

2010

Annual Report

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE



Founded by Jean-Jacques Gautier in 1977
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



Message from the President



For the APT, 2010 can be described as a year of development and consolidation.

A year of development because, for the first time in its history, the APT established an office outside Geneva. The decision to open the Regional Office for Latin America, in Panama, marks a new approach that seeks to put implementation of the OPCAT as close as possible to the realities and needs of national actors. The choice of Latin America is justified on several grounds: the APT has long been active there, the region is distinguished by a high number of OPCAT ratifications but also by rather sluggish implementation, while torture and ill-treatments remain persistent. The Regional Office has already begun to accompany the process of implementing the OPCAT in different countries so that efficient national mechanisms contribute to reducing the risks of torture.

Development too because a new regional dimension to the APT's work emerged. In Africa, the Regional Conference on the OPCAT and the "Dakar Action Plan" relaunched the ratification process in the region and created a new dynamic for prevention. In Europe, the APT's role in the European National Prevention Mechanisms (NPM) Project of the Council of Europe will put it at the heart of a new regional network.

It has been a year of consolidation because the APT has relentlessly pursued its proven strategy of building partnerships with various national actors to support and strengthen prevention initiatives on the ground. Whether one considers local prevention mechanisms in Brazil and Argentina or the role of judges and attorneys in Nepal, Madagascar and Bahrain, this strategy has proved its value. The APT has also consolidated its international partnerships and facilitated exchange and synergies between the different actors who work on torture prevention. I was able to appreciate this myself at the launch of the new OPCAT database, which brought together members of the UN Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture, the UN Committee against Torture, and the new Special Rapporteur on Torture, as well as NGOs, diplomats and Swiss representatives.

I hope you enjoy reading this annual report, which in some degree is yours. The work of the APT is made possible by you, and we hope we can continue to count on your support! Thank you.

Martine Brunschwig Graf
President

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Trends 2010

Assessing the impact of the APT and efforts to prevent torture

I believe that we are making progress in preventing torture. At the same time, we want to improve our ability to measure the impact of the APT's work and torture prevention initiatives more generally. We need to know whether what we do, and the processes we support for preventing abuse in detention institutions, are actually effective. In addition, there is growing interest in a preventive approach, and if we can provide evidence of its positive impact this will help to convince all concerned to renew their efforts to tackle this fundamental violation of rights.

Yet, since 'measuring prevention' is a rather intangible concept and torture is a violation practised in obscurity and often with impunity, these are evidently challenging objectives. How can we prove that our work has effect?

To help us move forward on this question, in November the APT invited university and UN researchers as well as a police reformer to a meeting with the Board and staff that considered how

the APT could better assess efforts to prevent torture. As a result of this discussion, we have introduced additional indicators and assessment tools to evaluate our own and our partners' activities. For example, we are using baseline surveys at the outset of projects.

In addition, for others to know the APT's objectives and judge whether they are being achieved, the Board approved a two year Strategic Plan (2011-2012) in November which is displayed on our website. Apart from clarifying the APT's vision, mission, thematic and country priorities, the Plan reaffirms our commitment to a human rights based approach, including promotion of "non-discrimination, gender sensitivity and protection of vulnerable groups".

Lobbying for competent new UN experts

Two important developments in which the APT was involved during 2010 were the election in October of 15 new members to the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) and the election in September of a new Special

“The seminar at Dakar was marvelous. I personally feel that it was an eye opener in respect of issues pertinent to torture prevention. The exposure of the Maldives and the French experiences and the interventions of the SPT Expert during the working sessions and my personal queries enabled me to form an opinion of what a perfect NPM would look like.”

Binaye Kumar Goury, Deputy Commissioner for Prisons in the Mauritius Prison Services

Rapporteur on Torture. The APT successfully pressed States Parties to the OPCAT (Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment) to improve the range of skills repre-

sented on the Subcommittee as well as its gender and regional balance. We now have high hopes that the enlarged SPT will bring its in-region experience to bear positively on implementation of the OPCAT. The SPT'S impact is starting to become evident, for example in the closing of a prison in Paraguay and in helping the Maldives National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) to obtain adequate resources.

It was also crucial last year to ensure that States chose a well-qualified Special Rapporteur on Torture. The unanimous election of Juan Méndez, a human rights lawyer from Argentina who is a former victim and a long-standing partner of the APT, is good news for the struggle against torture.

Nurturing emerging partnerships

In our constant effort to seek out new partnerships in prevention, we were very pleased in 2010 to see the value of our work with provincial authorities, which led to the creation of "Local Preventive Mechanisms" at state level in Argentina and Brazil.



Enlarged SPT and OHCHR Secretariat



We also engaged constructively with parliamentarians, for example in Lebanon, Argentina, Brazil, Spain, Uganda, France and Senegal. In the Philippines, the APT and the APT's NGO partner Balay teamed up with the Senate which, after approving a law to criminalise torture, will now have the final say on ratification of the OPCAT.

We were very pleased to organise in Croatia our first joint event with UNDP. The workshop we organised together in October, which assembled European National Human Rights Institutions to discuss how they might help implement the OPCAT, bodes well for partnerships with UNDP in other regions of the world.

National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) remain priority partners for the APT. We provided training and advice to several of them in 2010, including the Maldives and Costa Rica, and (in cooperation with the Council of Europe) all NPMs in the European region. Unfortunately, shortage of resources meant that we could not provide training to all NPMs. To address this issue, we are making the APT's training materials available to NPMs in their

own languages. In addition, the APT has proposed a meeting in 2011 that will bring all NPMs together for the first time, with States Parties and the SPT. This meeting, the APT's major event in 2011, will allow NPMs to learn from one another and help the APT to better assess their needs and progress.

Providing improved prevention tools

To meet the worldwide demand for tools that will assist local actors to prevent torture, the APT continued to translate its materials into a variety of languages and make them available online. The website also underwent a major overhaul in 2010 to make sure that the APT's training tools are accessible. An impressive addition to the website has been the unique and comprehensive online database on OPCAT national implementation.

The two most important hardback publications of the year were: the revised *OPCAT Manual on Preventing Torture*, jointly published with IIHR, which includes new chapters on the Subcommittee and on National Preventive Mechanisms; and *Preventing Torture: an Operational guide for National Human Rights Institutions*, jointly published with the APF and OHCHR. The first book has already appeared in Thai and both books are currently being translated into several languages.



Advocating for ratifications

Seven more States ratified the OPCAT in 2010. After our efforts in the region, it was particularly welcome that four were African. Worldwide, nevertheless, the number of signatures increased by just three, so more advocacy will be required in the coming year. With regard to ratifications of international human rights treaties, we applauded the 20th ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance which brought the treaty into force. We can now refer more actively to the

safeguards in this treaty which protect persons deprived of their liberty.

