

UNVFVT QUARTERLY

1st edition
June 2018



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The **UNVFVT Quarterly** is a new initiative of the *UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture* to share information with the anti-torture community, the Fund's friends & partners, and anyone who is eager to achieve a torture-free world. It contains the latest highlights, specific UN events, and stories on progress made towards the eradication of torture and the assistance to survivors.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

70 years ago, the UN General Assembly adopted the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the first international text prohibiting torture in absolute terms. Its principles remain highly relevant today: torture is a crime that under no circumstances

can be tolerated or justified. However, this promise has not been kept for all.

On the occasion of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, all UN anti-torture mechanisms and regional mechanisms speak with one voice recalling the remarkable progress made towards the eradication of torture over the last 70 years, but also reminding that torture is not synonymous with the past. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights sends a powerful message on the need to respond to victims of torture and their families.

- [Read the full joint statement by anti-torture mechanisms.](#)
- [Watch the High Commissioner's video.](#)

26th June

OUR NEW BOARD



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50,000 VICTIMS
helped every year



160 ORGANIZATIONS
supported with grants every year

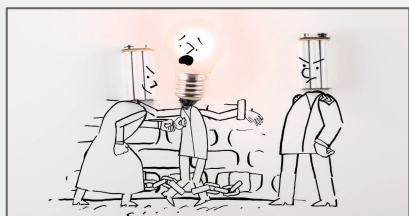


80 COUNTRIES
covered by the Fund
every year

UN ANTI-TORTURE COMMUNITY

CAT

Committee against Torture



The CAT concluded its 63rd session in April 2018. Click [here](#) to read the concluding observations.

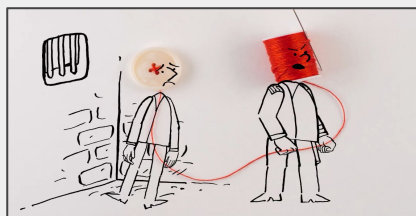
The next session will be held in July 2018. Countries under review are:

- Chile
- Mauritiana
- Russian Federation
- Seychelles

For information on NGO report submissions for upcoming sessions, click [here](#).

SPT

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture



The SPT recently visited:

- Belize
- Portugal
- Uruguay

Further visits will be conducted to:

- Burundi
- Kyrgyzstan
- Liberia
- Poland

The SPT's 35th session will be held in Geneva from 18 - 22 June.

For information on the OPCAT Special Fund, click [here](#).

SR

Special Rapporteur on Torture

In 2018, the SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment visited [Argentina](#) and [Ukraine](#).

In his next thematic report to the General Assembly, the SR will focus on strengthening the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in the context of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UNVFVT

THE FUND'S EXPERT WORKSHOP SEEKING JUSTICE FOR TORTURE

“

The Fund was with us from the beginning. The money they gave us helped hold accountable war criminals across the globe. The Fund trusted us when nobody else did.

Mr. Hassan Bility
Torture survivor, Liberia
Director, Global Justice & Research Project

”

Every year the UNVFVT organizes thematic workshops with rehabilitation practitioners, human rights defenders and torture victims assisted by the Fund, to share best practices in the field of victim assistance.

In April 2018 the Fund held a two day workshop on “Seeking Justice for Torture: A Victim-Centered Approach”, preceded by a high-level panel in Palais des Nations, Geneva. Click [here](#) to read the workshop report, panel statements and stories of survivors.

Ms. Somaieh Al Kareem Tarazmontaz
Iraqi torture survivor
Artist & writer



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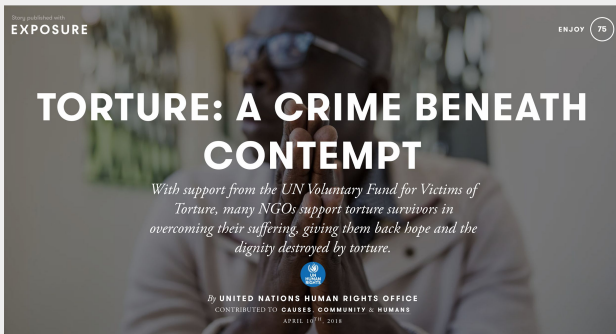
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Storytelling

In addition to providing financial support, the UNVFVT regularly disseminates accounts of the inspiring work carried out by its partners in support of torture victims and their families. See the latest stories and join us in sharing these testimonies.



Under international law, it is the State's responsibility to provide redress and rehabilitation to victims of torture. But in reality, civil society often has to step in. [Read](#) how the UNVFVT makes it possible for many NGOs to help torture survivors and their families to overcome their suffering, regain hope and rebuild their lives. Read further stories [here](#).



Justice, to victims of torture, does not mean revenge. What they want to know is that their testimony has an impact on holding accountable those who are responsible for such extreme cruelty. [This video interview](#) collects voices of victims who seek justice as the best response to the suffering they have endured.



Torture has long-lasting effects not just on the individual, but also on their family and community. In [this video](#), survivors of torture stress the importance of international support. Knowing that the world cares about what they have gone through gives them hope and courage.

TO THE FUND'S GRANTEEES

We want to hear from you! Help us collect your stories and achievements. Write to us at unvfvt@ohchr.org to be featured in the next UNVFVT Quarterly.

Human rights defenders increasingly face reprisals for cooperating with the UN, including on work against torture. If you face such intimidation, please read [this information](#), and contact us at unvfvt@ohchr.org.

Help us make a difference. Click here to [DONATE](#).



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