

REDRESS

Ending torture, seeking justice for survivors

August 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 hearing on the appeal against a decision that denied reparations to certain survivors of electoral and post-election sexual violence in Kenya; a call for justice and reparations by United Nations experts for the victims of the Muttur massacre in Sri Lanka; the submission to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) of a case concerning torture and enforced disappearance in Guatemala against 15 high school students; and historic discussions in the United Kingdom Parliament on reparations for slavery.

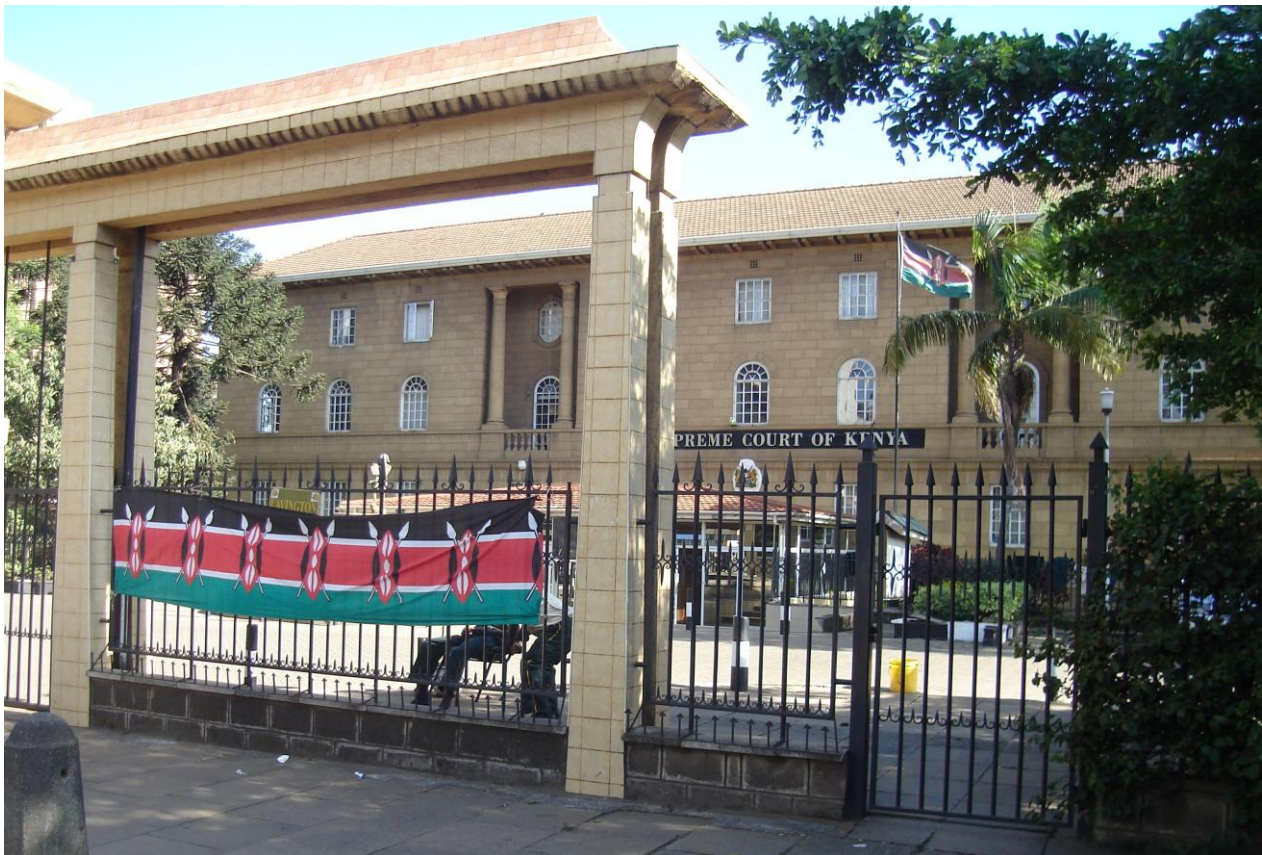
This issue also features insights from Edgar Kaiser, recipient of REDRESS's Innovative Lawyer Award, on a civil society-led rehabilitation initiative for children from families affected by violence.