Promoting adequate legal frameworks

Finally, in 2010 the APT injected more energy into promoting adequate national legal frameworks to protect detained persons. In this report you will read about at least

four projects that encourage the judiciary to play a more active role in preventing torture, and six that support local partners who seek to criminalise torture.

Thank you for your interest in the APT's work and the work of our partners. We count on you to help us make a measurable difference in preventing torture and other ill-treatment.

Mark C. A. Thomson
Secretary General

Africa Programme

2010 was a positive year. While there is still much to be done to free Africa of torture, the current momentum is encouraging. In April the APT organised a Regional Conference on the Prevention of Torture in Africa, which stimulated African efforts to prevent torture and promoted OPCAT ratification and the creation of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). Four African countries ratified the OPCAT during the year, bringing to ten the number of African States Parties. This new dynamic towards torture prevention in Africa was also reinforced by the election of two African experts to the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), which should facilitate cooperation between the SPT and African states and their NPMs. In addition, many of the countries to which the APT provides technical drafting advice or strategic support made progress towards developing national legislation criminalising torture.



African Regional Torture Prevention Conference, Dakar, 27-28 April 2010

Furthermore, the APT's partnership with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and its Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA) assisted these regional mechanisms to play a leading role in torture prevention.

The Dakar Conference, a success story

On 27-28 April, the APT organised a regional conference in Dakar to promote OPCAT's ratification and implementation. The event attracted delegations from ten African countries that are Parties or Signatories to the OPCAT. International experts and national mechanisms from regions other than Africa also attended to share their experiences and strengthen networks of prevention. The Conference adopted the *Dakar Plan of Action*:

8 points for Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa. This outcome document demonstrated the event's relevance for decision makers and other national actors, and has already generated positive mid-term results. Burkina Faso, Togo, Gabon and the Demo-

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
* 4 new States Parties to OPCAT
(following APT's regional Conference)

cratic Republic of Congo subsequently ratified the OPCAT, while Ghana and South Africa accelerated their ratification processes and Zambia signed the treaty

in September. Consultation seminars on the OPCAT were also organised in several countries, including South Africa and Togo.

The Dakar Conference has created momentum. A significant number of African states have now ratified OPCAT, ensuring that worldwide there is a good regional balance. Africa is now entering a new and crucial phase, OPCAT's implementation, during which States Parties will be expected to create effective NPMs that meet OPCAT's requirements.

NPM designation processes

During 2010 the APT was involved in two major initiatives in support of NPMs. On 21-22 July, with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Office in Togo and the Togolese Ad hoc OPCAT Follow-up Committee, the APT organised a seminar to discuss the establishment and operationalisation of a NPM in Togo. The meeting agreed that the best option is to create a new specialized institution, and a plan to achieve this has since been prepared.

On 22 September, this time with South Africa's Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), the APT organised a workshop in Johannesburg on "Ratifying the OPCAT: Exploring the Implications for South Africa". It convened government officials,



Togo, seminar on OPCAT implementation

members of SAHRC's Section 5 Committee on Torture, and civil society representatives, to discuss OPCAT's ratification and the associated obligation to form a NPM. After discussing OPCAT requirements and hearing about the experiences of other countries which have established NPMs, the meeting agreed that South Africa should ratify OPCAT, and encouraged the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to continue its efforts to secure ratification and to establish a NPM without delay. It also agreed on the need for more collaboration and consultation between government departments and other relevant actors on this issue.

UNCAT domestication

During 2010, the APT supported the development and implementation of comprehensive national anti-torture legislation, including criminalisation of torture, in African countries. There was positive progress in Kenya, South Africa and Liberia, where the APT provided advice, comments and substantial inputs on draft national laws combat-

ing torture. In Uganda, the APT continued to support the efforts of the Uganda Human Rights Commission and civil society organisations to pass a bill preventing and prohibiting torture. The coalition finalised and saw gazetted a draft bill that will be tabled before Parliament.

In Madagascar, at events held in June and October in association with the Ministry of Justice and the National School for Magistrates and Clerks (ENMG), the APT trained about one hundred judges, prosecutors and lawyers on the prevention of torture. The training highlighted that judicial officials have a crucial role to play in preventing torture and implementing effectively the national anti-torture law that Madagascar adopted in June 2008. The participants were able to broaden their knowledge of human rights and reflected on the need to implement international human rights instruments in everyday legal practices.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Participation in a workshop that Bristol University organised in Kenya for East African NHRIs, on implementing standards to prevent torture and ill-treatment.
- ✓ Mission to Ghana to advocate for OPCAT ratification and to Benin to support proposals to establish a NPM.
- ✓ Technical and substantive inputs to draft NPM legislation in Liberia and Mauritius.



Americas Programme

Work on OPCAT moved forward significantly in 2010. Ratification processes advanced in the few countries that are still not party to the treaty. After several years of inertia, numerous domestic implementation processes progressed. Argentina and Brazil adopted local laws preventing torture and ill treatment. At the same time, there remains an urgent need to establish effective preventive bodies in the region, because torture is still widespread and (as recent prison riots highlighted) conditions of detention continue to deteriorate in many countries.

The APT opened its first office outside Geneva, in Panama ("Ciudad del Saber"). The Office for Latin America (APT-AL) works throughout the region to promote the OPCAT and NPMs, through advocacy, training and advisory services.

OPCAT ratification – regional status

Encouraged by the joint lobbying efforts of the Ombudsman's Office, the APT and other relevant actors, Panama signed the OPCAT on 22 September



New APT Regional Office for Latin America, Panama

ber and committed publicly to ratify it. The APT is delighted that Panama will soon join the majority of Latin American States that have ratified the OPCAT. Ecuador was the latest State to ratify (on 20 July), following a national campaign led by two civil society organisations, the PRIVA Foundation and the Danish Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims (RCT).

NPM progress report

The APT focused this year on domestic implementation of the OPCAT, and particularly on the formation and operationalisation of NPMs. In one of the most significant advances, Guatemala passed a new law on 2 November which creates a National Office for the Prevention of Torture. The initiative was inspired by a participatory national process, which the APT supported by participating in public forums with legislators and other political interlocutors in June.

