

2008 Annual Report

ASSOCIATION FOR THE
PREVENTION OF TORTURE



Founded in 1977 by Jean-Jacques Gautier
Recipient of the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic, 2004
Recipient of the Prize of the Foundation for Geneva, 2004
Recipient of the Chico Mendez Prize, 2007



What is the Association for the Prevention of Torture?

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is an independent non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, operating globally to prevent torture and other ill-treatment. The APT was founded by the Swiss banker and lawyer, Jean-Jacques Gautier, in 1977.

Vision and objectives

The APT envisions a world in which no one is subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as promised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To prevent torture, the APT focuses on three integrated objectives:

1. Effective legal frameworks

To ensure that international, regional and national legal norms for the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment are universally promoted, respected and implemented.

2. Transparency in institutions

To promote outside scrutiny and accountability of institutions where persons are deprived of their liberty, through independent visiting and other monitoring mechanisms.

3. Capacity strengthening

To strengthen the capacity of national and international actors concerned with persons deprived of their liberty by increasing knowledge and commitment to prevention practices.

Standard-setting achievements

The APT has played a leading role in the establishment of international and regional standards and mechanisms to prevent torture, such as the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and the African Commission's Robben Island Guidelines for the prevention of torture in Africa.

Global operations

The APT now provides advice and support for prevention of torture initiatives in all regions of the world. In cooperation with relevant national authorities the APT provides advice on legal reform, guidance on detention monitoring and training on practices that can prevent torture.

Status and functioning

The APT is recognised by the Swiss authorities as a non-profit association. The work of the 17-person International Secretariat is supervised by an international Board elected by the annual General Assembly of members of the Association.

Funding

The APT is able to operate thanks to the generous financial support of: Association members, individuals, non-governmental organisations, foundations, United Nations agencies and governments, which are listed on page 19 of this report.

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Preface from the Secretary General



This Annual Report will give you an insight into the varied activities of the APT in all regions of the world in 2008. We strive to provide an international service for everyone who wants to do more for the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment. Apart from useful new publications such as: the unique guide to torture jurisprudence, the booklet

on physicians and prevention and the now multi-lingual 'NPM guide', the APT continued to provide training, for example on:

- detention monitoring in Brazil, Indonesia, Lebanon, Macedonia, Malaysia (on migrants), Mongolia and Nepal;
- monitoring detained juveniles in Egypt and Uruguay;
- human rights and policing in Nigeria (for West African police officers).

Our reactivated campaign for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) led to advocacy missions to sixteen countries, six of which have since ratified the OPCAT.

The biggest initial challenge following ratification is getting National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM) up and running. The APT was therefore active in NPM development in Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Estonia, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Paraguay, Uruguay and Federal States (through an international seminar).

Where possible the APT involved members of the new international Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture (SPT) in those NPM development processes. We were also pleased to assist the SPT in making useful preparatory visits to Mexico and Paraguay.

All of this has been achieved in partnership with others and with the support of a broad group of donors. We are now counting on all of them and you to help us move further forward in the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment.

Mark C.A. Thomson, Secretary General

Message from the President



As you read through this report, it will be apparent that the APT is striving to make a real difference in the prevention of torture worldwide. In 2008, the APT further improved the design of its projects so as to foster maxi-

mum impact on target groups. For instance, capacity building activities for monitoring institutions are better adapted to the practical needs of these preventive bodies. This means that rather than adopting a one size-fits-all strategy, the APT is investing in the assessment of special needs for NPMs in order to better address and respond to them (e.g. of the Maldives).

With an increasing focus on legal frameworks that can prevent torture, the APT works with the judiciary to train judges, lawyers and prosecutors in their role in the prevention of torture. For example, look at the reports overleaf of our projects in Morocco and Madagascar, both with the Ministries of Justice. Furthermore, a very welcome by-product of national debates on the ratification of the OPCAT has been the increased attention given to the reform of national legislation and procedures to ensure that torture is a specific and grave crime, for example in Benin, Nepal, South Africa, the Philippines and Indonesia. Real progress is happening in all regions and the APT is doing its utmost to assist these prevention initiatives. However, we rely on you, our partners and supporters to sustain these developments.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Martine Brunschwig Graf, President

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“On behalf of the **Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture** and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, I would like to **thank you** most sincerely for the **strong support and help** of the Association for the Prevention of Torture during the SPT’s first year. We **greatly value the APT’s work** and have **found the documents produced by the APT very useful** in the development of the SPT’s working methods.”

SILVIA CASALE is the first Chairperson of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and former Chair of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

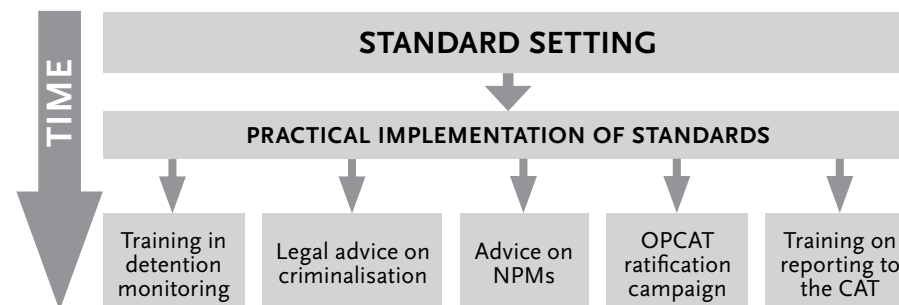
Trends throughout the year

Managing transition

The year 2008 was another landmark in APT’s increased implementation work in the field. Just two years had passed since the Optional Protocol to the UNCAT entered into force, yet the APT undertook more than 28 in-region activities, mostly related to UNCAT and OPCAT. This amounts to the equivalent of more than one activity organised by the APT in the field every two weeks.

Providing support to National Preventive Mechanisms

When the drafters of the OPCAT took up the recurrent recommendation by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) to create national monitoring bodies, they left rather open how these bodies could actually operate in practice. Despite the guidelines provided by the OPCAT on the mandate that these bodies -now called NPMs- must assume, it is only now that the scale of the challenges for these bodies is better understood. NPMs must be able to have regular access to all places where people are or could be deprived of their liberty, i.e. not just prisons, police stations and military barracks, but also psychiatric hospitals and specialised detention facilities (such as for juveniles etc.). The scope of places to visit is thus vaster than any existing national bodies. Furthermore, the diversity of scenarios for NPMs (existing bodies or new structures, single or multiple-body mechanisms, and even combinations thereof) and the specificities related to different legislative systems mean that the need for advice and support in prevention is enormous.



In 2008, the APT initiated several processes of strategic support to the newly emerging NPMs. In the Maldives, the APT engaged into a partnership with the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives (HRCM), the designated NPM, to help them design a strategic development plan. The first phase of the project (July 2008–January 2009) focused on assessing strengths and weaknesses of the NPM and the opportunities and threats related to its functioning.

