

The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

THE storycloth

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New Allies, New Resources

Francisco was a college student and part of a pro-democracy group protesting the president's most recent efforts to consolidate power. One day at school, he was taken by armed guards to a police station where he was tortured with beatings and electric shock. He was released but told to report to the police station the following day. After his family arranged for him to flee the country, his father was

arrested and died three days later in police custody.

When Francisco arrived at the Center for Victims of Torture's St. Paul Healing Clinic, he was paralyzed with fear and guilt. Unable to sleep or eat, he refused to use an interpreter, fearing his country's surveillance extended beyond borders.

CVT found an alternative interpreter and during his first appointments would leave office doors open and hide electrical cords. Gradually, Francisco built trust with his providers at CVT, which grew to include a team of mental health, medical, and social service providers and a pro bono attorney. Although he continues to grieve for his father, and his family remains in danger, Francisco has built a new life with structure and purpose in each day. He hopes to

achieve the career and life goals he had before the police arrived at his classroom door.

Francisco and thousands of other torture survivors have hope for a new life because of the policy work done by CVT's Washington, D.C. office—and made possible with your support.

CVT wrote the Torture Victims Relief Act in 1993 with Senator Dave Durenberger (R-MN). This federal legislation authorizes funding for torture survivor centers in the United States and abroad. We've secured appropriations every year since 2000. The annual \$25 million doesn't come close to meeting the need, but our work makes it possible for tens of thousands of torture survivors to receive the care they so desperately need.

Since September 11, 2001, CVT has worked on problems created by the United States' embrace of torture and cruelty in counter-terrorism efforts. Our work has centered on two areas: establishing just and humane detention and interrogation practices, and securing

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Jennifer Windsor, Associate Dean for Programs and Studies at the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, and Omar Bah, journalist and torture survivor, speaking at CVT's June 26 symposium: *Torture as a Weapon Against Democracy*.

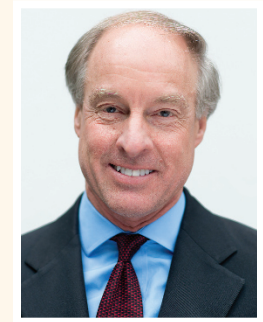
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Restoring
the Dignity of
the Human Spirit

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Letter from the Executive Director



Curt Goering

Millions of torture survivors suffer in silence, desperate for CVT's help. But we face significant challenges in providing vital, life-saving care to torture survivors in the U.S., Africa and the Middle East.

Torture is committed in more than 100 countries, with millions suffering from its devastating effects. Over the last 25 years, we've restored the health and lives of more than 25,000 survivors—the majority of them in the past thirteen years since we began working internationally.

Our work in Jordan began in 2008 with Iraqi torture survivors. Today, we see an extraordinary number of Syrian survivors who report types of torture similar to Iraqis: beatings, rapes and sexual assaults, and excruciatingly painful stress positions. The viciousness of the torture, and the large number of child victims, is horrifying.

In addition to Jordan, we continue our work in the world's largest refugee camps in the northeastern part of Kenya. The camps are dangerous; beatings and sexual assaults are commonplace. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable.

I recently visited our newest international projects. In Nairobi, we care for urban refugee torture survivors from the region. In Ethiopia, we're staffing up to extend care to Eritrean survivors, many of whom were brutally tortured because they attempted to escape their country's indefinite military conscription policies.

In Nairobi, I met a survivor I'll call "Mary." Mary described for me the first time she was raped. And the second time. And again and again. She became pregnant from one of the rapes and gave birth to a daughter who is a constant reminder of the rapes. With no means of support, she entered the sex trade to feed her daughter.

But working with CVT's counselors, Mary is now rebuilding her life. She has found domestic work and no longer sells her body. She told me, "When I see CVT's logo, it makes me happy."

My sadness and anger at her abuse were tempered by her resilience—her ability, with our help, to pick up the pieces of her shattered life and regain a vision for her future. Rebuilding lives and restoring hope is at the core of what we do at CVT, and your support makes it possible.

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, I hope you'll keep in mind Mary and the more than 2,000 survivors we'll help this year. Please give as generously as you can.

Sincerely,

Curt Goering
Executive Director

New Allies, New Resources

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accountability for the use of torture.

We're placing particular focus on securing the release of the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on the CIA's detention and interrogation policies, which *The New York Times* called "A blistering 6,000 page Senate study that includes incendiary accusations that agency officials misled the White House, the Justice Department and Congress about the so-called enhanced interrogation techniques like waterboarding that were used on Qaeda prisoners."

