

# REDRESS

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

June 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 key developments in the field of reparation, including an open letter addressed to members of the Council of Europe urging the meaningful participation of survivors and civil society organisations in the design of compensation mechanisms for Ukraine; a civil society submission before the International Criminal Court (ICC) on reparation for victims in the Ali Kushayb case in Sudan; the position of the French President on historical reparation related to the transatlantic slave trade; and the referral of a case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights concerning the detention of a pregnant woman in Ecuador.

It also features insights from the Women's Initiative for Gender Justice on the ICC's reparations order in the Al Hassan case, highlighting, among other issues, the importance of intersectionality and differentiated gender approaches.

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](mailto:alejandro@redress.org).

Give us feedback

## BIG STORIES



## UKRAINE

### **Open Letter: Ensuring Survivor and Civil Society Participation in the Establishment and Design of the International Claims Commission for Ukraine**

On 27 May 2026, more than 30 survivor groups and civil society organisations (CSOs) issued an open letter calling on the Council of Europe to ensure the meaningful participation of victims and CSOs in the design and establishment of the International Claims Commission for Ukraine, a key mechanism aimed at providing compensation for the harms caused by Russia's aggression.

The signatories to the Open Letter welcomed the important efforts to advance compensation for harms arising from Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The establishment of the Claims Commission for Ukraine forms part of a broader international initiative to operationalise compensation for Ukraine, building on the work of the [Register of Damage for Ukraine](#) and to be complemented by the creation of a Compensation Fund. However, the letter also highlights that survivors and civil society actors have been largely excluded from key decision-making processes, including the design of the Register of Damage, the negotiations leading to the adoption of the [Claims Commission's founding convention in December 2025](#), and discussions concerning the [Preparatory Committee](#) responsible for determining key technical aspects of the Claims Commission. The signatories further express concern about the lack of transparency surrounding the Committee's composition and work. They warn that the limited participation of survivors risks creating a compensation system that is inaccessible, less effective, and insufficiently responsive to the rights, needs, and priorities of those it is intended to serve.

The letter pushes for a more victim-centered compensation model that embeds participation as a fundamental principle rather than a procedural afterthought. It

calls for concrete measures such as transparent communication, inclusive consultations, and opportunities for survivors to shape procedural rules and claims processes. This reflects evolving international standards recognising that meaningful survivor participation strengthens the legitimacy, accessibility, and impact of reparation mechanisms.

Photo by: CC BY-SA 2.0



## SUDAN

### Submissions to the ICC on reparations in the Ali Kushayb case

REDRESS, Rights for Peace, Darfur Women Action Group Uganda, the Darfur Network for Human Rights, and the Queen's University Belfast Human Rights Centre submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on reparations for the victims of Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman (Ali Kushayb). On 9 December 2025, the ICC [sentenced](#) Ali Kushayb to 20 years of imprisonment for the commission of international crimes committed between August 2003 and April 2004, including murder, torture, and sexual violence, as crimes against humanity and war crimes. These crimes were committed while he was a Sudanese militia leader associated with the Janjaweed.

The submission -prepared with information collected from focus group discussions with victims both in and outside of Sudan- examines the wide range of harms suffered by victims, including intergenerational trauma, and argues that the Court should presume certain categories of harm in light of the large-scale, discriminatory, and public nature of the crimes. It further outlines relevant principles and forms of

reparations that the Court should consider in its eventual reparations decision. The organisations emphasised that, although the current reparations landscape in Sudan is highly complex due to the ongoing conflict, this should not prevent the Court from awarding victims the full scope of reparations to which they are entitled. To ensure reparations are effective, the submission further stressed the Court grant the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) flexibility in designing and implementing reparation activities. They also stressed the importance of ensuring that reparations are proportionate to the harm suffered, co-created with victims, and designed in a manner that safeguards their security.

As regards reparation modalities, the organisations highlight the importance of individual compensation, or at least the determination of a minimum global amount reflecting the severity of the crimes and harms caused. In terms of rehabilitation, they emphasise the need for urgent and long-term medical care and prosthetics for severe injuries, as well as psychological rehabilitation. Other forms of reparation are also addressed, including satisfaction and memorialisation measures, socio-economic support, and education-related interventions. Organisations explained the importance of tailored measures for more vulnerable populations.