Looking ahead, our next edition will be a special issue examining emerging debates and initiatives on reparations for victims of the ongoing armed conflict in Sudan.

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



KENYA

Supreme Court Hears Landmark Appeal on Reparations for Survivors of Election-Related Sexual Violence

On 29 July 2026, four survivors of sexual violence committed during Kenya's 2007-08 election and post-election violence appeared before the Supreme Court in a landmark appeal seeking recognition, accountability, and reparations after nearly two decades of delayed justice. [The case](#) submitted in 2013, brought by eight survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, challenges the State's alleged failure to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and provide remedies for widespread sexual violence perpetrated in the context of the 2007-2008 electoral crisis. It also highlights the continued exclusion of many survivors from national compensation and reparations programs. In [December 2020](#), the High Court awarded reparation to four of the eight petitioners but denied relief to the remaining four, finding that they had not demonstrated that the sexual violence they suffered was committed by State actors or public authorities. The appeal concerned the denied survivors. REDRESS had participated as [amicus-curiae](#) in the first instance proceedings, arguing the obligation of the Kenyan State to provide comprehensive reparation to survivors in the context of widespread sexual violence and torture in the post-election context in Kenya.

The appeal builds on earlier rulings that granted compensation to some survivors, particularly where State agents were implicated or incidents were formally reported, while denying remedies to others attacked by civilian groups or unable to report crimes during the violence. Petitioners argued that this approach creates an

unconstitutional "hierarchy of victims" and ignores the realities of trauma, insecurity, and institutional failure during the crisis. They also contend that oversight bodies retain responsibility to investigate unresolved historical police abuse linked to the violence.

The petitioners are seeking compensation, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, public acknowledgement, apology measures, and institutional reforms, while also calling for survivors of CRSV to be explicitly included [in Kenya's emerging national compensation framework](#). According to a [petitioner's statement](#) "[b]eyond the courtroom, this appeal speaks to broader questions of access to justice in Kenya. It comes at a time when lawyers across the country have withdrawn from court proceedings to protest delays, growing case backlogs, and barriers to justice."

Photo by: Kriddl CC 1.0



SRI LANKA

UN Experts Renew Call for Truth, Justice and Reparations in Sri Lanka's Muttur Massacre Case

On 4 August 2026, UN human rights experts called on Sri Lanka to deliver truth, justice, and reparation to the families of 17 humanitarian workers from [Action Against Hunger](#) (ACF) who were executed in Muttur in August 2006 during the country's civil conflict. Marking the twentieth anniversary of the massacre, the experts urged the government to reopen or reactivate an independent, impartial, and effective investigation and emphasised the need for comprehensive reparation for the victims' families. The victims were humanitarian personnel providing essential water, sanitation, and hygiene services to conflict-affected communities amid escalating

hostilities between the Sri Lankan Army and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

In their statement, the experts recalled that successive international inquiries, including the [OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka](#), found reasonable grounds to believe that members of Sri Lanka's security forces were responsible for the killings. However, domestic accountability efforts have been undermined by political interference, evidentiary deficiencies, and inadequate witness protection, leaving the case unresolved nearly two decades later. The continued failure to conduct effective investigations and prosecutions has contributed to a broader climate of impunity. In [2025](#), the UN experts had already raised concerns with the Sri Lankan government through a formal communication addressing this and other unresolved cases.

The statement places particular emphasis on reparative justice, linking accountability to the rights of victims' families and affected communities. The experts stressed that justice is essential to restoring the dignity and memory of those who were killed, while recognising that their families have spent twenty years without effective remedies and have endured threats, displacement, and prolonged uncertainty. They further underscored that comprehensive reparation is critical not only for redressing past harms but also for promoting non-repetition, strengthening the rule of law, and preventing future violations.