Furthermore, the APT also engaged in a multi-year strategic partnership with the Council of Europe (Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights) in order to reinforce the capacities of the new European NPMs and facilitate exchanges and replication of best practices amongst them.

Finally, a similar NPM support programme was designed in 2007 and 2008 for Latin America and will be launched in the region in 2009. It is expected that both the European and Latin American support programmes will nurture one another and will create synergies and potential replication in other regions of the world.

Trends throughout the year

A revived international ratification campaign and increased networking

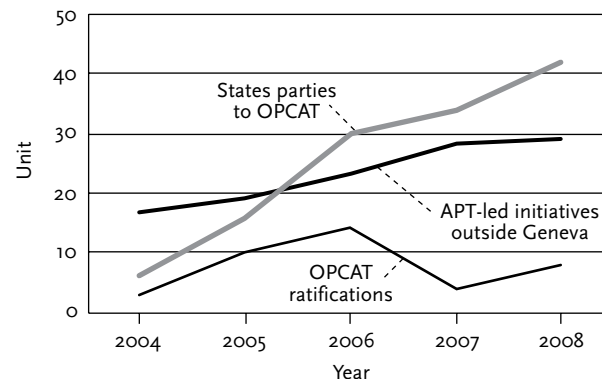
As displayed in the diagram, ratifications of the OPCAT boomed in 2006 when the 20th ratification led to the entry into force of the instrument. The APT downgraded the international campaign on OPCAT ratification in 2007, upon the creation of two new regional programmes (Asia-Pacific and Middle East & North Africa). However, the campaign was re-launched in January 2008 and it successfully contributed to the increased number of ratifications in comparison to 2007. By the end of 2008, 42 States worldwide had ratified the OPCAT, bringing the overall number close to the threshold of 50, which will increase the size of the SPT, the body of international experts mandated to undertake visits to places of detention in countries which have ratified the OPCAT. It is therefore expected that in 2010 the SPT membership will increase from the ten current experts to 25, thereby allowing for more in-country engagement.

In 2008, the APT also strengthened its cooperation with the SPT and other organisations with an interest in the OPCAT. The APT is an active member of an informal network of organisations known as the OPCAT Contact Group (OCG). It includes prominent organisations such



as Amnesty International (AI), International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT), Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC), Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims

APT's increasing work in the field & OPCAT ratifications



(RCT), the University of Bristol OPCAT Project, OMCT and the APT. The network intends to coordinate initiatives to facilitate OPCAT implementation, including assisting and cooperating with the SPT and NPMs.



“The Role Play was my favourite part. It taught me the methods of how to be a good interviewer and observer in respect to **detention monitoring**. The other benefit is that now I have an important support system to my work, which is a **network of people who have the same vision** to prevent torture, nationally from Aceh to Papua, and internationally from Timor Leste to Geneva.”

DINA SAVALUNA represented her institution the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) in a two-day training on detention monitoring organised by the APT in Jakarta in December 2008.

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

ASIA–PACIFIC

The second year of operations for the APT's Asia-Pacific programme was marked by a consolidation of involvement in countries where the APT maintains multi-year involvement, as well as the development of new activities and strategic partnerships.

Much needs to be done in the vast and varied Asia Pacific, which is exemplified by the few countries that have so far ratified the OPCAT. The APT's priorities in the region thus focus on setting the ground for timely ratifications of the OPCAT, proposing the adoption of adequate legislative frameworks to criminalise torture, and the setting up of effective detention monitoring mechanisms. In 2008, APT's activities in the Asia-Pacific region included *inter alia*:

- advocacy visits on the OPCAT to **Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines** and **Timor-Leste**
- assisting and training NGOs in drafting shadow reports to the CAT in **Indonesia** (in partnership with the World Organisation against Torture – OMCT)
- facilitating the ratification and implementation of the UNCAT in **Thailand** and the **Maldives**
- training workshops on detention monitoring in **Nepal, Indonesia** and **Malaysia** (in the latter with a focus on migrants in detention)
- meetings with government and NGO representatives in **Cambodia, Hong-Kong** and most of the other countries visited
- advice on the establishment of an effective NPM in **Thailand, Cambodia** and **the Philippines**

Supporting Indonesia with OPCAT implementation

Indonesia is a good illustration of the APT's continued efforts for ratification and effective implementation of the OPCAT. Its fourth visit to the archipelago state since 2005 came just six months after the countries' second review by

the UN Committee against Torture (CAT). Together with its local partners, the APT organised a **roundtable discussion** on the **OPCAT**. It was attended by some 50 participants, including government representatives and NGOs. The main outcome of the event was the adoption of a statement urging the government to speed up the ratification process. It was also an opportunity to confirm the composition of the so-called OPCAT Core Group, which should define potential models for an NPM in Indonesia.

On this occasion, the APT, jointly with its partners, also organised a **training workshop** on the methodology of **monitoring places of detention**, using as a basis the **Bahasa Indonesia** version of its “Monitoring Guide”. Its aim was to enhance the capacity of the Indonesian and Timor Leste NHRI staff to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and to promote the concept of transparency of places of detention with officials from law enforcement agencies.

Moreover, since 2007 the APT and the OMCT are jointly supporting the Indonesian Working Group on Advocacy against Torture (WGAT) in helping in the publication of their **shadow report to the CAT**. In this framework, the APT facilitated a visit to Geneva of four of its represen-



THE APT'S PHILIPPE TREMBLAY AND AURO FRASER WITH SOME OF THE 50 PARTICIPANTS OF THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE OPCAT IN INDONESIA

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008



THAILAND HAS MADE PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING THE UNCAT THANKS TO A JOINT OHCHR-APT EVENT IN THE COUNTRY
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tatives to present their alternative report on the occasion of the 40th session of the CAT in May.

Facilitating UNCAT implementation in Thailand

Thailand acceded to the UNCAT in October 2007, and has confirmed its intention to abide by its obligations. Accordingly, the objective of the APT's fourth visit to the country in less than two years was to conduct a two-day **seminar on the implementation of the convention and reporting to the Committee**.

The event was organised jointly with the local offices of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and was supported by the Thai Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs. It was attended by some 40 representatives from a variety of State institutions, including delegates from the Departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs, agents from other ministries, commanding officers from the police and army as well as human rights officers from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Most of the discussions related to practical aspects of the UN Committees: work as well as best practices on implementing the Convention.

The APT also took this opportunity to meet with current and possible partners to prepare the ground for future work, including a group of defence attorneys.

Training local actors in Nepal on detention monitoring

In the framework of its multi-sector involvement in Nepal, the APT conducted two **detention monitoring workshops** in different regions of the country, in cooperation with Advocacy Forum and the Field Office of the OHCHR.