In September, following a visit by the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), Paraguay's Senate approved a draft law (which must now be approved by the Chamber of Deputies) to create a National Commission for the Prevention of Torture. The APT supported this initiative by sending a high-level advocacy mission in October, which included a private audience with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Advances can also be reported in countries that have already approved NPM legislation. Honduras appointed the three members of its National Committee for the Prevention of Torture, following concerted efforts by the Centre for Prevention, Treat-

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- * 1 State Party and 1 OPCAT signature
- * 1 national NPM law adopted
- * 2 laws for local preventive mechanisms adopted

ment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and their Families (CPTRT) and the RCT. The APT provided a written submission to the NPM on the challenges facing new institutions. Following a seminar on NPMs, which the Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay organised with the APT in June (sponsored by the International Institute of Human Rights (IIDH) and the OHCHR), the incoming Uruguayan government took steps towards designing a new National Human Rights Institution which will act as the country's NPM.

Local preventive mechanisms

In the federal states of Brazil and Argentina, states and provinces have continued to create preventive mechanisms.

In the State of Rio de Janeiro, local civil society groups met in May with the APT, the Grupo Tortura Nunca Mais and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), and subsequently formed an alliance with the Human Rights Commission of the Legislative Assembly. Later in May, following a public hearing at the Legislative Assembly which representatives of the SPT and the APT addressed, the Legislative Assembly of Rio de Janeiro adopted a law to create a State Committee and a State Mechanism to Prevent and Combat Torture. Experts were appointed to both the Committee and the Mechanism in 2011.

In Argentina, the legislature of the province of Rio Negro adopted a law creating a Committee for the Application of the Convention against Torture, which will make detention visits in the province. Prepared by the Prison Observatory of Rio Negro and a local congresswoman who has participated in numerous APT activities, this draft law had not moved forward for several years but was finally approved following a mission of SPT and APT representatives in November. During 2010, the APT visited the provinces of Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Neuquén and Santa Fe to promote similar legislation.



Costa Rica, NPM training

In both Brazil and Argentina, the APT worked actively with federal authorities and civil society partners towards the adoption of national NPM legislation. In May, the APT hosted an SPT mission to Brasília, in association with national partners including the Prison Pastoral Service, to encourage relevant ministries to put draft legislation before Congress. In Argentina, the APT co-sponsored a Ministry of Foreign Affairs seminar on combating torture, and facilitated the participation of UN and Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IA-

CHR) representatives at a public hearing before the Human Rights Commission of the National Chamber of Deputies. Soon afterwards, the three relevant legislative committees approved a draft NPM law which is based on a civil society proposal.

Capacity building for transparency in detention places

The APT works to ensure that those responsible for detention monitoring, in NPMs or other bodies, have the necessary skills and tools. During 2010, the APT organised training workshops on detention monitoring in Rio de Janeiro with the federal and state human rights secretariats, in Rio Grande do Norte with the state human rights secretariat, and in Sao Paulo with the state Public Prosecutors Office. The APT also provided training in Santa Fe, Argentina, for the Prison Ombudsman's Office, and in Paraguay for the Inter-Institutional Committee for Visits to Detained Minors.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Organisation of a workshop with Costa Rica's NPM (the Ombudsman's Office) to revise its Strategic Plan of Action, and lobbying Costa Rica's legislators to adopt a law to replace the NPM designation decree.
- ✓ Participation in a Regional Seminar on NPMs organised during the Meeting of High Level Authorities of MERCOSUR in Brasilia.
- ✓ Advice to Ministry of Justice and Ombudsman's Office of Peru on drafting a NPM law which was approved by the National Human Rights Council.



Asia-Pacific Programme

In 2010, the APT continued to build on strong partnerships with civil society and government agencies. Three Asia-Pacific countries have so far ratified the OPCAT. While supporting operational NPMs, for example in the Maldives, the APT promoted further ratifications in key countries, including the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia and Thailand. It also assisted national partners to use the opportunities opened by processes of legal reform to strengthen legal frameworks that prohibit or punish torture, in line with international standards. Finally, the APT helped strengthen the capacity of key torture prevention actors, including criminal justice officials in Indonesia and Nepal, defence lawyers in Thailand, and NHRI staff in South East Asia.

OPCAT advocacy in the Philippines

In recent years, the Philippines has made substantial progress towards ratifying the OPCAT. In April 2008, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the instrument of ratification and in December 2009 the



Philippines, the APT with a Senator and the President of Balay

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations approved OPCAT ratification. The APT has been providing advice and support to a range of key actors in the Philippines, working closely with partner organisations such as BALAY Rehabilitation Center and the Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims, Denmark. In September 2010, the APT visited the Philippines to advocate prompt ratification and implementation of the OPCAT, and provide advice. It held high-level meetings, including with the Departments of Justice, Interior and Local Government, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the Presidential Human Rights Committee, the Commission on Human Rights, and relevant civil society organisations. The APT also commented on a draft law, prepared by a range of stakeholders including civil society organisations, that would establish a NPM. The APT's mission gave impetus to national efforts to establish the OPCAT. The Philippines OPCAT Working Group met shortly afterwards and OPCAT ratification was forwarded again to the Senate in January 2011.

Supporting legal reform on torture in Thailand

Thailand ratified the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading



Thailand, OPCAT Consultation

Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) in 2007. It is currently introducing legal reforms to implement the convention and strengthen the prohibition and prevention of torture. In November 2010, the APT joined with the Department of Rights and Liberties' Protection (DRLP) of the Ministry of Justice, and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), to convene a consultation on proposals to reform the law on torture. The meeting gathered input from 80 government and civil society representatives on two current proposals, one of which would amend existing law while the other



would introduce a new law. The meeting benefited from the expertise of Thai and international resource persons, including Mr Wilder Tayler, a member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Secretary General of the ICJ. In addition, a representative of the APT's partner organisation in the Philippines, which



Nepal, training for judges

passed a law against torture in 2009, shared that country's experience. As the key agency for implementing the UNCAT in Thailand, the DRLP plans to collate the feedback from this meeting and submit the outcome report to the Minister of Justice and the Cabinet for further action. To coincide with the consultation, the APT, DRLP and ICJ also held the first workshop in Thailand to discuss the OPCAT and its challenges and value.

Torture-prevention training for judges in Nepal

Judges play a vital role in ensuring that detainees are protected from torture and other ill-treatment. In June 2010, with Advocacy Forum (its partner organisation in Nepal) and the National Judicial Academy of Nepal (NJA), the APT organised the first workshop for judges in Nepal on their role in preventing torture. Using Conor Foley's *Combating Torture: a Manual for Judges*

and Prosecutors as reference material, the participants discussed international and national standards and how judges can ensure that standards are implemented effectively. The Hon. Supreme Court Justice Kalyan Shrestha and the Supreme State Prosecutor of Slovenia, Mr Ales Butala, shared their expertise as re-

source persons. The APT will assist the NJA to integrate workshops on torture prevention within NJA's training programmes for criminal justice officials.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Participation in an OHCHR workshop on regional cooperation on human rights in the Asia-Pacific region, in Thailand.
- ✓ Training of Thai lawyers on their role in torture prevention, with ICJ and the Cross Cultural Foundation.
- ✓ Modules on torture prevention at a training for criminal justice officials in Papua, Indonesia, organised in association with ELSAM and the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform.



