FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 17, 2020

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The Center for Victims of Torture Welcomes New Board Members

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Center for Victims of Torture™ (CVT) today announced the election of two new members and one returning member to its board of directors. The members were elected at the December board meeting and begin their terms in March 2020. In addition, longtime member Venetia Kudrle has completed her time on the board, having served three consecutive terms.

“Venetia’s tireless service and her dedication to CVT’s mission are an inspiration, and I thank her for her counsel and her stalwart support,” said Curt Goering, CVT executive director.

CVT welcomes the following members to its board:

Léonce Byimana is the executive director of the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) in Washington, D.C., and a clinical psychologist who holds an MPH. A health professional and dedicated human rights activist, he previously served in the role of program director for the Western New York Center for Survivors of Torture at the Jewish Family Service of Buffalo and Erie County. He also worked in Rwanda for organizations such as Clinton Health Access Initiative, Delagua Health/UK, Handicap International and Partners in Health. Mr. Byimana holds a postgraduate degree in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution from the School of International Training, Vermont; a Master of Science in Public Health from the International Health Sciences University, Kampala, Central Region; and a Bachelor of Science in Clinical Psychology, National University of Rwanda, Butare, Southern Province.

Connie Magnuson retired from Resonetics in Blaine, Minnesota, in March 2020. Resonetics acquired Caribou Technologies, a contract manufacturing business for the medical device industry cofounded/owned by Ms. Magnuson since 2005. Previously, she served as chief financial officer with Synovis Life Technologies, Inc., and held various roles with Deloitte & Touche. She was a member of CVT’s board of directors from 2009 - 2017 and has served on several other non-profit boards. She holds a bachelor’s in Accounting from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

Fernando Reati is a professor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures at Georgia State University in Atlanta, where he is the past chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. While with the University, he has served as co-director for the Human
Rights in Argentina Study Abroad Program and the Center for Human Rights and Democracy and as both director and co-director for the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. Dr. Reati is also a prolific author. He has served on the board of directors for the Latin American Art Circle of the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. Dr. Reati holds a Ph.D. in Spanish Language and Literature from Washington University, St. Louis, and a bachelor’s in Literature and Language from Webster University, St. Louis. He also attended Escuela de Lenguas, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina.

“We are honored to welcome Léonce and Fernando—and delighted to welcome back Connie—to CVT’s board,” declared Goering. “Their unwavering commitment to protecting human rights will strengthen our work to rebuild the lives and restore the hope of torture survivors throughout the world.”

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_The Center for Victims of Torture is a nonprofit organization headquartered in St. Paul, MN, with offices in Atlanta, GA, and Washington, D.C.; and healing initiatives in Africa and the Middle East. Visit [www.cvt.org](http://www.cvt.org)_