We are also advancing a set of political asylum policy reforms as part of the drive for comprehensive immigration reform, including reducing delays in immigration court, eliminating the one-year filing deadline for asylum applications, reducing the frequency of detention of asylum seekers and expanding humane alternatives to detention, and mitigating the harm to asylum seekers resulting from overly broad definitions of terrorist activity in U.S. immigration laws.

We approach our advocacy work from a perspective that is different from our human rights colleagues. We are not attorneys; we are healers. We give voice to people who were purposely silenced

by the perpetrators of torture. We are the only human rights advocacy group that is grounded in more than two decades of helping individual torture survivors heal from their wounds and rebuild their lives. Having extended care to more than 25,000 survivors, CVT has a unique level of knowledge, experience and credibility.

CVT will raise almost \$290,000 this year in restricted funds to support our policy work. But we'll spend \$525,000 to generate the \$25 million that makes possible rehabilitation care for tens of thousands of survivors worldwide, while seeking accountability for the torture committed post-9/11 and while working for urgently needed changes to our nation's immigration and political asylum systems.

As you consider your year-end charitable contributions, please consider a gift to the Center for Victims of Torture. Your gift will fund our advocacy as we create new allies against torture and new resources to heal survivors. And your gift will help to rebuild the lives and restore the hope of torture survivors in the U.S., Africa and the Middle East—those who receive care from CVT, and those who will never reach our door.



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Curt Goering introduces Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), CVT's 2013 Eclipse Award recipient for his extraordinary service on behalf of torture survivors.



Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) speaks at CVT's symposium June 26—International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

"Throughout all of this, if I can compliment all of you, the Center for Victims of Torture has stayed true to its mission, helping torture survivors recover and rebuild their lives, and you deserve congratulations for that. And over the years, as chairman of the appropriations committee that provides the funding to carry out our foreign policy, I have made a point of increasing the amount available to help torture survivors—through organizations like the Center for Victims of Torture and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. [...] I applaud you for doing what you do to make it possible for them. Every single one that you're able to help, every single one that you're able to bring here, every single one that you're able to keep from torture makes the world better."

— Senator Patrick Leahy, US Senator from Vermont and Chair, Judiciary Committee

Marie Souied: Supporting Torture Survivors with Legal Research



Mental health services are often forgotten in disaster situations,” said Marie Souied. Marie just completed an eight-month internship with CVT’s Washington, D.C. office. A third-year law student at American University Washington College of Law, Marie used her legal education to support CVT’s advocacy work. Marie’s internship included researching and drafting an upcoming publication that addresses how torture rehabilitation is crucial to the overall healing of a society reeling from the effects

of conflict or oppression.

“Our small policy team in Washington has an ambitious agenda,” said Annie Sovcik, Director of CVT’s Washington Office. “Marie brought with her such a wealth of knowledge, skills and passion for human rights. She quickly became a valued and integral part of our team.”

A former producer with the Al Arabiya News Channel in the United Nations office, Marie was drawn to CVT because of its broad international reach. “The effects of CVT’s policy work are felt far and

wide,” said Marie. “I was curious to learn more about the intersection between the clinical work and the policy/legal aspects of the work in Washington, D.C.”

Marie, who is of Lebanese descent and is proficient in Arabic, hopes to focus her career on the promotion of the rule of law in the Middle East, in particular strengthening institutions to better protect human rights.

Your Year-End Giving Creates Hope and Healing

At the end of the year, many of our donors choose to make their tax-deductible contributions to support CVT’s work. These year-end gifts help us extend care to survivors of torture and war atrocities and propel our advocacy to end torture worldwide. Gifts received in 2013 also help us to more effectively plan and allocate our resources for 2014.

If you haven’t had a chance to send a gift to CVT this year, please do so in the weeks ahead. Or if you’ve already made a gift and you can make an additional tax-deductible contribution, we will be doubly grateful. Your annual support inspires us at CVT—and it also sends a powerful message of hope to torture survivors.

This year we are offering our

supporters an opportunity to give *Gifts of Hope* as holiday gifts. Your friends and family members will appreciate knowing that a person’s life is being restored in their names. And when you give a *Gift of Hope*, we’ll send you cards that you can use to announce your thoughtful gifts.

Thank you for your continuing generosity and for your commitment to helping torture survivors throughout the world. Please make your tax-deductible gift by check, by credit card, or by donating online at www.cvt.org. If you’d like to discuss a gift of stock or a bequest gift, please contact Ashley at 1-877-265-8775 (toll-free) or at agotreau@cvt.org.

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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