



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

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**Former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture
Juan E. Méndez Joins CVT's National Advisory Council**

ST. PAUL, Minn. —The [Center for Victims of Torture](http://www.cvt.org)™ (CVT) today announced that Juan E. Méndez has joined CVT'S National Advisory Council, a coalition created in 2015 to provide expert support for CVT's mission to heal the wounds of torture for survivors, families and communities, and end torture worldwide. The CVT board of directors approved the addition at a December 8 meeting.

"We are tremendously honored that Juan will lend his substantial personal and professional expertise to our National Advisory Council," said Curt Goering, CVT's executive director. "As a new administration takes shape, it is imperative that we continue to fortify this council of prominent thought leaders to further our goal of ending torture. Juan's contributions, together with his fellow council members, will undoubtedly strengthen our efforts as we work toward that goal."

Méndez, who from 2010 - 2016 served as UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, has made a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of persons deprived of their rights and their liberty. A survivor of torture, he also was subjected to administrative detention as a result of his work as a human rights lawyer representing political prisoners during the military dictatorship in his native Argentina. His work has been pivotal in altering public and State opinion on solitary confinement and its devastating effects on individuals.

Méndez is a Professor of Human Rights Law in Residence at American University's Washington College of Law and the author (with Marjory Wentworth) of "Taking a Stand: The Evolution of Human Rights." In 2009 and 2010, he was the Special Advisor on Prevention to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He was Co-Chair of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association, and has served in several prominent human rights roles, including at Human Rights Watch and the International Center for Transitional Justice.

NAC members have deep experience in fields related to survivor rehabilitation and human rights, including global human rights, health, mental health, policy development, policy advocacy, government affairs, the law, academia, journalism and philanthropy. Members have long provided advice and assistance in areas including program development, policy advocacy, public relations, communications

and fund development. This council allows CVT to leverage a coordinated and sustained resource for advice, support and assistance.

National Advisory Council members include: Peter L. Bittenwieser, David Crane, Lorne Craner, Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky, Ph.D., David P. Gushee, Ph.D., Roger Hale, Charles P. Henry, Ph.D., Wade Horn, Ph.D., Douglas A. Johnson, Al Kaneb, Kerry Kennedy, Mark P. Lagon, Ph.D., The Honorable Walter F. Mondale, Alberto Mora, Fionnuala D. Ni Aolain, Diane Orentlicher, Regan E. Ralph, Mark Ritchie, Mary Ann Stein, William H. Taft IV, David S. Weissbrodt, and Dr. James Zogby, Ph.D. Eric Schwartz serves as CVT Board Liaison to the council.

Member bios are available [here](#).

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The Center for Victims of Torture is a nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Paul, MN, with offices in Atlanta, GA, and Washington, D.C.; and healing initiatives in Africa and the Middle East.

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