

July 2026

JUST REPARATION

Strengthening the community of practice for reparation by sharing topical developments in the field



Just Reparation is a regular roundup of news on reparation, curated by the REDRESS legal team.

This edition highlights significant developments in the field of reparations, including a landmark judgment by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

Court of Justice awarding reparations to a survivor of child marriage; a call by United Nations human rights mechanisms for comprehensive reparations for women and girls subjected to torture and other forms of gender-based violence; progress in the implementation of the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims' reparations programme in the *Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi* case; and a hearing before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in *El Junquito Massacre v. Venezuela*.

This issue also features insights from Jeanne d'Arc Katungu Ndongu, a lawyer with the Women's Solidarity for Peace and Integral Development (SOFEPADI), who reflects on her experience leading an interim relief programme for women survivors of armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

If you would like to contribute a short article for our *Community Corner* section, or if your organisation is hosting an event you would like to share with our readers or on our social media, please contact our Legal Officer, Alejandro, at alejandro@redress.org.

Give us feedback

BIG STORIES



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

ECOWAS Court Orders Reparation for Survivor of Child Marriage

On 25 June 2026, the ECOWAS Court of Justice delivered a [landmark judgment](#) against Sierra Leone concerning child marriage. The case, represented by the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA), was brought both as an individual complaint and as an *actio popularis*, serving the broader public interest. The Court accepted jurisdiction over the public-interest aspect of the application, recognising the widespread impact of child marriage on girls in Sierra Leone. The case concerned a girl who was married at the age of 11 and subsequently suffered additional serious human rights violations. The applicants argued that the State had failed to prevent child marriage and protect the victim, whose circumstances ultimately led to her conviction and approximately four years of imprisonment following the death of her co-wife's child.

The Court examined Sierra Leone's obligations under international and regional human rights law. While acknowledging the existence of domestic legislation for girls and women protection, the Court emphasised that States must do more than adopt laws. They must ensure their effective implementation and provide real protection for girls at risk. The Court found that Sierra Leone had failed to meet these obligations. The Court also concluded that the State had breached its duty to investigate, prosecute, and punish those responsible for the child marriage. Reaffirming that child marriage is a harmful and discriminatory practice, the Court found a violation of the rights to equality and non-discrimination.

As reparations, the Court ordered both individual and collective measures, including USD 10,000 in compensation, psychological counselling, rehabilitation services, and the investigation and prosecution of those responsible. It further directed Sierra Leone to adopt structural measures aimed at preventing future violations, including legal reforms, stronger implementation mechanisms, and public awareness campaigns.



GLOBAL

UN Calls for Gender-Sensitive Reparations and Redress for Women and Girl Survivors of Torture

On 26 June 2026, marking the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, several UN anti-torture mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the Committee against Torture, and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, issued a joint statement highlighting the heightened risk of torture and ill-treatment faced by women and girls deprived of liberty. The statement emphasised that discrimination and gender-based inequalities increase women's and girls' vulnerability to torture, sexual violence, and other human rights violations in places of detention. It noted that detention systems are often designed around male-centred models and frequently fail to meet the specific needs of women and girls, as well as LGBTQI+ persons, Indigenous women, and women with disabilities.

According to the UN experts, the risks of sexual and gender-based violence can arise at every stage of detention, including during arrest, interrogation, and imprisonment. Common concerns include degrading body searches, inadequate access to specialised healthcare, including gynaecological and maternal services, and the lack of menstrual hygiene products.

The UN mechanisms stressed that responding to torture requires not only prevention and accountability but also access to effective remedies and comprehensive reparations developed with the meaningful participation of women and girls "in all their diversity." The statement called for rehabilitation programmes informed by

gender-disaggregated data and tailored to the needs of survivors, including women raising children born of conflict-related sexual violence and families affected by torture. It also highlighted the importance of involving survivors in the design of laws, policies, monitoring mechanisms, and redress programmes. Among others, their recommendations underscore that effective reparation must address both the immediate harms suffered by women and girls and the structural inequalities that heighten their vulnerability to abuse.