*Photo by: ICC-CPI*



## FRANCE

### President Macron Addresses French Policy on Slave Trade Reparations

On 21 May 2026, French President Emmanuel Macron publicly acknowledged the need to address reparation for France's role in the transatlantic slave trade. Speaking at the 25th anniversary of France's law recognising slavery and the slave trade as crimes against humanity, Macron stated that reparation should "no longer be ignored", while

also cautioning against unrealistic expectations, given the irreparable nature of the harms inflicted. He further endorsed symbolic measures of reparation, including the repeal of the still-extant *Code Noir*, which historically regulated slavery in the French colonies.

France's legacy as a major slave-trading power continues to shape systemic inequalities in its overseas territories and across the African diaspora globally. Macron emphasised reparative initiatives focused on memorialisation, education, and research, including support for a Ghana-led international project examining the legacies of enslavement. However, he did not announce concrete policy measures, nor did he include commitments to financial compensation or structural redress. This approach falls short of that advanced by many civil society organisations, Caribbean states, and international bodies, including the [United Nations](#), which have recognised reparation as a pathway to justice and have called on France and other former European colonial powers to adopt comprehensive reparative measures.

Macron's acknowledgment is nonetheless significant, as it places reparation more firmly on the French political agenda while also exposing the limitations of prevailing approaches. The current emphasis on symbolic measures signals an emerging but partial model of reparation in France. The key challenge going forward will be to move from a form of reparative justice limited to acknowledgement towards a comprehensive framework grounded in human rights standards, addressing both historical injustices and their ongoing socio-economic consequences.

*Photo by: Missy & the Universe CC 2.0*



**ECUADOR**

## Inter-American Court of Human Rights to Examine Case Against Ecuador Concerning Alleged Violations of the Rights of Women Deprived of Liberty

On 3 June 2026, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) announced [the decision to refer the case](#) of Enith Elizabeth Betancourt Arce and her daughter to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR). The IACHR alleges Ecuador is responsible for the human rights violations stemming from her detention in 2004 while pregnant and resulting in harm to her newborn. The IACHR further found that despite legal protections prohibiting the detention of pregnant and post-partum women, Betancourt Arce remained incarcerated due to structural barriers including lack of housing and social support. Additionally, this meant that she had to give birth under State custody before charges against her were eventually dismissed.

This case highlights longstanding gaps in Ecuador's implementation of legal safeguards intended to protect vulnerable populations, particularly women in detention and their children. The IACHR determined that the failure to apply alternatives to detention and to enforce habeas corpus rulings amounted to [violations of personal liberty, equality, judicial protection and children's rights](#). It also identified indirect discrimination and neglect of the child's best interests, emphasising how socioeconomic status can compound the harm faced.

The Commission has called for a set of reparation measures that go beyond compensation, including physical and mental health care, as well as structural measures such as gender-sensitive social assistance programmes and access to adequate housing. These proposed remedies reflect a holistic and innovative approach to reparation, linking individual redress to systemic reform. The IACtHR has an opportunity to advance reparative justice standards by addressing how States should adapt legal protections to real-life conditions and ensure support for vulnerable groups.

*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 July 2026 to [alejandro@redress.org](mailto:alejandro@redress.org).

### Embedding gender competence and intersectional harm at the reparations proceedings: the Al Hassan case before the ICC

by Juliana Laguna Trujillo and Valeria Babără from Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice



*Juliana Laguna Trujillo and Valeria Babără*

On 28 April 2026, Trial Chamber X of the International Criminal Court (ICC) handed down its [Reparations Order](#) in the Al Hassan case. In a unanimous decision, the Chamber set Al Hassan's liability at €7,250,000, estimated about 65,202 potentially eligible victims, both direct and indirect, and opted for collective, community-based reparations. Individualised elements are present but limited, with the package centred on rehabilitation, plus symbolic and satisfaction measures.

In June 2024, ICC judges [convicted](#) Al Hassan, former de facto chief of the Islamic Police in Timbuktu and member of Ansar Dine, a group associated with Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), of war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Mali between 1 April 2012 and 28 January 2013. However, the Trial Chamber [did not convict him of gender-based crimes](#).