Europe and Central Asia Programme

In Europe and Central Asia 29 States have ratified the OPCAT and 21 have established National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). While the APT continues to encourage wider adoption of the OPCAT, the programme's main focus is now on ensuring that the OPCAT is implemented effectively at national level. In this context, the APT works closely with a range of European and Central Asian institutions, including the OSCE-ODHIR and UNDP. During the year, the APT promoted OPCAT ratification and implementation in several Central Asian countries, as well as in the South Caucasus and Turkey, and continued to strengthen the capacity of judges and prosecutors to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

APT-UNDP sub-regional conference on the OPCAT

In October, the APT, UNDP's Bratislava Regional Center and UNDP Croatia convened a meeting in Crikvenica, Croatia, to discuss the role that Bal-



Croatia, APT-UNDP sub-regional conference

kan and Central Asian National Human Rights Institutions can play in promoting ratification and implementation of OPCAT. NHRIs from Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia and Turkey discussed good practices, the potential of NHRIs to act as National Preventive Mechanisms, and collaboration with civil society organisations. They were able to exchange views and practice with operational NPMs from the Maldives, Moldova, Slovenia and Denmark.

This was the first regional event in Europe and Central Asia that the APT and UNDP have organised on OPCAT's implementation, and there is potential for further collaboration in the future.

OPCAT in Central Asia and Turkey

OPCAT implementation in Central Asia continued to be a priority and, as in previous years, the APT participated in several national events in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, including a round-table in Bishkek in October to discuss the Draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the National Mechanism to Prevent Torture. This conference was co-sponsored by OHCHR's Regional Office in Central Asia, the Ombudsperson's Office, UNDP, the Open Society Institute (OSI), and the British Embassy in Astana.

In November, the APT took part in a round table in Dushanbe, on "National Mechanisms to Prevent Torture". This event was co-sponsored by OHCHR's Regional Office in Central Asia and Tajikistan's Ombudsperson.



© UNDP Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan, conference on OPCAT implementation

The APT carried out two missions to Turkey. On November 4-5, in association with the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey and Ankara University's Human Rights Centre, it sponsored an experts' meeting at Ankara University's Faculty of Political Sciences to discuss how civil society and academic institutions might help to implement the OPCAT in Turkey. This meeting evaluated draft legislation to establish a NHRI, which is likely to be the country's future NPM. Regrettably, the meeting identified numerous shortcomings in the draft law. The participants also discussed their visions of a NPM, since there was little agreement about the model being proposed by the government.

This was the second activity in a three-year project on implementation of the OPCAT in Turkey. The work is funded by the European Commission. In 2011 the APT will continue to promote a national dialogue in Turkey on this issue.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- * 500 copies of the University of Essex publication, *Combating Torture: A Manual for Judges and Prosecutors*, translated into Armenian and distributed among relevant actors in the country.

Training judges and prosecutors

The APT held a workshop in Yerevan in December at which some 25 judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers used an Armenian translation of Conor Foley's *Combating Torture: A Manual for Judges and Prosecutors* to discuss the prevention and investigation of torture. The translation was launched at the event in association with the Civil Society Institute, an Armenian NGO, and has been actively distributed in Armenia.



Italy, CoE workshop on OPCAT ratification

The workshop enabled Armenian legal professionals to inform themselves about the absolute prohibition of torture, safeguards against torture for those deprived of their liberty, the role of judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers in protecting detainees from torture, and the conduct of investigations and inquiries into acts of abuse. The APT plans to continue its work on the administration of justice in the region.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Participation in a conference on “Implementation of the Recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture following his Mission to the Republic of Kazakhstan”. This conference was co-sponsored by PRI Central Asia, the OHCHR Regional Office in Central Asia, the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Coalition of NGOs against Torture.
- ✓ Participation in a “Workshop on Promoting Independent Prison Complaints Mechanisms in the CEE-FSU Region and Sharing Best Practices”, co-sponsored by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and OSI.
- ✓ Participation in an experts' advisory board meeting on the implementation of Article 33 of the UNCRPD, convened by the Mental Disability Advocacy Center.



Middle East and North Africa Programme

Most states in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are party to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT). Torture and ill-treatment nevertheless occur frequently in police stations, prisons and other places of detention across the region. Insufficient safeguards against abuse, weak national prevention mechanisms, and lack of political will explain the gap between law and practice. The prevalence of torture is frequently and publicly discussed in the region, but debate is often politicised and tends to focus on high profile cases rather than the root causes of torture and ill-treatment.

To respond to this situation, the APT has opted for an integrated approach. It seeks to convince decision-makers to implement torture prevention measures wherever windows of opportunity open. It encourages the dissemination of best practice, focusing on countries whose authorities have shown some determination to prevent torture. Thirdly, it offers tailor-made capacity enhancement and provides relevant tools, whenever possible in Arabic. The APT aims to influence by integrating its activities in larger processes of national reform and international dialogue.

OPCAT in the MENA region

Decision-makers in the region continue to become more aware of OPCAT. The APT, with other OPCAT friends, contributed to this by lobbying at the human rights mechanisms in Geneva. Dur-

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- * 1000 Arabic copies of Jurisprudence guide distributed by APT's partners, including 400 by the Ministry of Justice of Morocco to all courts and central police stations.



Qatar, workshop on protecting the rights of persons deprived of liberty

ing their Universal Periodic Review hearings In Geneva, Bahrain, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, Qatar, Egypt and Mauritania all gave positive or partially positive replies when they were encouraged to ratify OPCAT. Unfortunately, no new OPCAT ratifications have followed: Lebanon continues to be the only MENA State Party to the treaty. Morocco, the first MENA State to undertake to ratify the OPCAT (in 2006), has still not implemented its commitment, in spite of concerted efforts by a coalition of national NGOs. The APT participated in a meeting of Morocco's Coalition for the OPCAT and encouraged other Moroccan stakeholders to press for ratification.

In May 2010 the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture (SPT) visited Lebanon, its first visit to

the region. With the OHCHR regional office in Beirut, the APT helped prepare this visit by inviting a SPT member and the SPT secretary to an OPCAT workshop in Beirut earlier in the year. The Lebanese National Preventive Mechanism (which should have been established by December 2009) has not yet been formed, but government officials, NGOs, members of parliament, and other actors worked hard during the year to design a NPM for Lebanon that will match its identity and needs. In both February and November, the APT participated in workshops that discussed draft proposals for the institution, and in between it submitted comments on draft laws.

