi Ghaemi, Islamic Republic of Iran
Karim Sabei, Egypt
Mohmoud Tili, Tunisia

North America
Theresa Harris, United States of America

International Secretariat
Secretary-General
Gerald Staberock
Deputy Secretary-General
Anne-Laurence Lacroix

Operations Division
Urgent Campaigns
Alexandra Koslin (Coordinator)
Urgent Assistance to Victims of Torture
Marina Gente (Project Officer)
Pierre-Henri Gally (Project Officer)
Monitoring Protection Mechanisms
Seynamou Benga (Human Rights Adviser)
Catin Benninger-Budu (Human Rights Adviser)
Pierre-Henri Gally (Project Officer)

Violence Against Women
Catin Benninger-Budu (Human Rights Adviser)

Fundraising and Communication Division
Catin Benninger-Budu (Human Rights Adviser)
Pierre-Henri Gally (Project Officer)

Rights of the Child
Carolina Barbara (Coordinator)
Fernanda Santana (Coordinator)

Human Rights Defenders/
Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders
Seynamou Benga ("Defend the Defenders", Coordinator)

Violence Against Women
Catin Benninger-Budu (Human Rights Adviser)

Human Rights Adviser, MENA region
Cumin Singh
Karim Salem

OMCT Europe
Representative at the European Union
Peter Zargl

OMCT Libya
Human Rights Adviser, MENA region
Cumin Singh
Karim Salem

OMCT Tunisia
Director
Gabriele Ritter
Project Associate
Hend Khechine
Legal Adviser
Haim Meddeb
Finance and Administrative Assistant
Rosa Vane

SANAD, Legal Advice and Social Assistance Centre
Social Coordinator, Sidi Bouzid
Alief Chokri
Legal Coordinator, Sidi Bouzid
Moez Issaoui
Social Coordinator, Kef
Sabrine Gatri
Legal Coordinator, Kef
Naja Talbi
PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

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

- Violations of the Right of NGOs to Funding: from Harassment to Criminalisation, Observatory Annual Report, February 2013 (French, English, Spanish, Arabic and Russian)

Report of judicial observation mission

- Bahrain: Sentenced to two years in prison for advocating and exercising the right to peaceful assembly, February 2013 (English and Arabic)

Report of fact-finding mission

- Bangladesh: Human rights defenders trapped in a polarised political environment, November 2013 (English)

Monitoring Protection Mechanisms

UN Human Rights Committee


- Violaciones de los derechos humanos en Paraguay, March 2013 (Spanish, English and Guarani)

UN Committee against Torture

- State of Torture and Related Human Rights Violations in Kenya, May 2013 (English)

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

- Rapport sur les violences contre les femmes en Nord et Sud Kivu, en République Démocratique du Congo, July 2013 (French)

Universal Periodic Review

- Contribution to the 2nd Universal Periodic Review of the Democratic Republic of Congo: Violence against women in North and South Kivu, September 2013 (English and French)

OMCT Office in Tunis

- Le rôle des avocats dans la protection contre la torture et les mauvais traitements, tiré du Colloque Le droit d’accès à l’avocat pendant l’enquête préliminaire pour les personnes privées de liberté, organised by the National Order of Tunisian Lawyers (Ordre National des Avocats de Tunis), the Tunisian Association of Young Lawyers (Association Tunisienne des Jeunes Avocats), the Association for the Prevention of Torture (Association pour la Prévention de la Torture) and the World Organisation against Torture, 27 June 2012 (French)

- OMCT Opinion on the main characteristics of the draft law on a National Preventive Mechanism to prevent torture in Tunisia, Tunis/Geneva, 29 August 2012 (English)

- Sous le Jasmin, Puiser dans le passé des forces pour l’avenir, Catalogue of the photographic exhibition, May 2013 (French and Arabic)

- Tous Unis Contre la Torture, brochure published to mark the National Day of Support for victims of torture in cooperation with 20 anti-torture associations, 26 June 2013 (French and Arabic)
Report from the Auditor for the Annual Accounts ending on December 31, 2013
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, 2013.

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 fulfill the legal demand of qualification and independence.

Following our monitoring, we are able to state that:

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

In conclusion, we recommend the approval of the annual accounts stating an excess of
incomes for 2013 of CHF 6'401.50 and taking into account the amount carried
forward at 1 January 2013, an excess of expenditures in the balance sheet of
CHF 33'776.88.

Cofida Compagnie Fiduciaire
et d’Informatique SA

[Signatures]

April 17, 2014 Carouge

Enclose:
- Annual accounts 2013
  (Statements of accounts, balance sheet and annexes)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIF / ASSETS</th>
<th>ANNEE 2013</th>
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| PASSIF / LIABILITIES          |           |           |
| CREDIENCES / CREDITORS        | 809'682.66 | 598'372.75 |
| Créditeurs / Creditors        | 118'942.98 | 37'710.06 |
| Fauts transitoires / Other liabilities | 235'430.26 | 120'549.49 |
| Subventions et produits reçus d'avance / | 455'305.42 | 440'113.20 |
| Grands payés en avance         |           |           |
| PROVISIONS / OTHER LIABILITIES| 175'000.00 | 175'000.00 |
| Provisions                    | 175'000.00 | 175'000.00 |
| COMPTRE DE RESULTAT / RESULTS | 33'776.88  | 40'178.30 |
| Report au 1er janvier 2013 / Carried forward at 1 January 2013 | -40'178.38 | -90'055.01 |
| Attribution de la fondation de soutien à l'OMCT / Contribution from the Foundation supporting OMCT | 0.00 | 40'000.00 |
| Excédent de recettes de l'exercice / Excess of incomes | 6'401.50 | 9'676.65 |
| TOTAL DU PASSIF / TOTAL LIABILITIES | 950'905.78 | 733'194.37 |

Genève, le 17 avril 2014 / Geneva, 17 April 2014

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<td>TOTAL DEPENSES / TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION</td>
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<td>Division recherche de fonds / Fundraising (gestion) / Research and Development Division (management)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subventions de fonds / Subventions / Grants from foundations</td>
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<td>SUBVENTIONS / SUBSIDIES / GRANTS FROM FOUNDATIONS AND OTHERS</td>
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<td>TOTAL DEPENSES / TOTAL OPERATIONS DIVISION</td>
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</table>

Genève, le 17 avril 2014 / Geneva, 17 April 2014

| RESULTAT AVANT INTERETS CREDIENCES ET AUTRES PRODUITS / RESULTS BEFORE CREDITORS INTERESTS AND OTHER INCOMES | -10'419.63 |
| INTERETS CREDIENCES ET AUTRES PRODUITS / CREDITORS INTERESTS AND OTHER INCOMES | 16'821.13 |
| TOTAL RECETTES / TOTAL INCOME | 6'401.50 |