Photo by: Monusco CC 2.0



MALI

Reparations Programme for Al Mahdi Victims in Mali Comes to a Close

On 3 July 2026, the International Criminal Court's (ICC) Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) announced the completion of its reparations programme in Mali for victims of [*The Prosecutor v. Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi*](#). The case arose from the 2012 destruction of mausoleums and other protected religious and cultural sites in Timbuktu by armed groups affiliated with al-Qaeda. In 2016, Al Mahdi was convicted of the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against historic monuments and religious buildings, marking the ICC's first case devoted exclusively to the destruction of cultural heritage.

The reparations programme implemented the [ICC's 2017 reparations order](#), under which judges awarded almost USD 3 million in reparations to address the moral, economic, and cultural harm suffered by the Timbuktu community. Over several years, the TFV worked closely with local and international partners to design and implement a comprehensive set of reparative measures. The programme combined symbolic, individual, and collective reparations. Measures included financial compensation for 1,691 eligible victims, including direct descendants of saints

associated with the destroyed mausoleums; psychological support services; memorialisation initiatives; restoration of damaged cultural heritage sites; livelihood and skills-development programmes; environmental protection activities; and the establishment of a long-term fund for the maintenance of cultural sites. According to the TFF, more than 70,000 community members benefited from the collective reparation measures. The programme placed particular emphasis on victim participation, local ownership, conflict sensitivity, and the inclusion of women throughout its implementation. The TFF also highlighted the crucial support and cooperation of the Malian authorities, which contributed significantly to the programme's successful completion. This completion comes at a time when the TFF was [ordered](#) by ICC Chambers to implement reparations in the Al-Hassan case. Mali has recently seen a resurgence of conflict, and notified in early July its withdrawal from the Rome Statute.

Photo by: UN MINUSMA/ Marco Dormino



VENEZUELA

IACtHR Hears El Junquito Massacre Case and Advances a Path to Reparations

On 17 June 2026, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) held a [public hearing](#) on the merits and reparations in [El Junquito Massacre v. Venezuela](#), a case concerning the alleged extrajudicial execution of Óscar Pérez and six other individuals by Venezuelan security forces in January 2018, as well as the subsequent lack of accountability for the events. The case arises from a large-scale security operation conducted in El Junquito, on the outskirts of Caracas, during which approximately 500 security agents surrounded a residence occupied by Pérez and six others. Pérez, a former law enforcement officer, had become a prominent critic of the Maduro

government. According to the victims' representatives, the occupants repeatedly expressed their willingness to surrender and negotiate before being killed. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights in its [2022 admissibility and merits report](#) concluded that the State had violated, among other rights, the rights to life, personal integrity, and judicial protection, and referred the case to the Court following the adoption of its merits report.

If the Court finds Venezuela internationally responsible, it may order comprehensive reparation. In the 2022 report, the IACHR recommended full compensation and satisfaction actions. Also the report included guarantees of non-repetition, including enhanced training for law enforcement officials on the use of force in accordance with international human rights standards and the strengthening of accountability mechanisms.

According to [Foro Penal](#), one of the organisations representing the victims, the case has broader significance as it highlights patterns of violence and repression against government critics in Venezuela. The organisation has reported thousands of alleged politically motivated arbitrary detentions in recent years, underscoring the wider human rights concerns that form the backdrop to the case.

Photo by: Corte CIDH

COMMUNITY CORNER

We like to include the perspectives and insights of lawyers, activists, survivors, and others engaged in the field of reparation in [Just Reparation](#). Alongside updates on progress in specific cases, your contributions are invaluable for enriching our collective understanding and fostering meaningful dialogue within the reparation community of practice. If you would like to feature in the next edition of Just Reparation, we encourage you to submit your contributions by 20 August 2026 to alejandro@redress.org.

