



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

THE
storycloth

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Partnering to Heal Survivors

Over 140 torture rehabilitation centers around the world make a unique contribution in the fight to end torture and to heal the men and women who have survived it. They reclaim leaders targeted for torture, document evidence of torture and expose the secrecy used to hide human rights abuses.

But many centers operate in isolation. In countries with persistent human rights violations, they work in a culture of fear and apathy.

CVT recently launched a new international initiative to support this developing network of torture rehabilitation centers. Partners in Trauma Healing (PATH) will offer professional, intellectual and emotional support for the difficult work of healing torture survivors.

Edward Bokarie with CAPS, Community Association for Psychosocial Services, is one of our partners. Edward worked with CVT Sierra Leone as a paraprofessional mental health counselor. He and other counselors trained by CVT formed CAPS, which today continues to care for torture and war trauma survivors.

“By participating in the PATH project we hope to gain and share knowledge with the other torture treatment centers around the world,” said Edward. “The knowledge gained from other torture treatment centers will be incorporated in our community approach to torture issues and healing.”

Over the next four years, PATH will provide intense training on counseling skills and organizational development to CAPS and nine other independent foreign torture rehabilitation centers. Periodic live conferences and visits from CVT advisors will be supplemented by phone and video calls. The partner centers, which are scattered throughout Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, will connect with and learn from each other through Web conferences and online discussions.

Strengthening Mental Health Treatment

While the partner centers may have trained counselors on staff, the counselors might not have worked with torture and war trauma survivors. With CVT, each center



Staff from the CAPS rehabilitation center outside of a hut where the organization works with survivors. PHOTO © AMY JO VERSOLATO

will determine the clinical skills they need to develop.

The centers will also have an experienced psychotherapist embedded with the organization for a year to train and mentor the clinical staff. This type of in-person coaching reinforces what counselors

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the Dignity of
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Letter from the Deputy Director

As we begin the New Year, there is still more to be done to end torture. We need your help.

2011 saw a disturbing turn toward torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Cries for the return to torture and cruel treatment followed the capture and killing of Osama bin Laden. Former Vice President Cheney defended these techniques in his memoir. Some Republican presidential candidates suggested the return of waterboarding.

In Congress, an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would have opened the door again to the use of torture and cruelty in U.S. interrogations. While we are gratified this amendment did not become law, we do anticipate the sponsors will attempt to bring it up again in the future.

Thanks to all of you who joined us in speaking out against this amendment.

Unfortunately, the NDAA signed into law provides legal authorization for indefinite detention. This is the first time the United States has authorized, by statute, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees. From our experience providing care to torture survivors, we know indefinite detention causes severe, prolonged and harmful health and mental health problems for those detained.

We worked hard to stop indefinite detention from becoming part of the NDAA and have called upon Congress and President Obama to make repealing indefinite detention a top priority.

Your support and involvement in our advocacy work is as important as ever.

Please take a moment to visit our Web site at www.cvt.org to learn more about what you can do to be part of our advocacy work, including signing up for news and action alerts. We will let you know when your voice is urgently needed.

You can also sign our online petition calling for an independent, nonpartisan commission to investigate all aspects of U.S. policy relating to detainee treatment.

Follow us on Facebook for updates.

Thank you for your support and participation. You can make a difference.

Sincerely,



Ruth Barrett-Rendler
Deputy Director



Ruth Barrett-Rendler



Find us on
Facebook

Stay on top of what CVT is doing by signing up for our e-mail alerts at www.cvt.org or connecting with us on Facebook.

Partnering to Heal Survivors

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may have read in books or learned in workshops but have yet to integrate into practice. For example, after a counseling session, the psychotherapist can ask the partner counselor, “What did you notice about Kisimba’s face when he said that he wasn’t able to save his mother?”

“While we remain grateful to CVT for sending several psychotherapists in the past to conduct trainings for CAPS staff, the PATH project has a unique opportunity in itself,” said Edward. “The provision of a base psychotherapist for at least a year is beyond our imagination.”

To build an effective, sustainable mental health program for torture survivors, rehabilitation centers must monitor and evaluate the healing process. This involves creating tools such as simple surveys for survivors to report their symptoms of depression and anxiety. Centers must also identify what it means to be healthy within their communities and then translate Western measures and techniques appropriately.

“We’ll help each center develop accurate and thorough evaluation methods, so they understand the most effective ways to help survivors



Greg Vinson, CVT senior research and evaluation manager, and Kristi Rendahl, organizational development advisor, were greeted at Memoria, a torture rehabilitation center in Moldova, with a special “Chisinau” cloth and a bread ring, the traditional way of welcoming guests.