The two workshops, seeking to increase the capacity to effectively monitor all types of detention facilities, were attended by representatives of the NHRC, human rights NGOs active in the field, as well as other institutions such as the Nepal Bar Association.

In the context of this joint project, the APT's *Monitoring Places of Detention: a Practical Guide* was translated into Nepali. The new version was launched in the presence of high-level government officials and diplomats.



IMPROVING METHODS TO MONITOR PLACES OF DETENTION IN NEPAL
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“The APT’s monitoring guide is very helpful. We use the book for our trainings. Our ministry has 42 prison inspectors; all over Iraq (...) they have all been trained with this guide (...) The book is very useful because it gives easy access to the international standards; it demonstrates step by step how to conduct a visit, what kind of negotiation skills are needed, how to discuss with the prison administration (...) **It is just great! I don’t say this just as a compliment, I really mean it. It is a very important book that helps specialists (...) We do not need external experts anymore, because we have the APT’s book and our trainers...**”

SAAD SULTAN is the Secretary General of the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights and a keen user and promoter of APT’s experts tools, particularly with regards to detention monitoring.

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The APT’s recently launched Middle East and North Africa (MENA) programme welcomed the ratification by Lebanon of the OPCAT at the end of 2008. This was a key success for the APT, parliamentarians and other national actors, who had lobbied for the ratification of that instrument. In 2008, the APT’s activities in the MENA region included:

- training judges and prosecutors on the criminalisation of torture in **Morocco**
- regional training on detention monitoring and prevention in **Lebanon**
- prevention of torture programme in **Egypt** (with particular focus on juveniles in detention)
- advocating for the ratification of the OPCAT in target countries, such as **Bahrain, Lebanon and Morocco**

Advocating for the criminalisation of torture in Morocco

Morocco remained in 2008 one of APT’s target countries for the OPCAT ratification campaign. The APT implemented several activities in the country throughout the year. In 2008, it initiated a strategic partnership with the Moroccan Ministry of Justice in order to reinforce the capacities of Moroccan judiciary and law enforcement institutions on the **criminalisation of torture**. In this framework, **two training seminars** were organised in March and December. Furthermore, the APT initiated the drafting of a guide on the criminalisation of torture in Morocco which will contribute to replicating the elements provided in APT’s trainings as well as promoting better sustainability of the APT’s action in the country.



KEY MOROCCAN OFFICIALS DURING THE TRAINING SEMINAR ON THE CRIMINALISATION AND PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN RABAT
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The APT also met with several partners to discuss future collaboration, especially concerning activities in view of ratification and implementation of the OPCAT. These consultations encouraged the APT to organise a **roundtable with civil society organisations**, to spread knowledge about the **OPCAT** and adopt strategies for its implementation. The roundtable took place in September. It enabled participants to familiarise themselves with the Optional Protocol, the future Moroccan NPM and the role of civil society in this process.

Encouraging OPCAT ratification in Lebanon

The APT was invited to Lebanon in October by the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) Beirut office, in order to participate in a **training workshop on detention monitoring**, which was jointly organised with the Human Rights Institute of the Beirut Bar Association. The workshop had already been planned for several months, when in August the Lebanese Parliament passed a law giving permission to the government to ratify the OPCAT, thereby reinforcing the need for suitable monitoring methodologies amongst Lebanese actors.

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

The APT also participated in a **national seminar on Lebanese legislation criminalising torture** and the OPCAT. The seminar was organised jointly by the national NGO PINACLE (Public Interest Advocacy Centre Lebanon), and the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights.

In view of the upcoming OPCAT ratification by Lebanon, the APT took advantage of its presence in the country to consult with local partners, including the NGO Group on torture, and to encourage them to develop a joint strategy on its implementation. The APT also had the opportunity to discuss the drafting of national implementation legislation in a hearing organised by the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights and PINACLE.

Lebanon consequently became the **first State Party to the OPCAT in the MENA region** on 22 December 2008.



THE APT'S ESTHER SCHAUFELBERGER WITH EMILIO GINES SANTIDRIÁN (SPANISH CPT MEMBER) DURING A TRAINING WORKSHOP ON DETENTION MONITORING IN BEIRUT

Preventing torture of juveniles in detention in Egypt

In cooperation with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) and USAID, the APT organised a **roundtable on independent inspections and complaint systems for juveniles** with Egyptian stakeholders. The roundtable took place in March, in the framework of a larger event exploring ways of improving how Egyptian authorities rehabilitate and reintegrate children in conflict with the law.

On the basis of the workshop, the APT participated in drafting a report entitled "Implementing new methods of treating children in conflict with the law in Egypt". The report provides **key recommendations on how to improve the monitoring system for juveniles** deprived of their liberty in Egypt. In June the People's Assembly passed important amendments to the Child Law, which *inter alia* improved the situation of children in conflict with the law, including through an elevation of the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Consequently, the APT drafted a background paper including more detailed recommendations to the NCCM on how to cooperate with the Ministry of Justice and the Presidents of Juvenile Courts to facilitate judiciary personnel to exercise their right to visit places where juveniles are deprived of their liberty.





“This tri-annual programme contributed to reinforcing the capacities of our members ... and we have consequently been able to successfully submit alternative reports on Benin to the UN Committee against Torture as well as the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. We have also been able to dramatically increase the organisation’s outreach towards other organisations with an interest in human rights and particularly the prevention of torture.”

PASCAL ZOHOUN, of Benin’s national ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture) who was one of the 26 representatives from 13 francophone African ACATs who benefitted from a tri-annual programme focused on the practical implementation of the Robben Island Guidelines for the prevention of torture in Africa.

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

AFRICA

During 2008 the APT continued to operate in Africa in close cooperation with local partners, focusing on the effective implementation of the UNCAT, OPCAT and the RIG (see below). In 2008, the APT’s Africa programme carried out several training courses and attended important regional meetings, including:

- an NPM seminar on the implementation of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in **Madagascar**
- NPM seminar in **Benin**
- training courses for West African law enforcement agencies, Togolese parliamentarians, and national NGOs (in partnership with the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture – FIACAT) on torture prevention work in **Burkina Faso, Nigeria and Togo**
- OPCAT advocacy missions to **Togo, South Africa and Uganda**
- participation in major **regional meetings** organised by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and Bristol University (OPCAT and RIG implementation in Africa)

Strengthening the criminalisation of torture in Madagascar

Following various advocacy visits to the country by the APT, Madagascar signed the OPCAT in 2003 and ratified the UNCAT in 2005. Upon request from the Minister of Justice, the APT assisted the country in the process of integrating the UNCAT provisions into national legislation. As a consequence, **the national anti-torture law drafted with the technical support of the APT, was adopted in June 2008.**

In April 2008, the APT conducted a national **workshop on the drafting and submission of the initial report of Madagascar to the CAT**. This event, organised jointly with the Minis-



JEAN BAPTISTE NIYIZURUGERO AND MARINA NARVAEZ (APT) WITH THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE DISCUSSING THE INITIAL REPORT OF MADAGASCAR TO THE CAT

try of Justice and in collaboration with ACAT-Madagascar, gathered around 30 key actors. These included members of the national Committee in charge of drafting Madagascar’s reports to international and regional treaty bodies as well as representatives from several ministries, police, Parliament, judiciary, penitentiary services and NGOs. The workshop considered a preliminary draft of the initial report to the CAT. Comments and amendment proposals by the participants were compiled and subsequently considered by the drafting committee.