Karibuni Wa Mama Center: A Haven of Hope and Renewal for Survivors in Ituri, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

by Jeanne d'Arc Katungu Ndondo, SOFEPADI

In the heart of Ituri Province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a beacon of hope has shone for the past 26 years for women and girls who have survived sexual and gender-based violence. This refuge is known as the Karibuni Wa Mama Center, a Swahili name meaning “Welcome, Mothers” (*Bienvenue les mamans*).

Founded in 1998 by women displaced by war, [Women’s Solidarity for Peace and Integral Development- SOFEPADI](#) ([Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral](#)) has become a recognised model for the holistic care of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Its mission is not only to heal victims but also to transform trauma into resilience and empowerment.



The strength of the [Karibuni Wa Mama Center](#) lies in its comprehensive approach. Recognising that sexual violence used as a weapon of war requires more than medical treatment, SOFEPADI structures its work around four key pillars: medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, and socio-economic reintegration.

Medical Care

The centre operates a specialised clinic where survivors receive emergency services, including post-exposure prophylaxis, treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and reconstructive surgery for severe injuries. Providing care to survivors is emotionally demanding, especially when victims are children. While every case of sexual violence has devastating consequences, abuse committed against children represents a particularly severe form of cruelty, often leaving long-lasting physical and emotional scars.

Psychological Support

Psychological care is one of the most important components of recovery. Qualified psychologists help survivors express their experiences, overcome stigma, regain self-confidence, and rebuild their lives. The invisible wounds caused by sexual violence require specialised and compassionate support. A fundamental principle guides every intervention: survivors must never feel judged. Empathy, respect, confidentiality, and active listening are essential to creating a safe environment for healing.

Psychological support is particularly crucial in regions affected by prolonged conflict. In contexts where insecurity remains constant, there is no guarantee that a woman will not face renewed violence, displacement, or loss of property. While medical treatment and material assistance can be undermined by future crises, psychological resilience remains with the survivor.

Legal Assistance

Breaking the cycle of impunity is essential for justice and peace. The center provides legal assistance to survivors, helping them navigate judicial procedures and claim their rights. By accompanying women throughout the legal process, the center promotes accountability and reinforces the principle that sexual violence must not remain invisible or unpunished.

Socio-Economic Reintegration

Economic vulnerability often increases the risk of exclusion and continued hardship. To address this challenge, the center offers literacy training, tailoring courses, business management skills, and support for income-generating activities. Many survivors also receive reintegration kits, such as sewing machines or start-up capital, enabling them to rebuild sustainable livelihoods and achieve financial independence. Beyond these services, the center provides a secure environment where solidarity among women becomes a powerful source of healing.

Despite its remarkable impact and the thousands of lives it transforms every year, the Karibuni Wa Mama Center faces significant challenges. The volatile security situation in eastern DRC and the continuous arrival of displaced populations place increasing pressure on its resources and infrastructure.

Supporting SOFEPADI and the Karibuni Wa Mama Center means investing directly in peace, recovery, and social reconstruction. Healing a woman helps restore the dignity of an entire family and community. Through medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, and economic empowerment, the center demonstrates every day that resilience, hope, and human dignity can prevail over violence.

OTHER STORIES

GLOBAL

Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger Exit ICC, Raising Fears of Growing Impunity and Affective Reparation

[Read more](#)



FRANCE

Church Establishes an Independent Commission for Victims of Sexual and Physical Abuse

[Read more](#)



JAMAICA

Jamaica Strengthens Commitment to International Reparations Efforts

[Read more](#)



SUDAN

UN Report Exposes Wartime Sexual Violence in Sudan and Calls for Redress

[Read more](#)



WEEKEND READS

Guide for Survivors and Affected Communities to Understand the ICC Proceedings and their Rights before the ICC

by REDRESS, Lawyers for Justice in Libya

During the Confirmation of Charges hearing, the judges heard evidence on whether the case should proceed to trial. Ahead of this, Lawyers for Justice in Libya (LFJL) and REDRESS published a practical guide for survivors and affected communities entitled *How Can Victims in Libya be Heard Before the International Criminal Court?* The guide, which is available in Arabic and English, aims to help victims better understand the ICC's proceedings in Libya, including the Court's mandate, the crimes under investigation since 2011, and the status of the El Hishri case. It also explains victims' rights before the Court, including opportunities to participate in proceedings and apply for reparations, should the case proceed to trial and result in a conviction.