Photo by: Tamil Nation



GUATEMALA

IACHR presents case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding the disappearance and torture of students during the armed conflict

On 13 May 2026, the [Inter-American Commission of Human Rights](#) (IACHR) submitted the case of [Marvyn Iván Pérez and others v. Guatemala](#) to the [Inter-American Court of Human Rights \(IACtHR\)](#). The case concerns the enforced disappearance and torture of 15 high school students during Guatemala's internal armed conflict, as well as the ongoing enforced disappearance of two victims, Jorge Marroquín and Carlos Medina, whose fate and whereabouts remain unknown as of August 2026.

The students were members of a youth organisation advocating for improved educational conditions in Guatemala. According to the IACHR, State agents detained the 15 victims in May 1982 on allegations of links to guerrilla groups. The Commission concluded that Guatemala bears international responsibility for the enforced disappearance of the students, as well as for acts of physical and psychological torture and torture with sexual connotations committed against four female victims. The IACHR further found that Guatemala violated multiple rights protected under the American Convention on Human Rights, including the rights to juridical personality, life, humane treatment, and personal liberty. It also determined that the State violated the rights of the child, given that all of the victims were minors at the time of their detention.

The IACHR has requested that the IACtHR order comprehensive reparation, including full compensation, rehabilitation measures, and the provision of psychological and psychosocial support for the victims and their families. In addition, the Commission has called for renewed efforts to determine the fate and whereabouts of Marroquín and Medina; the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of those responsible; and the adoption of guarantees of non-repetition. These measures include specialised training for officials within the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary on the investigation of enforced disappearance and torture.

Photo by: Jgoge CC 2.0



UNITED KINGDOM

Reparations for Slavery Discussed in the UK Parliament

On 14 July 2026, the [Reparations Committee of the Caribbean Community](#) (CARICOM), an intergovernmental organisation established in 1973, met with British parliamentarians and clergy to discuss reparation for slavery. The meeting took place amid growing momentum within the global movement for reparatory justice. As reported in previous issues of the [Just Reparation Bulletin](#), the UN adopted a declaration recognising racialised chattel slavery as the '[gravest crime against humanity](#)' on 25 March 2026; French President [Emmanuel Macron](#) publicly acknowledged the need for reparation for slavery in May; and [Jamaica](#) reaffirmed its strong support for CARICOM's reparation agenda the following month.

CARICOM seeks to move discussions on reparation beyond symbolic measures, such as public apologies and memorialisation initiatives, towards formal negotiations on material redress for Caribbean nations. As outlined in the [CARICOM Ten Point Plan for Reparatory Justice: A Manifesto for the Coming Enlightenment](#), proposed measures include development assistance, support for healthcare and education systems, debt cancellation, compensation for Indigenous peoples, and greater self-determination for Caribbean territories that remain under British, French, Dutch, and United States sovereignty.

Through its Manifesto and broader legal and advocacy efforts, the CARICOM Reparations Commission (CRC) has sought to address what it describes as the '[residual legacy of slavery](#)'. This approach recognises the enduring consequences of enslavement and colonialism, including their disproportionate impact on people of African descent, the genocide of Indigenous Caribbean populations, and the continuing social and economic inequalities rooted in these historical injustices. The CRC's claims encompass not only compensation for enslavement itself, but also for associated harms including loss of life, personal injury, psychological suffering, human

trafficking and uncompensated labour. Importantly, the Commission has framed the pursuit of reparations as an opportunity to confront the enduring structures of racism and inequality and to foster a more just international order.

Photo by: Missy & the Universe CC 2.0

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 September 2026 to alejandro@redress.org.