The new Minister of Justice, whom the APT delegation met a day before the event, participated in the opening and closing sessions of the workshop. This was encouraging and perceived as a personal commitment and a sign of political will of Madagascar’s authorities to take concrete measures for the prohibition and prevention of torture. The seminar received important media coverage by newspapers as well as radio and TV.

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

Supporting the UNCAT implementation process in Benin

An APT delegation visited Benin in August to support the implementation process of the UNCAT and its Optional Protocol. The APT and the Ministry of Justice organised a **national seminar on the follow-up to the concluding observations of the CAT** on the second periodic report of Benin. The seminar, which also involved civil society, analysed the concluding observations and adopted a roadmap on the way forward towards implementation of the Convention.

Subsequently, the APT and the Ministry of Justice met with the follow-up working group, established by the seminar. They wrote a proposal to amend the draft penal code and the draft penal procedure code under review by the Parliament. This proposal was consequently submitted to the Chair of the Parliamentary Commission on Legislation for consideration.

The APT also **facilitated a working session of the inter-ministerial commission on legislation**, where the draft law creating an NPM was discussed and approved. This constituted a major step forward prior to the adoption of the NPM law by the Parliament.

Training African NGOs on the RIG

For the third year in a row, the APT and its partner the FIACAT organised a three-day **training seminar on detention monitoring** for 13 NGOs from francophone Africa, on the basis of the French version of the APT's landmark "Monitoring Guide".

For the first time contacts between civil society organisations and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) were strengthened, thanks to the participation of the President of the Robben Island Guidelines (RIG) follow-up Committee. The 2008 session took place in December in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. The



ASSESSING HEADWAY ON PREVENTION UPON THE CULMINATION OF A THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME WITH AFRICAN ACATs

programme was complemented by a **training visit to Ouagadougou central prison**.

The evaluation undertaken amongst beneficiary organisations underlined the achievements attained by them throughout the tri-annual programme, and several ACAT affiliates were able to increase their visits to places of detention and outreach towards the broader public.

Furthermore, the APT and FIACAT were able to meet with an array of relevant national partners and assess the implementation of a FIACAT/APT partnership project on the improvement of detention conditions in Burkina Faso.



BURKINA FASO'S MINISTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS RECEIVED THE FIACAT AND APT'S DELEGATES IN HER OUAGADOUGOU OFFICE



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“The support provided by the APT’s national and international experts has greatly contributed to the shaping of practical project proposals. We consider the APT as a major partner ... particularly in the area of capacity building for professionals involved in the prevention of torture and the monitoring of places of deprivation of liberty.”

PEDRO LUIS ROCHA MONTENEGRO is the Coordinator of a Taskforce on torture inside Brazil’s Human Rights Secretariat of the President.

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

AMERICAS

Latin America made headway in 2008 on ratification and implementation of OPCAT and the prevention of torture in general. Chile and Guatemala ratified the Optional Protocol, bringing the number of States Parties in the Americas to 11. In addition to the organisation of an international conference on OPCAT in Federal States, which took place in Argentina (see page 16), the APT organised or participated in the following activities:

- NPM seminars in **Argentina, Mexico and Uruguay**
- training workshop on detention monitoring in **Brazil and Uruguay** (focus on juveniles in detention)
- OPCAT advocacy visits to **Brazil and El Salvador**
- setting the ground for the SPT visit to **Paraguay** and promoting the draft NPM Law
- OPCAT seminar in **Nicaragua**

Promoting the NPM process in Argentina

Argentina was the first state in Latin America and the first federal state to ratify OPCAT in 2004. Although the Ministry of Justice drafted a law to establish an NPM, designation is still pending. The APT has supported numerous initiatives to give **new impulse to the prolonged process of designating an NPM**. A two-day **workshop**, co-organised in March by the Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) and, the Commission for Memory of Buenos Aires Province, and sponsored by the APT brought together NGOs, representatives of provincial governments and a member of the SPT. As a result, a civil society drafting committee was created, inspired by the NGO Coalition for the Prevention of Torture in Spain.

The designation process was given an additional push in April during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Argentina before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, when Argentina committed itself to establishing its NPM



ARGENTINE ACTIVISTS AND CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS IN FRONT OF ESMA, A FORMER CLANDESTINE DETENTION FACILITY TURNED INTO A MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE OF MEMORY

shortly and by law, thus responding to the recommendations of numerous Council delegations. The APT actively lobbied during the UPR process.

In June, the civil society drafting committee presented its draft NPM law to the Minister of Justice. It foresees the strengthening of the coherence of detention monitoring bodies of the state and civil society at the provincial and federal levels. Soon after, a federal Congresswoman presented an NPM draft law to the Congress and several other draft NPM laws followed suit. To build on this momentum, the APT and CELS organised a **forum** in September with international experts attending the OPCAT and Federal

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

States Seminar to specifically analyse the Argentine case. The APT also met with members of Congress and, later during the year, sponsored a public hearing on OPCAT before Congress organised by the CELS.

As the NPM proposals under consideration foresee that the federal NPM be complemented by preventive mechanisms in each province, several laws are being considered by the provincial authorities. The APT has lent continuing support, including participating in an OPCAT event in Cordoba with *la Casa del Liberado*, a local NGO, and the Prison Ombudsman.

Advising on OPCAT implementation in Brazil

Since Brazil ratified the OPCAT in January 2007, it has been actively working on the task of designating an effective NPM. The APT has advised the efforts of the Human Rights Secretariat and the National Committee for the Prevention and Combat of Torture (CNPCT) on how to **draft and revise a bill of law creating a Brazilian NPM** by providing technical guidance and offering examples of NPMs in other countries and by showing alternative options that might be suitable to the Brazilian context.

In September, the APT travelled to Brasilia in order to attend a periodic meeting of the CNPCT, which discussed the latest version of the NPM law that was to be forwarded to various relevant ministries before being submitted to Congress. The APT took advantage of the visit to advance its strategy of prompting active civil society involvement in the NPM process.