[Read the Guide](#)

Closing the Gap Between Asset Recovery and Reparations for Victims of Trafficking

by Karina Tijomirov, IOM

Among others, the blog piece examines the persistent gap between the recovery of criminal assets and the delivery of reparation to victims of human trafficking. The piece argues that while traffickers' profits are increasingly being seized, survivors often struggle to access compensation and meaningful redress. It highlights legal and practical barriers to victim reparations and calls for stronger mechanisms to ensure that recovered assets are used to support

HOW CAN VICTIMS IN LIBYA BE HEARD BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT?

Guide for Survivors and Affected Communities to Understand the ICC Proceedings and their Rights before the ICC

June 2026



REDRESS
Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

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Lawyers
for Justice
in Libya



survivors' recovery, dignity, and long-term reintegration.

[Read the blog](#)

Beyond Africa: Why AU needs a broader definition of reparations by Tadesse Simie Metekia

The blog argues that the African Union should adopt a broader understanding of reparations as it advances implementation of the landmark UN resolution recognizing the transatlantic slave trade as a crime against humanity. Rather than focusing narrowly on financial compensation, the author proposes a comprehensive framework built around truth-telling, responsibility, repair, reconciliation, and global justice. The article offers an important perspective on how reparations can address the enduring legacies of slavery and colonialism while fostering meaningful accountability and restorative justice.



[Read the article](#)

EVENTS

REDRESS WEBINAR SERIES

REDRESS hosts periodic webinars on reparation practices to support the anti-torture movement. These sessions share practical tips, comparative experiences, lessons learned, and other relevant insights for practitioners. They create and strengthen ties among practitioners, academics, and activists from varied backgrounds and contribute to the formation of a community of practice on reparation. Find details of previous webinar [here](#).

Institutional Reform: Challenging Torture in Prisons and Justice Systems

UNITED AGAINST TORTURE
Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

REDRESS
Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

REDRESS IN PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES

Innovating Against Torture: New Strategies for the Anti-Torture Movement

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM: CHALLENGING TORTURE IN PRISONS AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS

18 SEPTEMBER 2026 FRIDAY | **4:00 PM CEST**

SPEAKERS

- Cristopher Alexis Sánchez Islas**
Innovative Lawyer Awardee
MEXICO
- Nina Barrounin**
Innovative Lawyer Awardee
BRAZIL
- Oswaldo de Almeida**
Innovative Lawyer Awardee
ANGOLA
- Roberta Cortés Ruiz**
Innovative Lawyer Awardee
MEXICO
- Renata Politi**
Senior Legal Advisor
REDRESS

MODERATOR

Register at redress.org/events | Livestreamed on

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We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming webinar “Institutional Reform: Challenging Torture in Prisons and Justice Systems”, taking place on Friday, **18th September 2026, at 4 pm CEST**. This is the second webinar of the series “Innovating against Torture: New Strategies for the Anti-Torture Movement”.

This series of webinars will share these novel strategies and approaches adopted by Innovative Lawyers. It presents an opportunity to learn from their experiences and reflect how these lessons may be useful to challenge torture and ill-treatment in other contexts.

REDRESS’s Innovative Lawyers Awards, granted under the umbrella of the United Against Torture Consortium, encourage and empower a new generation of lawyers in the anti-torture movement to challenge the perpetration of torture in their communities.

This webinar will be in Spanish, with interpretation available in English, Portuguese and Ukrainian.

[Register here](https://redress.org/events)

[Here](#) are some upcoming events on strategic litigation against torture and other related topics that may be of interest to you.

If your organisation is hosting an event and would like to share it with our community of practice through this newsletter or REDRESS social media, please send the details to our Legal Officer at alejandro@redress.org.

Thank you for reading. See you next month!

Take a look at our previous editions [here](#).

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