



The
CENTER for
VICTIMS of
TORTURE

CVT Fact Sheet

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MISSION

- To heal the wounds of torture on individuals, their families and their communities and to stop torture worldwide.

PROFILE

- Founded in 1985 and based in St. Paul, Minn., the Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to healing the emotional, psychological and physical wounds of torture and to advocating for human rights and an end to torture.
- CVT was the first comprehensive torture survivor rehabilitation center in the U.S., and the third in the world.
- CVT has helped over 33,000 torture survivors rebuild their lives and restore their hope.
- \$23 million operating budget (2019).

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP *(photos available upon request)*

- Curt Goering, executive director
- Ruth Barrett Rendler, deputy director
- Peter Dross, director of external relations

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

- In the United States, CVT extends interdisciplinary rehabilitative care at CVT's Healing Centers in St. Paul, Minnesota and Atlanta, Georgia. Internationally, CVT extends rehabilitative care in Kenya in Nairobi and at the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps; in Jordan we care for refugee survivors living in Amman; in Ethiopia we care for Eritrean survivors in refugee camps near Shire and South Sudanese survivors in the Gambella region; and we care for survivors of war in Northern Uganda and South Sudanese refugees in the Bidi Bidi settlements.
- Training of local mental health paraprofessionals so they can contribute to long-term mental health needs in their country and act as advocates for human rights.
- Technical assistance and training to torture survivor rehabilitation centers in the U.S. and around the world to strengthen each center's mental health services, organizational management and financial stability.
- Research and evaluation of rehabilitative care for survivors to determine the effects of torture and the most successful treatments.
- Public policy and public education initiatives to prevent torture.
- Advocacy to increase government support for torture rehabilitation programs in the U.S. and abroad.
- Direct New Tactics in Human Rights, promoting tactical innovation, strategic thinking and other resources to the international human rights community.
- Manage HealTorture.org that gathers key information for U.S.-based torture survivor rehabilitation programs to better understand the needs of survivors and the problem of torture in the world today. (Funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.)