In the framework of cooperation with the Human Rights Secretariat, the APT travelled to Belo Horizonte in Brazil's south-eastern region in November, in order to organise the third **training workshop on detention monitoring** to representatives of the judiciary and civil society. The four-day workshop included items on the preparation of visits,

international monitoring standards and visits methodology. It climaxed with a practical visit to detention facilities, during which participants were able to “road test” the elements reviewed during the previous days of training.

In December in Brasilia, the APT organised a one-day event on the OPCAT with representatives of the National Human Rights Movement in order to engage them in the national federal process and to attempt to launch local ones. The APT also participated in the annual National Human Rights Conference through an information stand and parallel activity.



THE APT'S LANDMARK *GUIDE ON DETENTION MONITORING* IS BEING USED WORLDWIDE, INCLUDING IN BRAZIL

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© VIRGINIE LOUIS





“I highly appreciated the outcome of the training which was given to us by Amnesty International Mongolia and the Association for the Prevention of Torture ... It seemed to be essential to pay more attention on how to formulate recommendations.”

OYUNNOMIN DUGARSUREN, PhD candidate and psychologist who was one of the 25 Mongolian NGO representatives who benefitted from a training workshop on detention monitoring, jointly organised by the APT and Amnesty International Mongolia in April 2008.

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Despite a relatively high number of States Parties to the OPCAT in Europe and Central Asia, much remains to be done for genuine prevention to become a reality in the region. In 2008, the APT continued its work with various key national and regional partners in order to provide training and advice on prevention. This included:

- detention Monitoring Training in **Mongolia**
- OPCAT promotion in the **Czech Republic, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Ukraine**
- NPM seminars in **Moldova** and **Montenegro** as well as for the **Estonian NPM** in Geneva
- training judges on their role to prevent torture in **Georgia**
- advocacy work with European inter-governmental organisations (CoE, EU and OSCE) for the prevention of torture

Breaking through closedness: detention monitoring in Mongolia

The APT returned to Mongolia – a country with poor external monitoring mechanisms – in 2008 in order to complete a training project aimed at promoting independent detention monitoring in the country. The project, which was co-organised by Amnesty International (AI) Mongolia and the APT, sought to train NGO representatives on how to effectively monitor closed institutions such as prisons and pre-trial detention centres. It represents the **first ever training for NGO representatives on independent detention monitoring in Mongolia**.

The partner-organisations held an initial three-day workshop in Ulaanbaatar in April, which included a visit to Ulaanbaatar's prison for women. Following this first train-



THANKS TO A CLOSE PARTNERSHIP WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MONGOLIA, THE APT HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A BREAKTHROUGH IN DETENTION MONITORING IN THE COUNTRY

ing, NGO representatives initiated regular visits to five different detention facilities in-and-around Ulaanbaatar and, in doing so, accumulated a first experience in monitoring closed institutions.

The December 2008 visit to Mongolia included a two-day **training workshop** for the project participants, which aimed to build on what was learnt during the first event. The structure of the second training was designed around the stated needs of the participants and focussed on report writing, formulating effective recommendations, key international standards on deprivation of liberty and establishing durable relationships with prisoners and prison authorities.

Establishing an NPM under the OPCAT in Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyz parliament passed legislation ratifying the OPCAT in February 2008, which was approved and signed by the President in April. In July, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' (OHCHR) Regional Office in Central Asia and the Kyrgyz Ombudsman's Office co-sponsored a one-day **round-table** event in Bishkek, designed to **promote the effective implementation of**

APT regional programmes and activities in 2008

the OPCAT in Kyrgyzstan. The APT participated in the event in the framework of its multi-year heightened engagement in the Central Asia region.

In anticipation of ratification, the round-table event aimed to bring together civil society and government actors in order to discuss the country's future NPM. During the period which followed the first high-profile event on the OPCAT in Kyrgyzstan in 2007, civil society organisations developed their vision of an NPM. The proposal was presented to government representatives during the July round-table.

Kyrgyzstan consequently deposited its ratification of OPCAT with the UN on 29 December 2008.

For this occasion, the APT publication *Civil Society and National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture*, was translated into Russian.

Turkey and OPCAT: making headway on prevention

In the framework of its multi-year engagement with Turkish actors (particularly the Turkish NGO Foundation for Society and Legal Studies, TOHAV), the APT was in Istanbul in May 2008 in order to take part in a **key workshop on OPCAT**. The event was co-organised by the European Commission and the Turkish government, and it brought together representatives of the government, police, judiciary, procuracy, the SPT, NGOs and international experts.

No less than 140 delegates converged in Istanbul to assess how Turkey would implement its obligations under the OPCAT. Debates focused on relevant international, regional and national standards concerning the independent oversight of places of detention, as well as the main attributes of NPMs designated or established under the OPCAT. Representatives of various European NPMs



PARTICIPANTS IN A KEY WORKSHOP IN ISTANBUL DEBATING HOW TURKEY WOULD IMPLEMENT ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER UNCAT AND OPCAT

shared their own experience and good practice. The second day of the seminar looked more specifically at the process of setting up an NPM, its functioning in practice and relationships with international and regional human rights mechanisms.

Numerous events and workshops have been organised in Turkey since mid-2005 on the OPCAT, to which the APT contributed. However, the May 2008 event **marked a new era in the process of analysis and advocacy around the OPCAT in Turkey** with the presence of over 140 delegates from Turkey as well as international experts. All actors have contributed to paving the way towards an eventual ratification and implementation process for the OPCAT in Turkey.



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“Coming from a legal background, but without practical experience of detention monitoring, **the course provided an excellent introduction to the torture prevention field**, with a great practical focus. Since completing the training, I have worked on developing monitoring processes and standards for use in New Zealand. **The training, the APT’s Monitoring Guide and other resources provided have been extremely valuable for this work.**”

JESSICA NGATAI, Policy Analyst within the New Zealand Human Rights Commission, commenting on the joint OHCHR-APT training course on torture prevention for NHRIs in the Asia-Pacific region in 2005.

Activities of APT thematic programmes in 2008

DETENTION MONITORING

The APT’s detention monitoring programme is one of its two advisory programmes (together with the UN & legal programme). Alongside being in charge of promoting preventive visits through the provision of training, research and expertise on visiting methodology, the programme facilitates experience-sharing and develops practical tools. It is staffed with two skilled professionals with considerable experience in visiting places of deprivation of liberty and training. Finally, the programme provides vital support and back-up to other APT programmes in the implementation of APT activities and strategies.

The core of the detention monitoring programme is to conduct interactive detention monitoring workshops for different types of audiences. In 2008, these were a national human rights institution (Macedonia), civil society representatives (Mongolia), a designated NPM (Moldova). However, most of the time they are mixed groups, combining representatives from all of the afore-mentioned categories, in addition to representatives from the authorities, judges and prosecutors (Brazil, Indonesia, Lebanon, Nepal, South Africa).

