



Standing with Survivors on 26 June

On 26 June, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we came together to honour survivors, challenge impunity, and reaffirm a fundamental truth: torture has no place in our world.

This occasion also marked the launch of the first **United Against Torture Consortium (UATC)** newsletter—a space where, twice a year, **we'll share the latest news, powerful stories, practical tools, and collective achievements from across our global movement.**

The UATC brings together over 300 organisations committed to ending torture and supporting survivors. Among them are the **Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)**, the **International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)**, the **International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT)**, **REDRESS**, the **Omega Research Foundation** and the **World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)**, and a growing network of national and regional partners working in solidarity around the world.

In this special edition, we spotlight key moments from the past months—legal victories, survivor-led advocacy, regional campaigns, and tools to strengthen justice systems. Across every initiative, one message is clear: when we unite against torture, we build a more just and humane future.

[READ OUR STATEMENT](#)

OUR IMPACT



Support to survivors: Over **12,000 torture survivors received assistance**, and nearly **50,000 were awarded reparations** totalling €52.4 million with Consortium support.



Global advocacy impact: Over **500,000 people were reached** through campaigns and survivor testimonies, including regional and youth-led initiatives.



Strengthening civil society: **110 anti-torture CSOs received funding**, and **131** engaged directly with the UN Committee Against Torture.



Legal and policy wins: **Legal victories** were achieved in **18 countries**; **38** initiatives advanced **National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs)**.



Rapid crisis response: We launched **timely interventions** in response to urgent torture situations **in Bangladesh, Palestine and the Democratic Republic of the Congo**.



Voices for Human Dignity initiative was launched to mark the 40th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture.

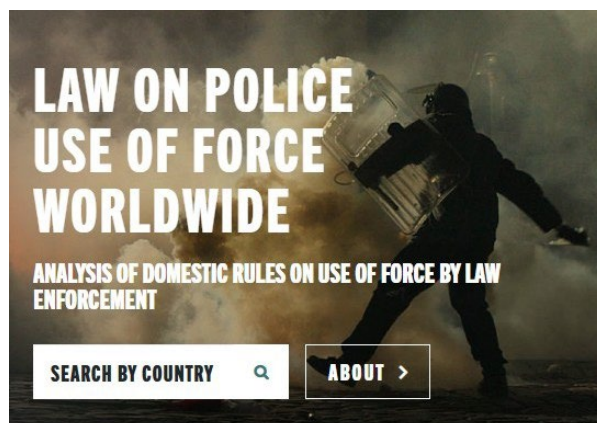


Advocated for the **inclusion of the absolute prohibition of torture in the Human Rights Council resolution** on peaceful protest.



Collaborated with UN Special Rapporteurs on torture and protest-related abuses.

IN FOCUS



Visualising Torture Prevention: 40 Years of Progress

How far have States come since the UN Convention Against Torture? APT's new Torture Prevention Tool offers a first-of-its-kind view of global safeguards and gaps across four decades.

[Explore the visualisation](#)



Burundi Project: Monitoring Torture During Elections

FIACAT and ACAT Burundi are documenting torture and ill-treatment in the lead-up to the country's elections. This project provides vital evidence to regional and international mechanisms and calls for accountability and free, fair elections.

[Learn about the project](#)



News Database on Laws on Police Use of Force

The Omega Research Foundation and the University of Johannesburg have created a comprehensive online repository of national laws on police use of force, covering 197 countries and case law.

[Access the database](#)



Recognising Anti-Torture Legal Champions

The Innovative Lawyers Awards by REDRESS uplift emerging leaders using strategic litigation to challenge torture. So far, ten lawyers have received support to pursue justice in their countries—new awards are coming this year.

[Meet the champions](#)



Interviewing for Torture Prevention: Course Now in 4 Languages

APT's interactive course on the Méndez Principles is now available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese—offering law enforcement and legal professionals guidance for effective, non-coercive interviews and safeguards.

[Start the course](#)

Supporting a Torture-Free Trade and Strengthening the Movement

The Omega Research Foundation joined a Torture-Free Trade advocacy mission to the UN, supporting a treaty to regulate the trade in torture equipment, and provided grants to six organisations in Africa and Latin America for research, advocacy, and media work.

[Learn about the grants](#)

MOVEMENT CORNER



Human Rights: An Investment in Our Future

As repression rises and resources shrink, OMCT, ICJ, and ISHR urge States and institutions to treat human rights as essential to peace and justice—not an optional add-on.

[Read the op-ed](#)

Holding the Line Against Torture: A Legal Win from the #EndSARS Frontline

A reflection on how a small UATC grant helped Nigerian NGO Citizens' Gavel secure the release of a detainee after #EndSARS protests, exposing systemic torture and due process failures in Nigeria.

[Read the op-ed](#)



WATCH



'Art Has Saved Us', A Testimony From a Colombian Activist

After losing an eye to police violence during protests, Daniel Jaimes turned to art for healing. His story, featured in IRCT's *Policing Dissent* film series, is a moving testament to resilience and resistance.