Capacity building for national actors

During 2010 the APT provided training on torture prevention to regional human rights defenders, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, other government officials, and members and staff of National Human Rights Institutions.

Training was concentrated this year in the Gulf region. At a sub-regional workshop organised jointly with the Bahrain Human Rights Society, the APT trained some 50 human rights defenders from Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar in detention monitoring. The programme included presentations by experts on international standards and the prohibition of torture in Islam, insights into obtaining access to places of detention, sharing of experience, and practical exercises. At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain and in the context of UNDP's project on implementation of Bahrain's UPR (Universal Periodic Review) commitments, the APT trained judges and prosecutors on legal and procedural safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, following up on a 2009 workshop. The APT also implemented its first activity in Qatar. With Qatar's



Bahrain, sub-regional workshop on torture prevention



National Human Rights Committee, it trained around 40 officials from law enforcement, judicial and other public institutions on protection of the dignity of persons deprived of liberty. The event was supplemented by a one-

day capacity-building workshop on preventive detention monitoring for members and staff of the NHRC.

In all the APT's training programmes, participants learn from the experience of others and critically discuss how international standards can be implemented in their institutional cultures.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Organisation of a workshop with Morocco's Ministry of Justice to discuss a draft guide on implementation of the UN Convention against Torture.
- ✓ Publication of *Torture in International Law - A guide to jurisprudence in Arabic* and disseminated it in the region.
- ✓ Advice and information on torture prevention to partners in the region.



Detention Monitoring Programme

More National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) continue to become operational, increasing the need for support and advice about monitoring and visiting places of detention. To respond strategically to this demand, the APT has focused on regional projects that foster exchanges of information and experience while continuing to train NHRIs, civil society organisations and other actors, notably in the Americas and Middle East.

In this work, the APT promotes preventive detention monitoring, convinced that regular and unannounced visits to places of detention are one of the best ways to prevent torture and ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty. The preven-



Spain, on-site exchange of experience

tive approach is proactive (rather than reacting to complaints) and focuses on the place of detention as a system (rather than on individual cases). It identifies factors that may lead to torture or other ill-treatment, and emphasises cooperation and constructive dialogue with relevant authorities to address risk factors and improve conditions and treatment.

European NPM Project

The APT is associated with the Council of Europe's European NPM Project, which aims to enhance the capacity of NPMs to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment. As of January 2011, 21 NPMs were active in the Council of Europe (CoE) region.

In this project, the Council of Europe also engages the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) in three kinds of activity:

- Annual meetings of NPM heads and contact persons.
- Thematic workshops that bring European NPMs together for peer to peer exchanges of experience and good practice. (In 2010, workshops addressed deprivation of liberty and mental health (Italy), police custody (Albania), and the preparation of visits (Armenia).)
- In-country workshops (called "On-site exchanges of experience") that focus on NPM mandates and detention monitoring.

During 2010 the APT was involved as implementing partner in three On-site exchanges of experience, with the NPMs of Poland, Georgia and Spain. At these four day workshops, NPM staff under-



Malaysian prison

took a 'visiting exercise' to places of detention, in the company of external experts (with a SPT or CPT background, for example). Subsequently, they reflected with the experts on the methodology they had used and their own practice, and identified steps that would improve preventive visits. Proposals for improvement that were put forward in 2010, for example, considered interviewing techniques and follow up tools (visit reports with recommendations, further visits, etc.).

Strengthening capacity: the Maldives NPM

Using an 18 month 'building block' approach, in August 2010 the APT organised the third of three workshops with the NPM of the Maldives and other relevant staff of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Two training visits were made to juvenile centres, during which participants reflected on how they monitored juvenile centres and identified some actions that could improve their work.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- * 88% of participants very satisfied by APT training (Malaysia, Maldives, Brazil).

The workshops had a positive effect. Planning, institutional development, and detention monitoring improved. Visits are prepared better, a follow up strategy has been put in place, and sharper tools for detention monitoring have been developed. (The latter include mapping of detention centres, checklists, and the introduction of a form for making follow up recommendations, etc.). Credit for the progress made can largely be attributed to the willingness of both the staff and commissioners of the NHRC to implement suggestions for change.

Preventing torture: training NHRIs

In October 2010 in Edinburgh, the High Commissioner for Human Rights launched *Preventing Torture: an operational guide for NHRIs*. This APT-APF-OHCHR publication is complemented by an interactive CD-Rom that contains interviews with leading international experts and NHRI representatives in Asia-Pacific, as well as a wealth of reference and audio visual materials on the prevention of torture.

NHRIs play a key role in preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment, by cooperating with international human rights bodies, investigating complaints, training police and prison staff, and public campaigning. Many NHRIs have a mandate to monitor places of detention, though visits are usually investigative rather than preventive.



To promote this work, from 25 October to 9 December 2010 the APF and the APT held a pilot learning project on “Preventing Torture” for NHRIs in South East Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste). The project was designed to strengthen the capacity of NHRIs to prevent torture using an integrated approach. The project included a five week online learning course and a four day workshop in Kuala Lumpur.

A key objective of the workshop was to enable the participants to monitor places of detention skilfully. Following an introduction on methodology, the participants visited two immigration centres and a women’s prison near Kuala Lumpur.

These visits enabled them to apply the monitoring methodology and reflect on good practices, with input from the training team. Drawing on what they had learned on the course, each participant then prepared action points for his or her institution that would improve its work on torture prevention.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Introduction on detention monitoring methodology to staff of the OHCHR in Geneva.
- ✓ Training session to the Swiss Commission on Torture Prevention, Switzerland’s NPM established in 2010.
- ✓ Participation in a visit to an immigration centre by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Prisons, a member body of the United Kingdom’s NPM.



The OPCAT Programme

Since June 2006, when OPCAT entered into force, the APT has worked with its partners to ensure that States sign and ratify the treaty in a regionally balanced manner. 2010 can be considered a successful year, because seven States became Parties to the OPCAT (four African, one Latin-American, two European) and three became Signatories (one African, one Latin-American, one European).



Thailand, OPCAT consultation

In addition, five States that had already ratified the treaty established national preventive mechanisms, lifting the number of NPMs to 34. Ensuring they operate effectively remains a challenge.

Finally, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) increased its membership from ten to

twenty-five. The SPT became the largest UN treaty body, creating for the APT new opportunities for cooperation. (See picture on p. 2.)

