

The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

THE
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CVT Launches A *Call to Reject Torture* Campaign

The Center for Victims of Torture™ kicked off its *Call to Reject Torture* with a declaration signed by over 100 prominent leaders including Former Secretaries of Defense Chuck Hagel and William Cohen.

These influential Americans are diverse in their political views but agree that our nation should never use torture again. The declaration reads:

“We, the undersigned, call on all of our fellow Americans and public officials to reject torture unequivocally and without exception, in keeping with American law and values.”

About the campaign, Executive Director Curt Goering said “We are calling upon all Americans to reject torture and for public officials to adhere to legal bans on torture. It is essential that the American people know the truth about torture and its real impact.”

The campaign challenges the

dangerous and false rhetoric that has dominated the public discourse, countering it with the facts about torture.

- **Torture is illegal:** Torture is a crime under international and domestic law. It is never allowed, including in time of war, national emergency or national security.
- **Torture is immoral:** Torture violates the inherent dignity of human beings and violates spiritual integrity.
- **Torture makes us less safe:** Torture strengthens the resolve of adversaries, alienates partners, and makes America a human rights violator.

“By having campaign leaders in foreign policy, national security, military and faith sectors, we will solidify the bipartisan opposition to America ever again using torture,” Goering affirmed.

Through the campaign CVT is making clear to the American people that the primary purpose of torture



is intimidation, control, and breaking an individual's will. It instills fear and silences dissent, violating the core values and principles of the nation's founding.

Go to www.cvt.org/rejecttorture to sign the declaration and see more materials to help spread the word to neighbors and family.

Restoring
the Dignity of
the Human Spirit

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Letter from the Executive Director

We live in concerning times. Although we face a new world following the presidential election, CVT will not waver in our commitment to heal the wounds of torture on individuals, families and communities, and to end the use of torture, no matter who is committing it.

With more than 65 million people now forcibly displaced from their homes, the most since records have been kept, and with the high percentage of refugees who are torture survivors (30%, by many estimates), the need for our work has never been greater.

CVT has and will expand to meet this great need.

In 2015, we opened our doors to survivors in Atlanta, Georgia, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Combining the services offered by the IRC — an international humanitarian and refugee resettlement services provider — with CVT's interdisciplinary healing care allows newly-resettled refugees to receive the full spectrum of services they need.

In addition to our international healing reach in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Jordan, we've just launched two expansion initiatives in the Middle East.

But we won't stop there. This September, CVT adopted a new strategic plan for 2017-2019 which calls for CVT to focus on expansion, strengthening of other torture rehabilitation organizations, policy influence on the prevention of and accountability for torture, and lastly, strengthening our own organizational capacity. In the coming year, hope will be restored for more than 25,000 survivors: nearly 5,000 people who were themselves tortured or subjected to other gross human rights violations, and more than 20,000 family members who were profoundly affected by the abuse of a loved one.

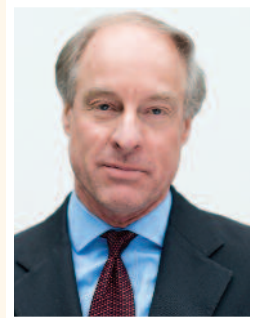
We couldn't do this work without you. During this season of giving, I'm especially grateful for your continued commitment and generosity to help us expand our work to meet the growing needs of survivors worldwide.

Thank you for all you do to make the world a better place.

With many thanks,



Curt Goering
Executive Director



Curt Goering

P.S. To make your 2016 tax deductible donation, return the enclosed envelope or visit www.cvt.org/donate today!

Students Walk in Solidarity with Survivors in Kenya

When they learned about the lives of refugees living in Dadaab, Kenya, and CVT's healing center for torture survivors there, the students at Washington High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, were inspired to help.

The students learned about the challenges of camp life, its limited resources and opportunities and what it's like for those who have experienced trauma to begin taking steps to rebuild their lives. They decided to hold a walk-a-thon at the school last May to raise money for CVT — no small undertaking, given significant local economic challenges and given the fact that many of the students' families were not able to sponsor walkers with pledges.

But this determined group of ninth-graders wasn't going to give

up, even when they were met with hail and sleet the day of the walk. Undaunted, the student walkers set out on the school's track that dark wintery day, soon to be joined by baseball players whose game had just been rained out.

"Several started doing laps for Dadaab against brutal northwest wind and four hours later were still on the track," teacher Shari Michael remembers. "Adults showed up with cars idling and checks in hand. Our ESL teacher tracked nine miles and lots of stories of past and present students who've spent time in Dadaab." Students tracked laps by tying a ribbon per lap on the football field fence, and the following Monday, they wore signs proudly proclaiming, "I WALKED."