‘Sangamam’ – Rebuilding Hope that the State Shattered

by Edgar Kaiser, Grassroots human rights defender from People’s Watch and REDRESS Innovative Lawyer Awardee



In June 2025, REDRESS published its report, **‘Torture Normalised: State Violence in India’**, unravelling how torture is routine in the country. India is among a handful of countries in the world that have neither ratified the United Nations Convention Against Torture nor enacted an anti-torture law to ensure accountability. Survivors and victims who must be at the heart of the criminal justice system are **virtually** invisible, leaving them with little to no reparation avenues.

Beyond financial compensation, States should address the profound consequences of torture through restitution, social reconciliation and empower victims and survivors. This is exactly what **People’s Watch**, an Indian anti-torture organisation, is accomplishing in an environment fraught with systemic impunity and no place for survivors in the criminal justice system.

‘Sangamam’ is a Tamil word, meaning ‘coming together’. Unlike the common practice of providing reparation for the survivors who were directly affected, this initiative by People’s Watch and its partner organisations is for children belonging to families that endured violence. It is a rehabilitative annual summer camp that brings together children whose parents either were arbitrarily detained, tortured or even subject to extrajudicial killings at the hands of state agents. Many of these children belong to certain communities called ‘Kalottar’ and ‘Kattu Naicker’, commonly referred to as Denotified Tribes (DNTs), who were once branded as "criminal tribes" under the British colonial-era law, the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871. They were denotified and freed from the draconian law after independence, but the systemic violence and stigma traversed through time.

In a system that doesn’t even recognise direct victims, children, who undergo second-hand trauma and suffer the material damage of the loss of the breadwinner, have nowhere to go but for ‘Sangamam.’ An experiment that started with a few children in 2002 grew into an annual camp that facilitates more than children every year. For over 20 years now, the camp has brought back the delight of childhood in the lives of thousands of children, restored hope that was shattered by the state and reminds them ‘they’re not alone. The camp is filled with art and craft, photography, sports, motivational sessions, career counselling, trips to hill stations, and even something as simple as three nutritious meals a day, all that they had longed for, and all that every child rightfully deserves. Besides the children from denotified communities, there are children whose parents were unlawfully killed by the State; one such is the Sheshachalam encounter. While their families have awaited justice for over 15 years now, this camp gives them what the State has refused: reparation.

But the best part of the camp is how it has transformed victims into leaders of the movement today. In a documentary film, Thangeshwaran, whose father was shot dead by the police in 1997 and attended the first ‘Sangamam’ in 2002, poignantly recalls how he eagerly waits for this camp every year to forget all his sorrow and how this has transformed him from a beneficiary to a volunteer to a yoga teacher at the camp now after 25 years. Advocate Karunanidhi, whose father was illegally detained and subject to ill-treatment, is another beneficiary of the camp in 2003 who now advances the cause before Indian courts and was invited by the US Department of State for an exchange program focused on the rule of law. “Prabhakaran, who also attended the first camp in 2002 and who himself was subject to arbitrary detention in 2001, now leads a child rights organisation funded by UNICEF”.

Jayakumar was only 22 when he was brutally tortured by the police, leaving him with temporary kidney failure. People’s Watch’s swift intervention saved his life by ensuring urgent medical care. His fight for accountability reached the Supreme Court, where he was represented by Retd. High Court Chief Justice (Odisha) S. Muralidhar, now Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Although the Court denied him the relief he sought, Jayakumar survived. Today, he returns to *Sangamam* every year, not as a victim, but as a volunteer. These stories are a stark reminder that when justice eludes the victims in a climate of systemic impunity, it is organisations like these that continue to ensure that survivors and victim families receive the holistic reparation they deserve.

