

Events of the 26th of June for the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture



Nothing can justify torture under any circumstances!

On June 26, 1987 the United Nations Convention against Torture came into force. A decade later, to eradicate torture worldwide and assure the effective implementation of the Convention, the UN General Assembly officially proclaimed June 26 as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

We have to to be mobilized for this day to pursue together the fight against impunity and strongly reaffirm that respect for human dignity means that such practices are forbidden under all circumstances.

On this day dedicated to the victims of torture and ill-treatment, OMCT and its SOS-Torture Network organize events all around the world to promote their support for victims of torture.

*Nothing can justify torture under any circumstances! With the OMCT,
[sign the Manifesto](#)¹*

¹http://www.omct.org/international-campaigns/campaign-prohibition-torture/#campaign_signing_form

OMCT

International Secretariat

June 20, Brussels: OMCT Secretary General, Gerald Staberock, briefed the **EU Parliament Sub-Committee on Human Rights** about lessons learnt in the fight against torture in North Africa and the Southern Neighborhood. The hearing was part of the annual hearing on the occasion of June 26, the UN Day for Victims of Torture. OMCT Secretary General highlighted key challenges in fighting torture in the region two years after the Arab Spring. He laid out the need to make the fight against torture a central element in any transition process, stressed the need to strengthen local civil society against torture, inject law reforms for the prevention of torture and to tackle the lack of accountability and reform within the security structures in the region. He also reminded about the challenge to anchor universal human rights norms clearly in the new constitutional and legal frameworks. The presentation was also based on the work the OMCT is conducting since two years with offices in Tunis and Tripoli supporting anti-torture reforms in the two countries.

For a webstream of the hearing:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/committees/video?event=20130620-0900-COMMITTEE-DROI>



June 25, 7 pm, Vienna (University of Vienna):

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, a **Human Rights Talk** entitled « **Key Challenges to the Absolute Prohibition of Torture: ways towards Enforcement and Implementation** » will be organised.

The podium discussion will be held by:

- **Edita Lintl** (Member of HEMAYAT, Center for Victims of War and Torture, Vienna)
- **Manfred Nowak** (University of Vienna, Research Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture)

- **Gerald Staberock** (Secretary-General of the World Organisation Against Torture – OMCT)
- **Henri Tiphagne** (President of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Director of the Human Rights Organisation People’s Watch - India)

The entire event will be live webcasted: http://zige.tv/live/V20_video_HD.html

You can also follow the entire event on Twitter: twitter.com/omctorg

Libya

- **June 25**

10 am – 1 pm: Round-table – “No to torture inside jails”: proposed by the Victims Organization for Human Rights, with the cooperation of the OMCT, this round-table will discuss important issues such as the position of Islam towards the phenomenon of torture, the role of media in the fight against torture, and the situation in Libya before and after the February 17th Revolution.

4 pm: in cooperation with the Tripoli Human Rights Film Festival, the OMCT organised a **film screenings** : “The Forgotten” (Carles Caparrós, 2010, Spain). Synopsis: In the Western world, mental illnesses are considered diseases; in a number of African countries, psychological problems are often seen as a sign of being possessed by the devil. Marked individuals are bound in chains and excluded from mainstream society. The protagonist of this film is the charismatic Gregoire, who runs a network of centres that care for the mentally ill and homeless in the Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. In an environment where medical care is only available to those who can pay, his centres are the only hope for these people. “The Forgotten” is about the importance of human dignity amid poverty and ruin.

5.30 pm – 7 pm: Concert – Songs celebrating the February 17th Revolution and the city of Benghazi. In presence of Malik L, DJ Ezoo, Mohammed Busaifi and Volcano & Black Tiger

8 pm: film screening “Burma VJ”(Anders Østergaard, 2009, Denmark). Synopsis: “Burma VJ” reveals the incredible bravery of Burmese video journalists during the uprising of September 2007 against the military junta ruling the country. Going beyond the occasional news clip from Burma, “Burma VJ” brings us close to Burma’s

video journalists who insist on keeping up the flow of news from their closed country despite risking torture and life in jail. Armed with small handycams they make their undercover reportages, smuggle the material out of the country, have it broadcast back into Burma via satellite and offered as free usage for international media.