In the context of the reparations proceedings, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice (WIGJ) led an *amici curiae* [submission](#) with other civil society organisations and individual gender justice experts. The submission requested the Chamber to assess harm holistically and through an intersectional lens, and to recognise that the religious persecution in this case was inseparable from a system of gendered oppression. The Order takes up our arguments in three concrete ways.

First, rather than isolating harms into neat categories, the Chamber embraced a holistic reading of the harm suffered, describing intersectional analysis as a central part of the exercise (para. 73). It then set aside a specific sub-section to address the social impact of the gender dimension of religious persecution. Women and girls, the Chamber found, endured distinct moral, material, and community harm, and, crucially, the gendered dimension of the persecution impacted the whole community (paras. 122-124). Beyond female victims, the Chamber recognises that rules and enforcement around dress, movement, schooling, and public life altered the fabric of Timbuktu's community life, and that reparations, from planning through design to implementation, have to meet that reality across all socio-economic rehabilitation projects.

Second, the Chamber also established a presumption of victimhood for anyone who lived in Timbuktu during the relevant period of the persecution, from early May 2012 to 29 January 2013, including those who fled during that time (para. 63). Drawing on the *amici* submission and aligning with positions taken by the Legal Representatives of Victims, the Registry, and the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV), the approach answers a long-standing call: treat the population as direct victims of religious persecution, instead of restricting redress to people able to prove individual episodes. Where displacement and insecurity make documentation unrealistic, a workable presumption is what allows a victim-centred process to exist in practice.

Third, Chamber directed the TFV to develop rehabilitation programmes in close consultation with victims and to apply a gender-sensitive approach (para. 204). Women and girls must be properly included, the harms that are specific to them must be addressed, and the risks and barriers they face in accessing reparations must be taken seriously. Educational support, particularly, is meant to respond to the harm caused by school closures and lost educational opportunities, especially for women and girls. The Chamber treated the ‘do no harm’ principle as paramount, and required that consultations pay sustained attention to accessibility, meaningful participation, privacy, and safety.

The relevance of this reparations order lies in the implementation of an intersectional and holistic approach in its analysis of the harm, based on the convicted crimes. For reparations practitioners, it offers a helpful precedent. The lack of a gender-persecution conviction did not prevent a gender-competent reparations framework, because the Chamber’s harm analysis tracked the lived experience of the victims. Attention now shifts to implementation. The TFV must submit a draft implementation plan by 25 January 2027, and the real measure of success will be whether these findings become concrete, safe, accessible support for victims, in a context where armed groups continue to exert influence over Timbuktu and security remains fragile. We will keep following the case and welcome exchange with others engaged in intersectional and gender-competent reparations work.

.

## OTHER STORIES

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**  
ACHPR Communication in  
Reparation Orders for the women  
of Lieke Lesole

[Read more](#)



## NICARAGUA

UN experts demand truth and accountability after Indigenous leader Brooklyn Rivera dies in custody

[Read more](#)



## POLAND

ICC: Poland Reaffirms Commitment to Reparative Justice for Victims of International Crimes

[Read more](#)