The APT’s detention monitoring training workshops focus on the specific objectives and methodology of preventive visits and aim at strengthening participants’ practical skills for preparing, conducting and following-up on visits to places of detention. Issues such as interviewing persons deprived of liberty, drafting recommendations and reports are dealt with in a participatory way and are usually applied in practice during a visit to places of detention. Such trainings helped participants to reflect on their own practice and review their monitoring methodology.

Training workshops are based on the APT publication *Monitoring places of detention: a practical guide*, which has

been translated into and disseminated in 11 different languages, and thus became one of the most wide-spread detention monitoring tools worldwide.

Monitoring specific types of places

The detention monitoring programme has started to develop a more thematic approach to detention monitoring, reflecting the specificities of visits to different types of places of detention.

Juveniles deprived of their liberty

Monitoring places where juveniles are deprived of liberty require a specific approach, taking into account the principle of the “best interest of the child” and the particular vulnerability of minors. Hence, the APT is planning to develop a tool specifically focusing on detention monitoring centres for minors.

In 2008, the APT initiated a project to promote monitoring of juveniles centres in Egypt. In partnership with the National Council on Childhood and Motherhood, a first workshop to promote monitoring was held in Cairo, which contributed to the acceptance of the idea of openness and transparency of places of detention for juveniles in Egypt.

In the framework of the same project the APT was invited by the Uruguayan Comité de los Derechos del Niño (Committee for the Defence of Children’s Rights) to provide a training on detention monitoring. The workshop targeted individuals involved in monitoring juvenile detention centres in Uruguay.

The APT also increased its cooperation with the international NGO Defence for Children International and the APT’s participation in its annual general Assembly in Brussels was a good opportunity to debate the issue of detention monitoring.

Activities of APT thematic programmes in 2008



CLASSROOM FOR JUVENILE DETAINEES IN A BURKINA FASO PRISON
.....

Centres for migrants

The APT is a member of a worldwide network of organisations working on the issue of detention of migrants. The International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (IDC) was set up in 2006 and gathers close to 150 member organisations. The issue of monitoring detention of migrants has been identified as one of the key issues of the Coalition. The APT strengthened its partnership with IDC by participating in a workshop in Malaysia. During this IDC workshop for civil organisations from the Asia-Pacific region on refugee rights, the APT facilitated a session on detention monitoring methodology.

Furthermore, in November the APT participated in a training workshop organised by UNHCR for its field staff on detention monitoring and protection of migrants and asylum seekers deprived of their liberty.

Police Stations

In September 2008, the APT was invited by the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje in Macedonia to deliver a training workshop on police monitoring for the staff of the central and regional Ombudsman's offices. During

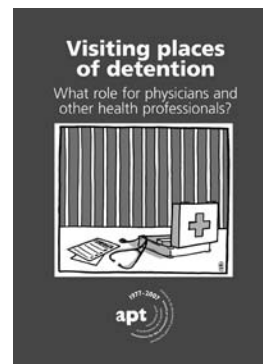
the three-day workshop, participants discussed the specific standards and methodology for police monitoring and conducted visits to four police stations to examine material conditions and registers. Following the workshop, participants decided to review their methodology, in particular to start unannounced visits and carry out visits in teams. Internal guidelines on monitoring police stations will also be drafted.

Developing detention monitoring tools

With the aim of complementing APT's *Detention Monitoring Guide*, the APT is developing additional specific tools.

A brochure on *Monitoring places of detention: the role of physicians and other health professionals* was published in English and French. It aims at encouraging visiting bodies, and in particular NPMs, to include physicians in their visiting teams and possibly also in their secretariat and decision-making bodies. Only physicians can adequately assess all health aspects of deprivation of liberty and the functioning of health services and contribute to the medical documentation of torture and ill-treatment.

In 2008, the detention monitoring programme also started a series of *Briefings on Detention Monitoring*. The first briefing on "drafting recommendations" has been published and is available in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Romanian.





“Would the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland be the appropriate body to be designated as NPM? **The course helped me to understand that as NPM we have to develop our existing visiting methodology** to closed institutions, also carry out unannounced visits and increase the multi-professional expertise of the visiting delegations. Instead of re-acting, which is often the role of the Ombudsman, **we should also pay more attention to prevention.**”

JARI PIRJOLA is a Legal Adviser at the office for the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland. He was one of the more than 100 participants in a training course on the prevention of torture organised jointly by the APT and the UN OHCHR for European NHRIs in 2006.

Activities of APT thematic programmes in 2008

UN AND LEGAL PROGRAMME

The APT's UN & legal programme is one of its two advisory units (alongside the detention monitoring programme). It is staffed with three skilled professionals with expertise in international and national law concerning the prohibition of torture. The programme has three integrated objectives: to enhance the prevention of torture through relevant United Nations mechanisms dealing with torture issues; to provide legal advice and analysis; and to coordinate APT's campaign for the ratification and effective implementation of the OPCAT. The UN & legal programme also provides vital support and back-up to other APT programmes in the implementation of the APT's activities and strategies. Throughout 2008 UN & legal programme staff was involved *inter alia* in the following activities:

- drafting and disseminating of **briefings and research papers** on the role of civil society in the designation of NPM, National Human Rights Institutions and Ombudsperson Offices acting as NPMs, and the role of lawyers in the prevention of torture
- providing **legal advice and trainings** on the implementation of the UNCAT and the criminalisation of torture in countries such as Benin, Madagascar, Morocco and South Africa
- **advocacy work** and participation in meetings with the SPT, Human Rights Council, General Assembly
- updating and disseminating the APT's main resource document on NPM processes and establishment in States Parties and Signatories to the OPCAT. This document, now called **OPCAT country status**, also contains regularly updated information on States considering signature of, ratification or accession to the OPCAT

Implementing the OPCAT in federal and decentralised states: challenges and solutions

Building on previous initiatives undertaken in 2005 and aiming at addressing the specific **challenges of implementing the OPCAT in decentralised states**, the APT organised a **major international event** on this topic in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in September 2008.

The event gathered international experts, including from the UN OHCHR as well as diplomats and representatives from the following federal or decentralised countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The four-day seminar ended with the adoption by the participants of conclusions related to the challenges faced by federal States in the implementation of the OPCAT at the national and local level. It is expected that these conclusions will contribute to promoting OPCAT ratification processes in federal and decentralised states, together with NPM designation and establishment processes. States



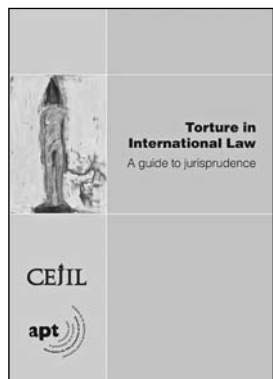
PARTICIPANTS DURING THE EVENT ON THE CHALLENGES OF OPCAT IMPLEMENTATION IN FEDERAL AND DECENTRALISED STATES

Activities of APT thematic programmes in 2008

Parties with federal and decentralised structures should be able **to respond more effectively to the challenge of implementation of the OPCAT** at the local level. In addition, best practices and recommendations learnt during the event were later shared with other countries and regions facing the same challenges.