In addition to the walk-a-thon, the students also raised funds for



Students hung inspirational message at track

CVT's work in Dadaab through a pottery painting fundraiser, and earlier this summer, CVT received a donation of more than \$840 from the school. Curt Goering, CVT executive director, sent a letter of gratitude and admiration to the students, saying, "Your dedication and perseverance are to be admired and held up as an example to other students: you are all, every one of you, heroes in our eyes."

"You can't clap with one hand..."

An excerpt of a speech given by Job Onyango, a psychotherapist/trainer at CVT Ethiopia, at CVT's Restoring Hope Breakfast on October 4, 2016

I oversee our program of rehabilitative care in two refugee camps: Adi Harush and Mai Ayni.

I'd like to tell you the story of a client I worked with recently. For his privacy, I will call him Tesfaye.

Tesfaye's elder brother fled their home and came to Mai Ayni camp. When he was able, Tesfaye followed in his brother's footsteps and made the journey to the camp. However, when Tesfaye arrived, his elder brother had already left on a secondary migration, seeking passage to a better life elsewhere.

Tesfaye was a teenager and

alone. Not long after he arrived, a widespread grieving process began going on. ISIS had released videotapes of beheadings of migrants, and these horrifying images were felt deeply by those living in the camps. It was a time of great mourning within the community.

Tesfaye, too, watched the videos. There, he saw that one of the people shown being beheaded was his elder brother. When Tesfaye saw this, he collapsed, unconscious.

He was revived and began recovering from this shock. But then, Tesfaye's behavior started to

change. He withdrew and became isolated. At other times, he was aggressive. He found himself crying easily. He began having nightmares and flashbacks of images from the video.

A caretaker who looked after children in the camp noticed what was going on and referred Tesfaye to CVT. The counselors did an assessment and had him join the group counseling cycle. At first, Tesfaye found interacting with the group very difficult. He was not able to interact and engage with the others; often, he would simply shut down and cry. There were many days when I would arrive for work at the center and find him just sitting outside, alone.

But he continued to show up for

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“You can’t clap with one hand...”

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the 8 weeks of counseling sessions. He listened to the counselors and the counseling supervisors. He gradually began to make progress. He told us he was starting to sleep regularly. He began for the first time to make friends inside the group and outside. I could see that he was beginning to have hope for the future.

Today, Tesfaye is living with relatives. I see him often riding a bicycle in the camp, and he is on the cycling team of Mai Ayni. This is quite an accomplishment; cycling

is very competitive in Eritrea and this is one of the top teams in the world, with goals of racing in the Tour de France. Tesfaye is living like other refugees in the camp and finding value and meaning in life again.

There is enormous hope for survivors. The group counseling model we use brings healing and new support networks for survivors. As one of my clients said to me, “You can’t clap with one hand.” When survivors work through CVT’s counseling cycle, they come together, they let go of the isolation caused



by torture and trauma, and they lift each other up and go back and function well in the community.

We can’t clap with one hand. I’m grateful for all of you and I thank you for your support.

Multiply Help and Hope in the Season of Giving

Give a Gift of Hope

As we near the end of 2016, CVT is especially thankful for our loyal and compassionate donors. If you haven’t made your tax-deductible gift this year, make sure to donate before December 31 to claim your charitable deduction. If you’re able to make an additional donation, please know that we’ll be deeply grateful to receive whatever level of support you can provide.

Your annual support is an inspiration to all of us — and gives hope to survivors around the world.

Workplace Giving and Corporate Matching Gifts

If your employer has a workplace-giving program or will match your charitable contributions, designating CVT as the recipient is a convenient and easy way to support all of our

healing care. Some companies will allow you to make a simple payroll deduction, and others will match your donations, doubling or even tripling your impact.

Combined Federal Campaign

If you are a federal employee, you can support CVT through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Each of the 200-plus campaigns sets its own application deadline, so contact your local campaign office for information about open enrollment. Look for CFC number 11943 and designate the Center for Victims of Torture for your CFC contribution.

REMINDER: Your contributions to CVT are tax-deductible. In order to claim a charitable deduction on your 2016 tax returns, gifts must be received by December 31, 2016.

Contact CVT at 1-877-265-8775 or giving@cvt.org to learn more about any of these giving options!

Planning Your Legacy

You might not have previously considered how you can extend your support for the Center for Victims of Torture beyond your lifetime and leave a legacy of hope for torture survivors. You don’t have to be wealthy to make a meaningful gift, and there are many ways you can personally benefit from a planned gift. Careful planning now saves your loved ones from complex probate procedures and costly taxes. A bequest is a gift that keeps on giving!

For more information on making a planned gift to the Center for Victims of Torture, please contact Fawn Bernhardt-Norvell at (612) 612-436-4888 or giving@cvt.org.



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649 Dayton Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
www.cvt.org



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