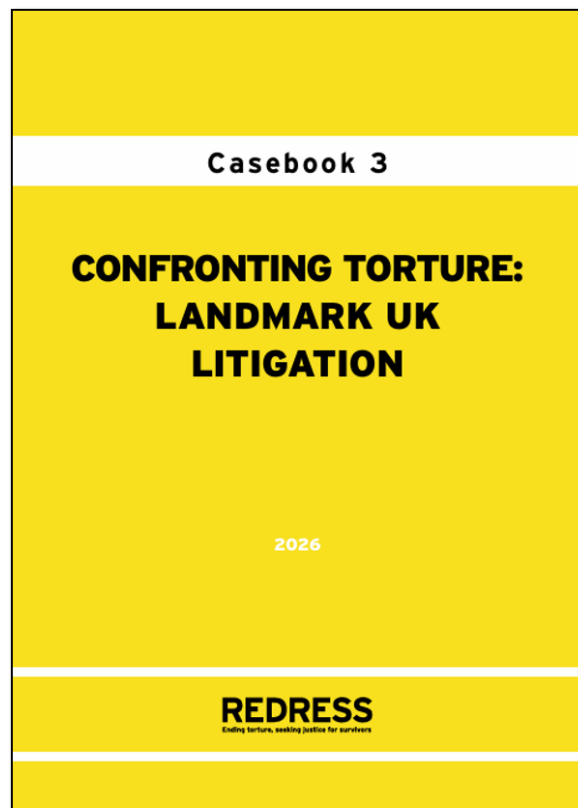
# WEEKEND READS

## Casebook 3: Confronting Torture in the United Kingdom by REDRESS

REDRESS has published a new casebook which tells the stories of some of the most significant legal cases challenging torture over the last decades. This latest edition focuses on 32 key decisions in the UK relating to torture, and demonstrates that even mature democracies need to have effective policies and an active strategy to counter torture.

The new Casebook forms part of a series of publications on key cases against torture, including [Casebook 1 on Leading Strategic Litigation on Torture](#), and [Casebook 2 on Strategic Litigation Challenging Torture and Defending Dissent](#).

[Read the Casebook](#)



## **Symposium on Advancing Effective and Comprehensive Reparation for Victims of the War in Ukraine** by **Opinio Juris (REDRESS and others)**

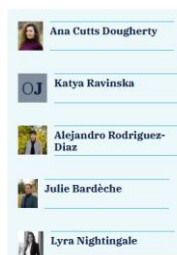
This symposium brings into conversation a diverse range of perspectives on critically important and timely questions as to how to fulfil the right to reparation of victims of the war in Ukraine. In doing so, the symposium contributes to moving the focus of discussion surrounding Ukraine's future from only reconstruction to the right to reparation for all victims in Ukraine. It raises normative questions and outlines potential solutions to complicated practical challenges. Lessons drawn from comparative experience offer guidance for the Ukrainian context, and the challenges and innovations already identified for Ukraine might offer lessons for reparation efforts everywhere. We hope that these pieces will contribute to the growing momentum around reparation for victims of the war in Ukraine.

[Read the blogs](#)

## **Sudan's survivors of sexual violence need our urgent attention** by **Global Survivors Fund**

Existing guidelines address survivor protection, documentation, and policy engagement. However, a practical gap remains in detailed operational guidance for survivor-centred participation in advocacy and policy spaces. This Protocol addresses that gap by providing concrete operational standards and stepby-step checklists covering the logistical, financial, security, and psychosocial dimensions of engagement, from initial contact to travel, compensation, follow-up, and institutional accountability. Among

## **Symposium on Advancing Effective and Comprehensive Reparation for Victims of the War in Ukraine: Introduction**



others, his Protocol sets out standards for responding to concerns raised by survivors in their interaction with your organisation, guidance on repairing harm, and how to strengthen institutional learning.

[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](#).

### Grassroots Empowerment: Community-based Strategies against Torture

**UNITED AGAINST TORTURE**  
**REDRESS**  
Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

**REDRESS IN PRACTICE WEBINAR SERIES**

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

# GRASSROOTS EMPOWERMENT: COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIES AGAINST TORTURE

**3 JULY 2026 FRIDAY** | **11:00 AM CEST**

**SPEAKERS**

- Edgar Kaiser**  
Innovative Lawyer Awardee  
INDIA
- Bhubaneswari Swain**  
Innovative Lawyer Awardee  
INDIA
- Kavutha Mutua**  
Innovative Lawyer Awardee  
KENYA
- Okwara Masafu**  
Innovative Lawyer Awardee  
KENYA
- Mary Nguemo Dzuamo**  
Innovative Lawyer Awardee  
NIGERIA
- MODERATOR**  
**Renata Politi**  
Senior Legal Advisor  
REDRESS

Ukrainian interpretations will be available

Register at [redress.org/events](https://redress.org/events) | Livestreamed on [in](#) [f](#) [v](#)

© Utu Wetu

We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming webinar **“Grassroots Empowerment: Community-based Strategies against Torture”**, taking place on Friday 3rd July 2026, at 11am CEST. This is the first 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 on 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.

[Register here](#)

[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](mailto:alejandro@redress.org).

Thank you for reading. See you next month!

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

If someone has forwarded you this newsletter, please subscribe [here](#).



Unit G01, 65 Glasshill Street SE1 0QR, London | [info@redress.org](mailto:info@redress.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)