Worldwide jurisprudence on torture: a new APT expert's tool

How is the definition of torture applied in legal cases under the European Court of Human Rights? Does rape qualify as torture under the African regional system of human rights? Is torture considered a war crime under the statutes of international tribunals (such as for Rwanda or ex-Yugoslavia)?



These are a few examples of the questions to which clear answers are provided by the APT's recently released *Torture in International Law – a Guide to Jurisprudence*. The guide was drafted in an accessible way so as to enable both practitioners and non-specialists alike to

see practical examples of **how the crime of torture is interpreted under prominent international and regional courts and tribunals**. Translation for this new landmark tool, which has been hailed by international practitioners, was initiated for Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish versions to become available in the course of 2009.

It is expected that the dissemination of this practical instrument will participate to improve the understanding of the crime of torture by law practitioners and consequently enhance the prosecution of torture offenders by relevant judiciary institutions.

Enhancing worldwide legislation on the prevention of torture and expertise on NPMs

The provision of legal advice on national legislation on torture and NPMs is a fundamental part of the APT's work, alongside advocacy for ratification and implementation of the OPCAT. In 2008, the UN & legal programme provided **legal advice on draft legislation on torture in many countries**, including Benin, Egypt, Madagascar, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Uganda. In countries such as Madagascar, the APT was the leading actor behind the adoption of landmark legislation on the criminalisation of torture and is now working for the practical implementation of the legislation in partnership with relevant partners in the country.

Finally, the APT also drafted and disseminated two key papers on the role of civil society in the designation of NPMs as well as National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) and Ombudsperson offices acting as NPMs.



New capacity-building tools for the prevention of torture

As in previous years, the APT has continued to extend its increasing number of publications, but also the translation of several existing ones into additional languages.

As already mentioned in this annual report (see UN & legal programme), the major publication issued this year by the APT was ***Torture in International Law – A Guide to Jurisprudence***. This guide to international jurisprudence on the question of torture has a global scope, examining jurisprudence as well as the issue of individual responsibility for this crime. During 2009 it will be translated into Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Another major publication in 2008 was ***Visiting Places of Detention – What role for Physicians and other Health Professionals?*** (see **detention monitoring**). This brochure has been produced for all mechanisms conducting regular visits to places of detention, especially NPMs within the framework of the OPCAT. It aims to demonstrate the necessity of including, amongst others, physicians and/or other qualified health professionals at all levels within the NPMs. The brochure is available in English and French.

In addition to these new publications, several already existing ones have been re-edited or translated into more languages, in order to make them available to an increased number of people and human rights advocates.



Together with the regional office of the OHCHR and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the APT published a ***Practical Guide for the Implementation of the RIG*** and re-edited the ACHPR's

Resolution on Guidelines and Measures for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa. They are both available in English and French. The first edition of the Guidelines is also available in Arabic and Portuguese.



The APT's ***Guide to Establishment and Designation of National Preventive Mechanisms*** under the OPCAT has been translated into and disseminated in **Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia and Macedonian** in 2008. It is now available in 11 different languages.

Monitoring places of detention – A practical guide was translated into Nepali (see p.5). It is now available in 10 different languages. In January 2009, the manual's various language versions had been downloaded from the APT website more than 65,000 times from all over the world.

Defusing the ticking bomb scenario – Why we must say No to torture, always was translated into **Arabic** by the APT's Lebanese partner organisation PINACLE. It is also available in English and French.



In addition to the already-mentioned publications, the APT has also published a number of papers about a wide range of issues. They include:

- ***Putting the Universal Declaration into Practice: the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture*** (available in English, French and Spanish)
- ***Civil Society and National Preventive Mechanisms*** (available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Russian and Georgian)
- ***National Human Rights Commissions and Ombudspersons' Offices / Ombudsmen as NPMs*** (available in English, French, Spanish and Georgian)
- ***The role of lawyers in the prevention of torture*** (available in English, French and Thai)

It has also issued the first of a new APT series of ***Detention Monitoring Briefings***, entitled ***Making effective recommendations*** (available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian). The series will be continued throughout 2009 (see **detention monitoring**).

All those publications are available on the APT's website www.apr.ch or can be requested in a hard copy form from the Geneva Secretariat. We hope that they will be useful tools for anybody working within the field of the prevention of torture.

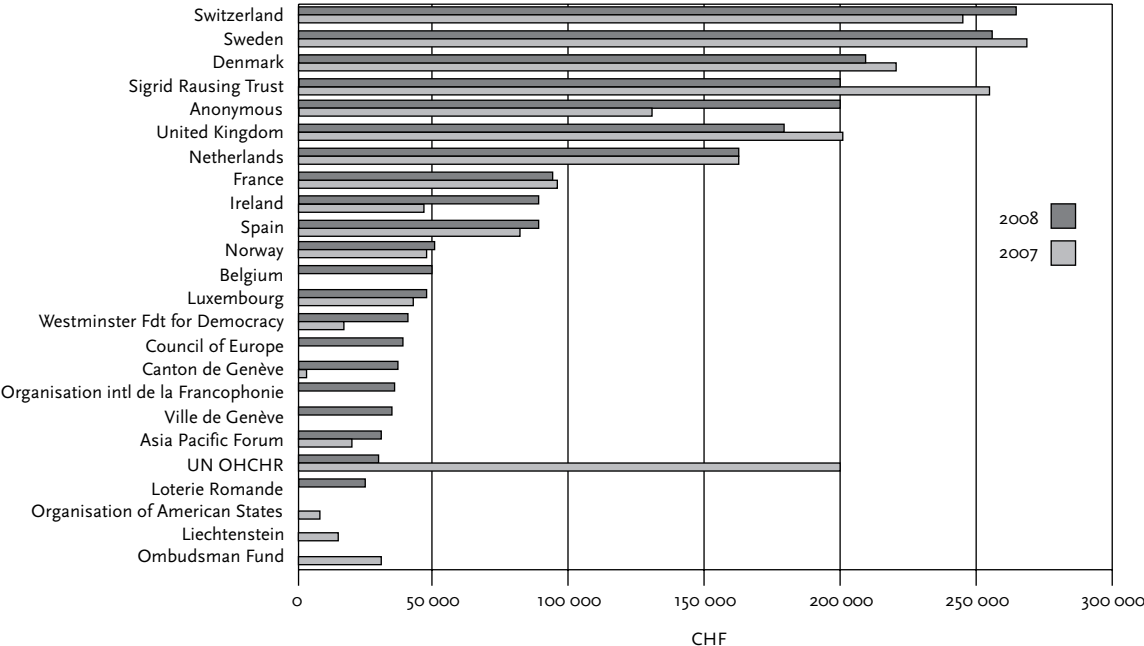
Budget and accounts

The combination of renewed commitments by faithful APT donors and the securing of new grants and partnerships has meant that the APT is in a relatively healthy financial situation (please see first chart). Thanks to our donors the APT was able to adequately cover its budgeted running costs of CHF 1,935,000 in 2008.