OTHER STORIES

GLOBAL

Ghana President Calls for Practical Action on Slavery Reparations

[Read more](#)



SWITZERLAND

Minority Artists Champion Human Rights in Geneva Exhibition

[Read more](#)



UNITED KINGDOM

REDRESS Pays Tribute to Client Nicholas Tuffney and Commits to Continuing His Pursuit of Justice

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UKRAINE

Ukraine Register of Damage Expands Compensation Claims Categories

[Read more](#)



WEEKEND READS

FRIVAO: Is collective compensation being used for embezzlement?

by Justice Info - Claude Sengenya

Who should decide the proportion of funds to be allocated to individual and collective compensation under reparations mechanisms for victims of atrocities committed by Uganda in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)? In February 2022, the International Court of Justice ordered Uganda to pay \$325 million to the DRC: \$225 million for harm to people, \$40 million for property damage, and \$60 million for environmental damage and loss of natural resources in Ituri. On paper, it is the Special Fund for the Distribution of Compensation to Victims of Uganda's Illegal Activities in the DRC (FRIVAO) that manages the funds. But the reality appears to be quite different.

[Read the article](#)

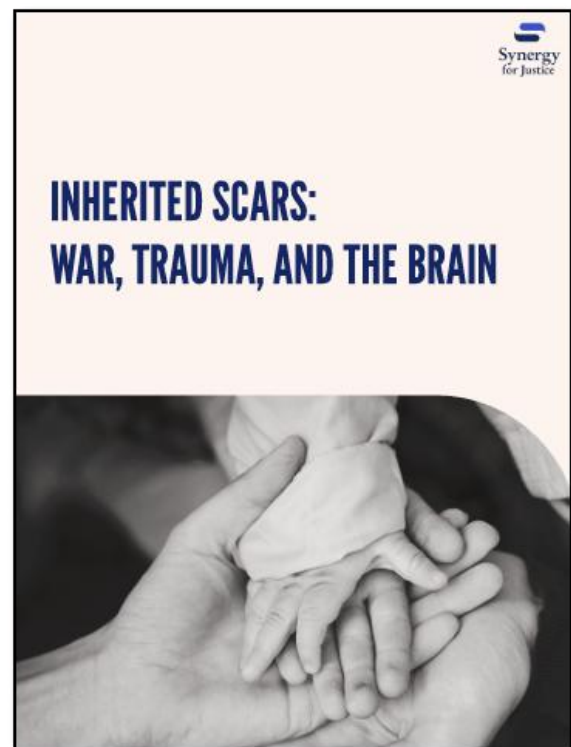


War, Trauma, and the Brain

by Synergy for Justice

Synergy for Justice brought together forensic psychiatrist Dr. Dina al Shafie and Survivor Experts Elizabeth Atieno, Ajna Jusić, Meris Musanović, and Venesa Sulimani for the webinar *Inherited Scars: War, Trauma, and the Brain*. The discussion accompanied the launch of [Synergy for Justice's article of the same name](#), written by Dr. Dina al Shafie with contributions from the Survivor Experts featured in the webinar. Together, they explored how trauma can be carried across generations and what this means for justice, accountability, and healing.

[Read the blogs](#)



Forced Virginity Testing Recognised as Torture: Landmark African Commission Ruling Against Egypt by REDRESS

This is the third blog in a series featuring legal representatives and experts in strategic litigation against torture, reflecting on the impact of cases featured in Casebook 2.



In this blog, Alejandra Vicente, REDRESS Head of Law, examines the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights' decision in *Samira Ibrahim Mahmoud and Rasha Ali Abdel-Rahman v. Egypt*, the first ruling by a regional or international human rights body to recognise forced "virginity testing" as rape and torture. The blog explores the abuse suffered by two women protesters during Egypt's 2011 uprising, the Commission's findings on torture, sexual violence and gender discrimination, and the significance of the decision for accountability and efforts to combat gender-based violence.

[Read the article](#)

EVENTS

REDRESS WEBINAR SERIES

Institutional Reform: Challenging Torture in Prisons and Justice Systems

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](#).



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 1600 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 and Portuguese.

[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.

Thank you for reading. See you next month!

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

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