- **June 26**

9 am – 6.30 pm: Public Conference – “Drawing force from the past to master our future” – in cooperation with the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights in Benghazi. This conference aims to expose the past, present, and future of the fight against torture in Libya, focusing on issues of collective trauma and transitional justice. The first session will recall abuses of the Qaddafi regime before the February 17th Revolution and strategies employed to protect victims. Then, Libyan civil society stakeholders from across the country will share their views on the current situation and practices of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, and enforced disappearance. Finally, the president of the Tunisian Organization Against Torture will present international and regional standards against torture and discuss the rights of detainees, and will ask what Libya and Libyans can do in the future to construct safe communities guided by the rule of law.

1 pm: Inauguration of ‘Graffiti against torture’ – a mural made by Benghazi and Tunisian artists, in cooperation with the Cultural Council of the Union for the Mediterranean . This mural is the result of a creative workshop with Benghazi youth and the participation of three Tunisian artists – Willis from Tunis and two graffiti artists from the Zwewla group – as well as two graffiti artists from Benghazi, Hamzawi and Nadeer.



7 pm – 9 pm: Poetry night

During all events, check out live coverage by bloggers of “Libyablog”: follow #SOSTorture and <http://libyablog.org> – in cooperation with RFI – Atelier des Médias

Tunisia

June 26, all day, avenue Bourguiba: OMCT, together with 20 other organisations will be mounting a tent on Avenue Bourguiba. Video clips will be diffuse and materials distributed (brochures, stickers, badge buttons)

June 26, Maison de la culture Ibn Rachiq: closure of the photo exhibition “Sous le Jasmin”:

- **10 am:** press conference, Maison de la culture Ibn Rachiq. Press contact: Emtyez Bellali: +216 24 34 21 50, eb@omct.org
- **5 - 6 pm:** theatre play “Parole d’Hugo” from the book *Le dernier jour d’un condamné* (V. Hugo)
- **6 - 7 pm:** homage to all persons portrayed in the photo exhibition

June 27, 5 pm, Maison de la culture Ibn Khouldoun: OMCT together with Dignity, OTRPS, REMDH and LTDH will sponsor a theatre play entitled “Syloun”, which is about solitary confinement, the life of detainees in there and ill-treatment to which they were subjected.



ASSOCIATION THALA DE THÉÂTRE DE RÉALITÉE

جمعية تالة للمسرح الحقيقية بإدارة أكرم الرقيق

PRÉSENTE

SYLOUN السيلون

Le 27 juin 2013 à 17^h:00

à la maison de culture Ibn Khaldoun, Tunis



The Philippines

The United Against Torture Coalition (UATC)-Philippines, including **Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)**, **Medical Action Group (MAG)**, **Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)**, three members of the SOS-Torture Network, organises two events in the framework of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture:

- **June 19, 9 am – 17pm, Manila:** a workshop entitled “Civil Society Organizations’ Learning on the Recommendations for Effective Implementation of the Anti-Torture Law” was conducted. The objective of the workshop was to contribute in generating solutions for strengthening implementation of the law in terms of documentation, investigation and prosecution of alleged cases of torture, increased number of victims will receive effective medical and psychological services and legal support, and in breaking torture impunity in the country.
- **June 26, Manila:** the UATC organises, for the seventh consecutive year, the run “Basta! Run Against Torture” (BRAT). This year theme is “Make Philippines a Torture free zone”. This year’s BRAT will focus on Torture Free Detention Centres – an important step to ensure the effective implementation of the law. Aside from demanding accountability of jail officers and overseers of detention centres in ensuring that torture and ill-treatment is not practiced through formal compliance procedures and education of officers and detainees, the UATC is also proposing more pro-active positioning in monitoring by all concerned parties with emphasis in the community’s participation.

June 26, 9 am, Manila: **KARAPATAN** organises a Forum on International Day in Support of victims of Torture. Victims of torture and a representative from a victim’s family will testify.

Colombia

June 26, 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm, Bogota (Biblioteca Nacional): OMCT and la Coalición Colombiana contra la tortura will organise a panel discussion on the situation of torture in Colombia. It will be followed by a short play represented by “Teatro la Candelaria”. Press contact : Betty Monzon, prensa@reiniciar.org

For more information about the activities of OMCT and its partners, follow us online:

Website: www.omct.org

Twitter: twitter.com/omctorg

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WorldOrganisationAgainstTorture

These events are realized with the financial aid of the **European Union**, the **Foundation Oak**, the **Swiss Confederation** and **Sigrid Rausing Trust**. The content of these events lies in the responsibility of the OMCT only and cannot be considered as reflecting the position of the European Union, the Foundation Oak, the Swiss Confederation or Sigrid Rausing Trust.



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