



The CENTER for
VICTIMS of TORTURE

IT STARTS
WITH HOPE

30 YEARS

Eclipse Award

Each year the Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) presents the Eclipse Award to an individual or organization for their extraordinary service for the protection and healing of torture survivors, and for the prevention of torture.

2015

In commemoration of its 30th anniversary, CVT honors its founders with the 2015 Eclipse Award. The vision and leadership of these individuals launched the Center for Victims of Torture and guided its growth and expansion over thirty years. Honorees include: Barbara Frey, Samuel Heins, Rudy Perpich, Jr. and the late Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich, Terry Saario, Robert Sands, Robert Stein, Tom Triplett and David Weissbrodt.

2014

Professor David M. Crane, a professor of practice at Syracuse University College of Law, was honored for his extraordinary efforts in fighting impunity for torture. He is the founding Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and founder of Impunity Watch. He also launched the Syracuse University College of Law Syrian Accountability Project and served on a panel of experts who authored a detailed report documenting torture and other human rights abuses in Syria.

2013

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) has long been a leader in support of the protection of refugees, promotion of human rights, prevention of torture and efforts to ensure torture survivors have access to rehabilitative care. Among many notable achievements, he authored and/or been lead sponsor of several important anti-torture and human rights legislation including the Leahy Law on Human Rights, the Refugee Protection Act, and the Torture Victim Protection Act. In 2009, Sen. Leahy called for establishing a bipartisan congressional commission to examine flawed national security policies that led to the torture of detainees by U.S. personnel post 9/11.

2012

The **UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture** provides financial support to over 179 torture survivor rehabilitation programs around the world to rebuild lives after torture.

2011

Dr. Elizabeth Lira, a clinical psychologist from Chile, was honored for her pioneering work to provide care to torture survivors. Her landmark work on Testimony Therapy was the first significant contribution to psychotherapy specifically intended for torture victims. She served in numerous capacities during the political transition in Chile, and collaborated with the Center for Victims of Torture and its work with the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey.

2010

Elisa Massimino is President and Chief Executive Officer for Human Rights First. The daughter of a nuclear submarine commander, Massimino was instrumental in Human Rights First's effort to assemble a group of retired generals and admirals to speak out publicly against policies authorizing the torture of prisoners in U.S. custody.

2009

Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) was honored for his extraordinary work opposing U.S. policies and practices that condoned and promoted torture and abuse of detainees. He worked to end the ambiguity concerning U.S. policies on detainee treatment and to set clear guidelines for U.S. personnel. In 2004, Senator Durbin authored the first legislation to prohibit torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

2008

Dr. Allen S. Keller is the founder and co-director of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture. He is a physician advocate who has written and spoken out on numerous human rights issues, making the connection between health and human rights for policy makers, human rights advocates and all those who care about the promotion of civil society. Dr. Keller documented and reported on the medical and social consequences of land mines in Cambodia, refugee health, access to health care for prisoners, political asylum and care for torture victims.

2007

Alberto J. Mora is the former general counsel for the U.S. Navy. In that capacity, Mora waged a three-year battle with military and civilian leaders over U.S. military policy regarding the treatment of terrorist suspects held by the United States as part of the war on terror.

2006

Sofia Macher served as Secretary General of the Coordinadora de los Derechos Humanos de Peru (the Peruvian Human Rights Coordinating Group) from 1997 to 2001. The Coordinadora, which includes 65 human rights organizations in Peru, took the extraordinary step of creating a strategic plan to end torture that involved the careful evaluation of the strengths and opportunities for each organization to act in coordination. Its work is credited with paving the way for Peru's democratic transition and for building pressure to create the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, on which Macher served as a commissioner. The Commission also broke new ground, including establishing a detailed set of standards for support to victims of the violence.

2005

John Salzberg, Ph.D., has worked in human rights since 1973. Dr. Salzberg was the Congressional staff person who developed the legislation establishing the Human Rights Office and the annual State Department report. In 1992, he came to CVT first as a volunteer, then as CVT's Washington D.C. representative. He played a key role in passage of the 1998 Torture Victims Relief Act and subsequent reauthorizations. He retired from CVT in December 2005.

2004

Dr. Vincent Iacopino is senior medical advisor to Physicians for Human Rights and the principal organizer of an international effort to develop UN guidelines on effective documentation of torture and ill treatment (the Istanbul Protocol).

2003

Dr. Inge Genefke, founder of the Research and Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims in Copenhagen, Denmark, a predecessor of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims.

2002

Tony Reeler, founder and executive director of the Amani Trust, which treats survivors of torture in Zimbabwe. Because of threats to his organization, Mr. Reeler has been forced to leave Zimbabwe.

2001

Sister Dianna Ortiz, a founding member of the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) and a survivor of torture herself.