Enlargement of the SPT

The APT supports the increase in SPT membership, believing that this will improve its regional, gender and expertise balance and thereby its effectiveness. In association with its national partners, the APT actively encouraged States Parties from under-represented regions to put forward

independent experts for selection. It produced guidance on the selection of candidates and election of members and summarised the profile of candidates to assist States Parties to make their choices. In all, 31 States presented candidates and experts were elected for the first time from Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East. Gender balance also somewhat improved: eight members are now women. The SPT can call on a wider range of expertise and experience too, since its members include medical and forensic doctors, psychologists, experienced detention monitors, lawyers, judges and magistrates, experts in the administration of justice and management of detention centres, and former police officers.

During the year, the APT continued to support the SPT's activities. As an active member of the OPCAT Contact Group, it participated in discussions with the SPT. It provided support and information before the SPT made country visits. It invited members to participate in key OPCAT activities. In addition, SPT members participated in at least eight APT activities, including OPCAT promotional activities and advocacy missions. Their participation strengthened the impact of the APT's work while supporting the SPT's mandate and advisory functions.

Growing commitment to OPCAT

One of the APT's objectives is to promote OPCAT ratification in under-represented regions and se-

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
* 9'069 downloads of the OPCAT Implementation Manual English (October 2010-January 2011).

lected countries. To this end, in selected States it initiated high-level advocacy missions and organised bilateral meetings with authorities and other relevant national stakeholders. To increase the impact of these activities, wherever possible the APT collaborated with national or regional partners who were able to follow up on progress made.

In parallel, the APT assisted national stakeholders to establish NPMs. Overall, the APT organised 15 seminars or workshops in different parts of the world to discuss appropriate NPM models, conducted three advocacy visits to promote the adoption of NPM legislation, and co-organised three regional or sub-regional conferences on the implementation of OPCAT. In addition, it sent numerous communications to governments and UN bodies, and prepared tools and policy papers on good practices regarding OPCAT ratification and implementation.

During 2010 the APT strengthened the technical and advice service on OPCAT implementation that it offers to national, regional and international institutions, and published a number of important policy tools.

- A revised *Optional Protocol Implementation Manual*, produced jointly with the Inter-American Institute on Human Rights (IHR). The manual provides examples from all regions as

"I appreciate the APT's important role in providing support and education with respect to the Optional Protocol."

*The Hon. Robert McClelland MP,
Attorney-General, Australia*

well as guidance on how to ratify and implement the OPCAT effectively.

- An online OPCAT Database (www.apr.ch/opcat), containing information on OPCAT ratification and implementation in 72 countries. It is the premier point of reference on the status of the OPCAT.
- Bi-monthly briefings, which review ratifications and implementation of the OPCAT, and provide updates on SPT activities and publications.

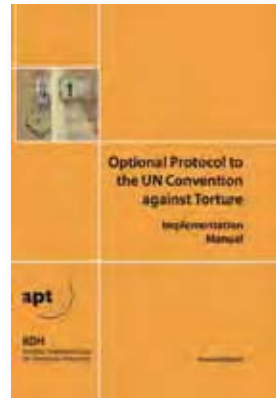
The APT continued to provide strategic advice to emerging NPMs, including legal advice on at least seven draft NPM laws, and shared good practices and learning in the training events and meetings that it organised.

Working with NPMs

In 2010, the APT gave special attention to emerging NPMs, by providing support, training, and thematic advice. It also strengthened its expertise on operational and strategic planning issues. The new APT-IIHR *Optional Protocol Implementation*



APT President and Secretary General with the Chair of the CAT Claudio Grossman, the new SRT Juan Méndez and the Chair of the SPT Victor Rodríguez Rescia



Manual includes a specific chapter on this question. Additionally, the APT held working meetings with the French and German NPMs respectively, which enhanced the APT's own understanding of their day-to-day operations as well as their vision and mission.

During the year, the APT was able to strengthen and maintain its contacts with many NPMs, notably in Europe through the Council of Europe NPM project. Elsewhere, it conducted two trainings with NPMs in the Asia-Pacific region and the Americas, and responded to requests from individual NPMs for thematic and technical advice.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Distribution of six OPCAT bi-monthly briefings on the status of OPCAT worldwide.
- ✓ Targeted information on OPCAT ratification and implementation to the Universal Periodic Review process (15 countries) and the Committee against Torture (22 countries).
- ✓ Letters to officials in 27 countries encouraging ratification of the OPCAT on the occasion of the UN Treaty Event, a Treaty ratification ceremony that takes place in New York during the UN General Assembly.



UN and Legal Programme

The UN and Legal programme works to prevent torture by lobbying UN human rights mechanisms in Geneva and providing legal advice, tools and training to relevant national stakeholders. In support of its objectives, the programme conducts its own projects and supports the APT's regional programmes.

In 2010 the Programme concentrated on two key elements of prevention: legal and procedural safeguards against torture and ill-treatment; and the role of judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

UN human rights mechanisms

UN human rights bodies help to prevent torture by developing standards, monitoring State compliance with international law, strengthening States' and other actors' capacity, and raising awareness. For the APT's work, the UN Committee against Torture (CAT) and the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (SRT) are particularly important mecha-

nisms. 2010 was therefore an important year, since the CAT requested the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for additional meeting time in 2011 and 2012 in order to address a recurrent backlog of work; and a new SRT mandate holder was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC).

The UN and Legal Programme lobbied UNGA delegations for additional CAT meeting time, and joined members of the Coalition of International NGOs Against Torture (CINAT) in drafting and promoting criteria for the selection of SRT candidates. Following the new SRT's appointment, the APT co-hosted with Denmark's Permanent Mission to the UN a side event for both the outgoing and incoming SRT on the occasion of the outgoing SRT's final report to the UN General Assembly. Titled *The Future challenges for the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture*, the event attracted numerous diplomats, UN staff and NGO representatives and afterwards the APT hosted a reception, enabling some of the mandate's key stakeholders to exchange views informally with both experts.

During 2010, important discussions took place at the UN on reform of the UN Human Rights Council and the treaty body system. The APT participated in the efforts of NGOs to influence these reforms in a positive direction.

“Whether or not torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment occurs in practice in a given State, there is always a need for States to be vigilant in order to guard against the risk of it occurring and to put in place and maintain effective and comprehensive safeguards to protect persons deprived of their liberty.”