PHOTO © ANN WILHOITE

heal and rebuild their lives,” said Pam Kriege Santos, PATH project manager.

Developing Sustainable Organizations

Even with the most skilled and compassionate counselors, survivors may not get the care they need if the center is struggling administratively or financially. To strengthen administrative functions, we will work with partner staff to assess their strengths and set up a plan to develop the organization’s infrastructure.

“We’ll work with executive directors, staff members and boards of directors to develop resource mobilization strategies, strengthen management and financial practices, and invest in organization-wide leadership to position the centers for on-going stability and growth,” said Kristi Rendahl, the PATH organizational development advisor. “As the centers implement their plans, they will see their organizations become more efficient and ultimately more effective at caring for survivors of torture.”

To assist the partners in strengthening key areas of their

organizations, we’ll provide grants. Organizations can apply for funding for a specific purpose, such as purchasing accounting software or paying for a clinical conference for a counselor. These small investments are the building blocks of a stable organization that can provide healing to torture survivors.

The PATH partners are eager to learn from their experience. “We hope to achieve the overall growth and strategy of our Centre,” said Dr. Mariam Jishkariani, president and medical director of RCT/ EMPATHY, a torture rehabilitation center in Georgia. “We want to develop an international level academic institution with developed management, clinical, legal and forensic, research and training structures, through increasing effectiveness and strong multi-faceted sustainable programmes.”

*Partners
in Trauma
Healing is*

*made possible through the financial
support of USAID and the American
peoples’ support.*



Transcultural Psychosocial Organization Cambodia is a PATH partner. PHOTO © CVT

Donor profile: Katherine Schafer urges gifts of any size

Katherine Schafer was introduced to CVT nearly 25 years ago when a friend invited her to help with renovations to our first healing center, a restored home designed to feel welcoming to survivors.

She was drawn to CVT's mission and wanted to help but knew that working with survivors was not the best fit for her. Throughout her long history with CVT, though, Katherine has supported our work in many ways: as a photographer, eBay book auctioneer, annual donor

and most recently, as a planned giving donor who has added CVT to her will.

Katherine has made a gift to CVT every year since 1989. Like hundreds of CVT donors, her gifts are not large. But as Katherine said, "I believe in grassroots support. It doesn't matter how small the gift is, it all adds up to help CVT heal the wounds of torture survivors."

Every gift made to CVT is generous. The faithful support of donors like Katherine who give gifts of

\$5 to \$100 per year work together to invest more than \$420,000 in CVT's work. These gifts play a vital role in funding our Washington, D.C., office and assessment trips to countries that may benefit from CVT's initiatives. They represent the backbone of CVT's work, and we could not continue to do our work without it.

"If torture is repugnant to you, support this organization," urged Katherine. "An annual gift of any size can bring hope and healing to torture survivors throughout the world."



PHOTO © CVT

Your Membership Renewal Brings Hope and Healing

At the beginning of each year we ask all our supporters to renew their annual support for the Center for Victims of Torture. Membership renewals are especially helpful early in the year because of the impact they can provide to our work throughout the whole year.

Thanks to your generosity, CVT cared for 3,000 torture survivors in 2011—giving them the hope they need to rebuild their lives. In the coming year, we anticipate being called upon to care for even more torture survivors—here in the United States, in Africa and in the Middle East.

By renewing your membership, you'll help us extend care to survivors in Minnesota, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Jordan. You'll support our efforts to strengthen domestic

and international colleagues through technical assistance and training. You'll support our work to sustain federal funding that brings care to tens of thousands worldwide. And you'll support our efforts to end torture and cruelty—no matter who is committing it.

So, when you receive your renewal request, please respond generously. If you wish to renew your annual support online via our secure server, please visit www.cvt.org and click "DONATE NOW." Our Web site also makes it easy to become a member of CVT's monthly giving program, the Circle of Hope. Call us toll-free at 1-877-265-8775 if you wish to use your credit card or if you have any questions. Thank you for your generous partnership in restoring the dignity of the human spirit.

Make a Difference in the Life of a Survivor

Your generous support brings healing to torture survivors worldwide. CVT welcomes all types of donations.

- **Monthly Sustainers** allow for ongoing planning and delivery of healing services.
- **Planned Giving** continues your legacy of support.
- **Gifts of Stock** support survivors while offering tax benefits to donors.
- **In-Kind Donations** of specific items improve the lives of survivors.
- **Tribute Gifts** celebrate events or memorialize loved ones.

Donate online at www.cvt.org, send a check to 649 Dayton Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104, or call 1-877-265-8775 for other ways to give. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to healing the wounds of torture.



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