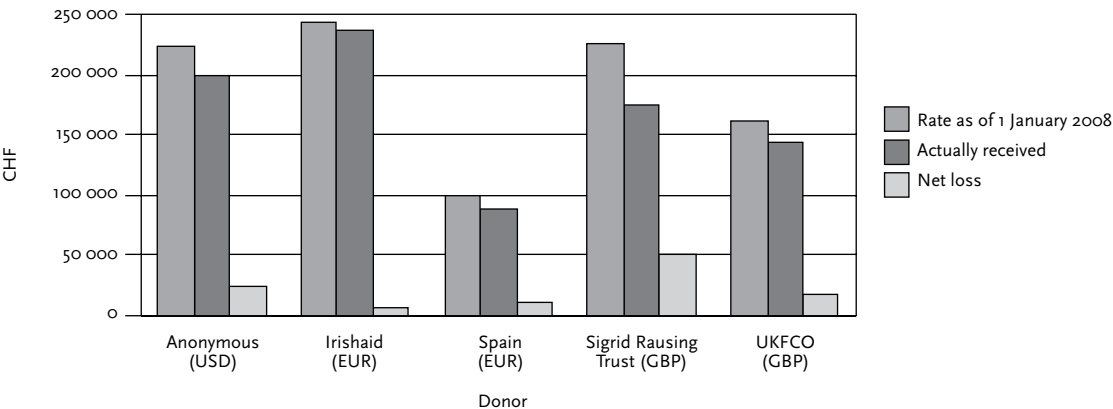
To date, the APT has not suffered major losses relating to the global financial crisis. Moreover, APT donors have not had to renegotiate existing contracts with the APT. Nonetheless, the drops amongst major currencies such as the US Dollar, the British Pound, and the Euro throughout 2008 have had a negative impact on the income of the APT. The organisation's accounts are maintained and consolidated into Swiss francs (CHF), a relatively stable currency. However, most grants received by the APT are paid in other currencies. As a result, in 2008 the APT "lost" more than CHF 100,000 due to weakening foreign exchange rates and a strong CHF (see second chart).

While the outlook for the global economy in 2009 remains bleak, the APT can fortunately count on the support of a broad range of donors (with multi-year commitments), which will hopefully ensure our ability to deliver in line with our objectives for 2009, based on an increased annual budget of CHF 2,400,000.

Sources of funding 2007/2008



2008 impact of cumulated currency drop on incomes



APT staff in 2008

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Asia-Pacific Programme

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Europe and Central Asia Programme

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Middle East and North Africa Programme

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Mary Murphy, United Kingdom / Ireland

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Mike Kellett, UK

Sylvia Diniz Dias, Brazil

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Victoria Kuhn, Argentina / Switzerland



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: JEAN-BAPTISTE NIYIZURUGERO, PHILIPPE TREMBLAY, VINCENT PLOTON, ANJA HÄRTWIG, AURO FRASER, TERESA MACHADO, MATTHEW PRINGLE, CATHERINE FELDER, ADRIAN MOORE

FRONT ROW: MARK THOMSON, AUDREY OLIVIER, MARINA NARVAEZ, SYLVIE PITTET



ABSENT FROM THE PICTURE: BARBARA BERNATH, CLAUDIA GEREZ, LISA MYERS, HAILE NEGASH, EMMA REILLY, ESTHER SCHAUFELBERGER

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Thanks

The APT is grateful to the following donors for their support in 2008:

Governments

Belgium, Canton de Genève, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Ville de Genève

International Organisations, Foundations and other Institutions

Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, Council of Europe, Loterie Romande, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Organisation internationale de la francophonie, Pro-Victimis Foundation, Sigrid Rausing Trust, Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Individuals

Members of the APT, faithful private donors (such as Ms. Martita Jöhr-Rohr), Mr. Ruedi Mettler and other generous individuals.

Note: The APT is independent of its financial supporters in all matters concerning the policy and strategy applied in its activities.

Participation in the production of this report

Anja Härtwig
Vincent Ploton

Editing

Mark Thomson

Translation

Alia Rahal and Audrey Olivier (from English into French)

Concept and graphic design

minimum graphics

Printing

Graphi 4 Global Publishing Services

Photos

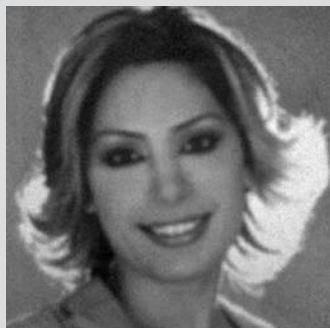
APT

Library and Research Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Cover photo

The front cover and the illustration on page 17 are copies of Aaron's and Dietmar's paintings, who are detainees in an Austrian and German prison respectively. The paintings are issued from the catalogue created as a result of the international art contest for prisoners organised by the International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care (ICPPC) in 2005–2006. For more information please visit www.icppc.org

* Board members who also acted as consultants for the APT during 2008



“The workshop in which I participated was enriching in many ways ... I particularly appreciated the role plays and practical exercises which helped us to make the most of the theory as well as **providing participants with practical skills for their work.**”

COLETTE YOUSSEF EL-KESSERWANI is a medical assistant with the Middle East Council of Churches. She participated in a training workshop on detention monitoring facilitated by the APT in Beirut in October 2008.

Abbreviations used in this report

APT	Association for the Prevention of Torture
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AI	Amnesty International
CAT	UN Committee against Torture
CELS	Centre for Legal and Social Studies (Argentina)
CNPCT	National Committee for the Prevention and Combat of Torture (Brazil)
CPT	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture
FIACAT	International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture
HCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists
IDC	International Coalition on the Detention of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants
MDAC	Mental Disability Advocacy Centre
MECC	Middle East Council of Churches
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NCCM	National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (Egypt)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NHRI	National Human Rights Institutions
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
OCG	OPCAT Contact Group
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
OMCT	World Organisation against Torture
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PINACLE	Public Interest Advocacy Centre Lebanon
RCT	Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims
RIG	Robben Island Guidelines
SPT	UN Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture
TAIEX	European Commission's Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument
TOHAV	Foundation for Society and Legal Studies (Turkey)
UNCAT	UN Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
UPR	Universal Periodic Review (UN Human Rights Council)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WGAT	Working Group on Advocacy against Torture (Indonesia)