Third annual report of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, CAT/C/44/2, 25 March 2010, §18

Strengthening legal frameworks

The establishment of effective legal frameworks to prevent torture is one of the APT's strategic objectives. At UN level, the APT lobbied State delegations to the HRC in Geneva and the UN General Assembly in New York when these bodies

negotiated their annual resolutions on torture. At the HRC, the 2010 resolution (A/HRC/RES/13/19) was particularly relevant to the APT's concerns because it addressed the role and responsibilities of judges, prosecutors and lawyers. The annual omnibus resolution of the UN General Assembly (A/RES/65/205), constitutes a major tool representing universal consensus over a wide set of issues relating to the fight against torture. The APT therefore worked, as it does every year, to strengthen the text.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- * Key issues on prevention advocated by the APT reflected in the annual torture resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and UN Human Rights Council



Bahrain, workshop on safeguards



Manfred Nowak, SRT, at an APT side event during UNODC congress on crime prevention, Brazil

At regional level, the APT submitted an *amicus curiae* brief to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case of *Teodoro Cabrera García and Rodolfo Montiel Flores against Mexico*. The brief addressed a fundamental safeguard against torture: the inadmissibility of evidence obtained by torture. Though the APT does not normally litigate, the role of international judicial organs in developing and affirming fundamental principles is crucial to the establishment of effective legal frameworks, and in that context the APT considers *amicus curiae* briefs on key safeguards to be a valuable tool.

At national level, in order to ensure that the UN Convention against Torture, its Optional Protocol, and other relevant torture prevention norms are implemented effectively, the APT continued in 2010 to support legal reform processes and provide legal advice on draft legislation, notably in Liberia, the Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa and Thailand.

The role of judges, prosecutors and lawyers

As key actors in the criminal justice system, judges, prosecutors and lawyers play a critical role in preventing torture from occurring during the custody, pre-trial or trial phases. They have a particular duty to ensure that legal and procedural safeguards against torture, which often overlap with fair trial standards and safeguards against arbitrary detention, are fully respected.

With this in mind, the APT's work has increasingly addressed the responsibilities of judicial actors, and targeted them in its activities. In 2010, the UN and Legal Programme participated in workshops with judges and prosecutors in Bahrain and Morocco, judges in Nepal, and defence lawyers in Thailand.

The Programme also continued to develop tools directly relevant to the legal professions, including the APT's *Compilation of Torture Laws* (www.apt.ch/laws) and a legal briefing on an essential safeguard against torture: *The Right of Access to Lawyers for Persons Deprived of Liberty*.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Publication of *The Application of OPCAT to a State Party's places of military detention located overseas*, a legal briefing.
- ✓ Targeted advocacy related to the UN Committee against Torture and the UPR Working Group.
- ✓ Participation in the twelfth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Brazil.



Budget and accounts

At 2.85 million Swiss Francs, the APT's budget in 2010 was the highest in its history. Its increase by comparison with previous years was due mainly to the opening of the APT's first regional office in Latin America, the range of the APT's activities, and the cost of producing practical tools.

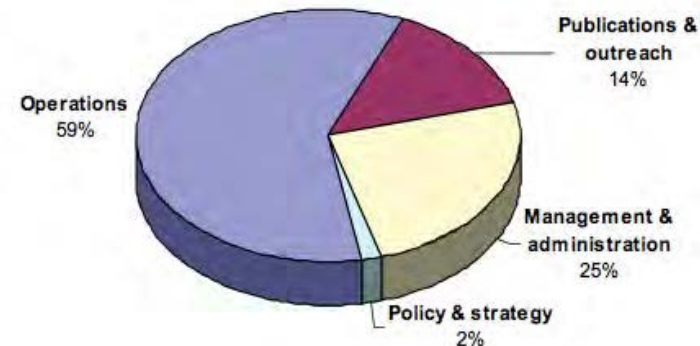
Results based financial management

As displayed in the chart below, the APT invests most of its resources in prevention. Measured and limited expenditure on office costs and administration allow the APT to concentrate on results, and invest its resources in activities that are likely to effect genuine change on the ground. For example, the APT does not pay staff *per diems* and reimburses only actual expenditures. The APT always flies economy class and partners are asked to contribute financially to activities and keep expenditure to a minimum. The APT also prioritises programmes and the production of practical tools over other kinds of activity, such as income generation, which could potentially absorb an important share of the budget.

Coping with the impact of the financial crisis

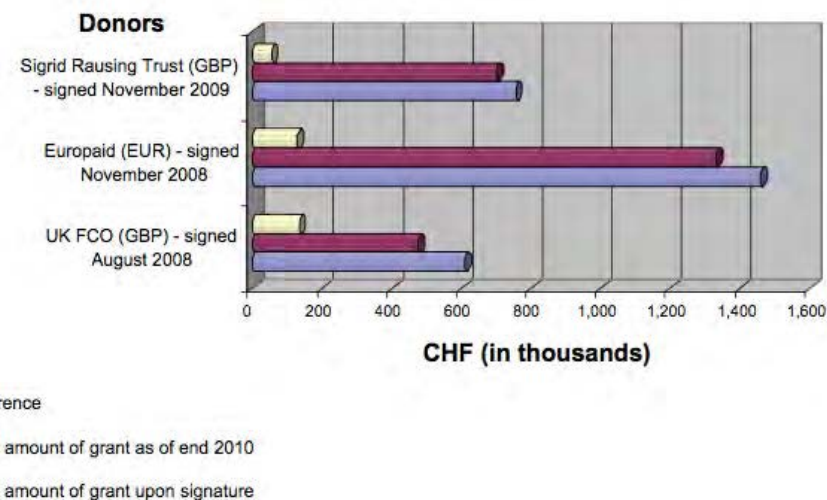
The APT felt the impact of the financial crisis, particularly in its dealings with the Euro zone. Due to cuts in their budgets, several of its traditional donors were not able to honour grants to the APT at the level expected. In addition, the Swiss Franc, in which the APT makes most of its payments, remained high throughout the year against the Euro, the British Pound and Northern European currencies. This also negatively affected the APT's income (see chart on right).

APT 2010 EXPENDITURE*



* Final audited 2010 financial figures will be available by the end of the first quarter of 2011

EXAMPLES OF LOSS ON CURRENCY DEVALUATIONS



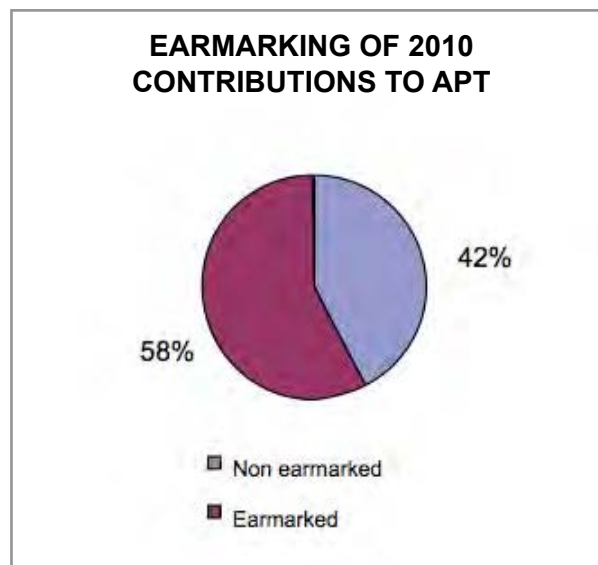
Diversifying sources of funding

In light of this situation, the APT intensified contacts with potential new donors, and thankfully the Cantonal authorities of Geneva and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs were both able to enter into three year agreements with the APT in 2010. The Geneva funding will cover prevention of torture activities in five target countries in Asia. The Belgian funding covers the APT activities in support of OPCAT implementation in Africa, as well as cooperation with the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa.