"The Burundi Crisis Has Been Forgotten"

In exile for a decade, Armel Niyongere continues to advocate for victims of state violence in Burundi. In this OMCT interview, he calls on the international community not to turn away.

EVENTS



Global Week Against Torture

30+ events. 1 global movement.

From 23-26 June we joined survivors, activists and experts for the Global Week Against Torture. We explored critical issues through panels, workshops, and dialogues—culminating in the launch of UATC's new policy paper on protest, torture, and international law.

[Full programme here](#)

Side Event on Human Rights Violations in Burundi

On 30 June 2025, FIACAT will host a side event on human rights violations in Burundi ahead of the 1 July interactive dialogue during the 59th UN Human Rights Council session. Speakers will include the UN Special Rapporteur on Burundi and Burundian civil society representatives.

[Join the event](#)

SIDE EVENT
BURUNDI: HUMAN RIGHTS AT STAKE AMID THE ELECTORAL CONTEXT AND THE CONFLICT IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



SIDE EVENT DURING THE 59TH SESSION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

- **Mr Fortuné Gaetan ZONGO**
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi (online intervention)
- **Mr Janvier BIGIRIMANA**
Executive Secretary of Forum pour la Conscience et le Développement (FOCODE)
- **Ms Béatrice NIBOGORA**
Vice-President of the association des familles des victimes Abacu bari he / Où sont les nôtres ?
- **Mr Anschaire NIKOYAGIZE**
President of the Ligue ITEKA

Moderator by Anitha GATERETSE
Coordinator of ACAT-Burundi activities and member of the FIACAT International Board

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025
13H00 - 14H00
ROOM XXV (BUILDING E, PALAIS DES NATIONS)



WHAT'S NEW



Global Torture Index - A New Tool to End Torture Worldwide

Developed by OMCT and over 200 partners, this new data-driven tool exposes the global risk of torture—offering insights to hold States accountable and prevent abuse.

[Explore the tool](#)

Casebook 1: Strategic Litigation Cases Against Torture

REDRESS's new publication features 23 landmark anti-torture cases and legal strategies that have set precedents and delivered justice to survivors. It is the first in a series of casebooks showcasing 80 case studies of strategic litigation against torture, illustrating best practices.

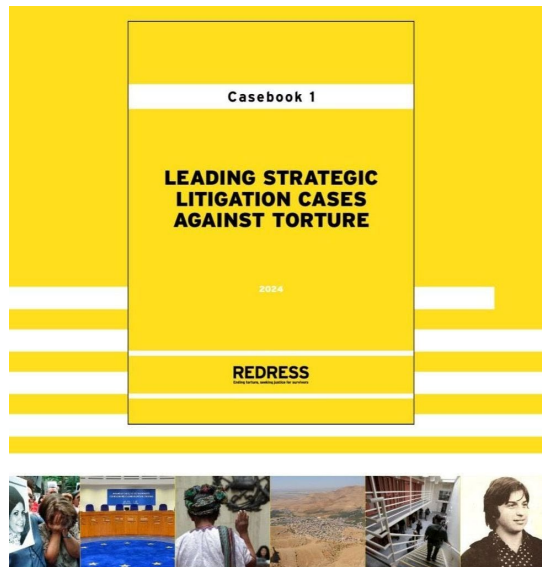
[Read the casebook](#)



Torture Normalised: State Violence in India

Although India signed the UN Convention against Torture in 1997, it has yet to ratify it. A new REDRESS report demands urgent reforms to end the normalisation of torture and ensure justice for survivors.

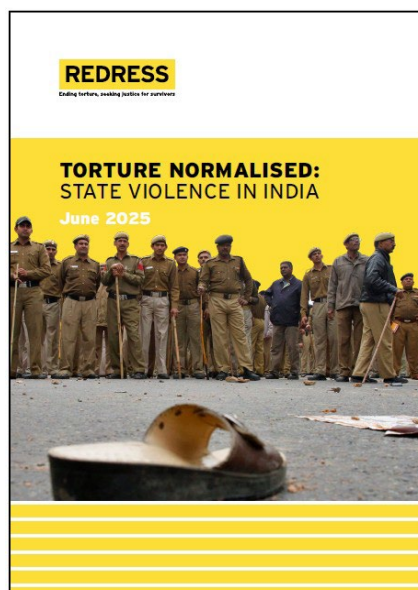
[Read the report](#)



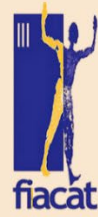
Silencing Dissent: Venezuela's War on Human Rights Defenders Exposed

A new report by OMCT-FIDH documents over 1,730 attacks on civil society in Venezuela (2022-2024), exposing a state-led campaign of repression aimed at dismantling civic space and silencing human rights defenders.

[Read the report](#)



This newsletter was written in collaboration with the United Against Torture Consortium (UATC) and our network members. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the UATC and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Funded by
the European Union