



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

ANAN'S STORY

Anan was a young man who grew up in East Africa. He wanted a better life for himself and his family and he started speaking out against the government. The government, in turn, imprisoned and tortured Anan in an attempt to silence him. Even though his torture didn't break his spirit, he knew that his life was in danger were he to stay. So, Anan fled and made his way to Atlanta, Georgia to seek asylum. But, he knew that he was suffering from trauma, and sought help. He found CVT. The clinic manager and his therapist, Adaobi, told us, that everyone loved when Anan came to the office – he just lit up the room. Anan worked hard on his immigration case and his healing – he was motivated to rebuild his life and win asylum.

Soon he began his own export business. The reimagined future Anan dreamed of in the United States was within his reach. But this all came to a halt when one night Anan was pulled over by the police for having a paper license plate. He just bought a new car, and hadn't gotten his permanent license plates yet. Even though the temporary plate was completely legal, the police said they couldn't see it well. The officer arrested Anan. Anan hadn't committed a crime, and he was in the country legally, but still, he ended up in an immigration detention center. In a moment of desperation, he put his hands in his pocket and felt a little piece of paper. It was his CVT therapist's, Adaobi's, business card. She was the first person he called. The first few weeks in detention were rough, but he said "It's okay, I'm going to fight it."

But as time went on he began to spiral downward. He would tell Adaobi how conditions were horrible, he often didn't get any food, and he was beginning to have nightmares and flashbacks to his torture. His mental health worsened. But each time he called CVT, Adaobi picked up the phone. In fact, he said that Adaobi was the only one who always picked up the phone – his lawyer was hard to get a hold of and eventually his friends stopped calling. If not for CVT, Anan would have been completely alone. When Anan was finally released, he returned to CVT to begin, once again, dreaming of his future.

This year, CVT will help nearly 30,000 survivors and family members, like Anan, know that they are not alone in their pain. To offer healing, capacity development, and advocacy on such a large scale this year, it will take \$26 million dollars.