Earmarked versus non-earmarked funding

As the chart below shows, though earmarked funding has increased as a proportion of the APT's overall income, the APT continues to enjoy an acceptable level of non-earmarked funding (42 per cent in 2010). The trend among the APT's donors in favour of earmarking is nonetheless worrying.

When the APT selects countries to work in, it applies declared criteria, known as the country engagement strategy. To be effective, however, the APT also needs to identify and take advantage of windows of opportunity. This is particularly important in countries which are unstable or where governments are authoritarian or in transition. Non-earmarked funding gives the APT the flexibility it requires if it is to operate in an agile manner in complicated or politically hazardous environments.



Thanks

The APT is grateful to the following donors for their support in 2010

Governments

Belgium
Canton de Genève
Denmark
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom

International organisations, foundations and other institutions

Council of Europe
Pro-Victimis Foundation
Europaid (EIDHR)
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Open Society Institute

Individuals

Members of the APT,
and faithful private donors

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

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Chief of Operations

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Mr Jean-Sébastien Blanc, *Switzerland*
(from December)

Ms Tanya Norton, *UK / France*

OPCAT Programme

Ms Audrey Olivier, *France*

UN and Legal Programme

Mr Adam Fletcher, *Australia*

Ms Marina Narváez Guarnieri, *Spain / Italy*
(until October)

Mr Sébastien Ramu, *Switzerland*

Africa Programme

Mr Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, *Rwanda / France*

Delegate in South Africa: Ms Amanda Dissel,
South Africa

Americas Programme

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Regional Office for Latin America, Panama

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Middle East and North Africa Programme

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Ms Sylvie Pittet, *Switzerland*

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Mr Haile Negash, *Eritrea / Switzerland*

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Mr Ales Butala, *Slovenia*

Mr José de Jesus Filho, *Brazil*

Mr Michael Kellet, *UK*

Ms Tania Kolker, *Brazil*

Mr Ghislain Patrick Lesene, *Central African Republic / Switzerland*

Mr David Libert, *France*

Mr Damien Scalia, *France*

Mr Walter Suntinger, *Austria*

Special thanks to Ms Claudia D'Esposito,
Switzerland, who organised the Dakar
Regional Conference on OPCAT in Africa



standing from right to left: Adrian Moore, Sébastien Ramu, Audrey Olivier, Vincent Ploton, Esther Schaufelberger, Barbara Bernath, Ilaria Paolazzi (from 2011), Tanya Norton, Jem Stevens; **sitting** from left to right: Claudia Gerez, Sylvie Pittet, Mark Thomson, Catherine Felder, Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero



not in the picture: Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Anja Härtwig, Haile Negash, Marina Narváez Guarnieri, Mathew Pringle

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Abbreviations used in this report

ACHPR	African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights.
APF	Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.
APT	Association for the Prevention of Torture.
APT-AL	Office for Latin America of the Association for the Prevention of Torture.
CAT	UN Committee against Torture (see UNCAT).
CEJIL	Center for Justice and International Law.
CINAT	Coalition of International NGOs Against Torture.
CoE	Council of Europe.
CPT	European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.
CPTA	Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa
CPTRT	Centre for Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and their Families, Honduras.
Dakar Plan of Action	The Dakar Plan of Action: 8 points for Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa.
Disappearances Convention	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
DRLP	Department of Rights and Liberties' Protection, Ministry of Justice, Thailand.
ECPT	European Convention for the Prevention of Torture.
EIDHR	Europaid
ELSAM	Human Rights Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy, Indonesia.
ENMG	National School for Magistrates and Clerks, Madagascar.
HRC	UN Human Rights Council.
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
ICJ	International Commission of Jurists.
IIHR	Inter-American Institute on Human Rights.
MENA	Middle East and North Africa region.
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market (Mercado Común del Sur).
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission.
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution.
NJA	National Judicial Academy of Nepal.
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism.
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.
OSCE-ODHIR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.
OSI	Open Society Institute.
PRI	Penal Reform International.
RCT	Rehabilitation and Research Center for Torture Victims, Denmark.
SPT	UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.
SRT	UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.
UN	United Nations.
UNCAT	UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
UNCRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
UNCT	UN Committee against Torture.
UNDP	UN Development Programme.
UNGA	UN General Assembly.
UNODC	UN Office on Drugs and Crime.
UPR	Universal Periodic Review.
Robben Island Guidelines	Measures for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa.
SAHRC	South Africa Human Rights Commission.



What is the Association for the Prevention of Torture?

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

The APT has played a leading role in establishing international and regional standards and mechanisms to prevent torture, including the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT), the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and the African Commission's Robben Island Guidelines.

Vision and Objectives

The APT envisions a world in which no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

It seeks to achieve this vision using a preventive and cooperative approach. The APT works globally, regionally and nationally with a wide range of partners including State authorities, national institutions, civil society and United Nations, convinced that the prevention of torture and ill-treatment is best achieved by:

- Promoting **effective monitoring and transparency** in places of deprivation of liberty to identify the risks of torture;
- Contributing to effective international and national **legal and policy frameworks** that can prevent torture;

- Ensuring that **international and national actors** have the necessary **determination and capacity** to prevent torture.

In all it does, the APT adopts a human rights based approach. It endorses the universality and indivisibility of all human rights and promotes empowerment, accountability, participation, non-discrimination, gender sensitivity and protection of vulnerable groups.

Global Operations

The APT provides advice and support for prevention of torture initiatives in all regions of the world. In 2010, it opened its first regional office, in Panama City. In cooperation with relevant national partners the APT provides advice on legal reform, training on detention monitoring, and guidance 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 International Secretariat located in Geneva is supervised by an international Board elected by the annual General Assembly of members of the Association.

Funding

The APT is funded by individual donations, charitable foundations, governments and inter-governmental agencies, which are listed on page 21 of this report. However, the APT insists on its independence, in particular regarding policy, strategy and priorities.

Donations to the APT may be made through:

Swiss Post Office Account:

CCP 12-21656-7 (only from within Switzerland)

UBS Bank Account:

UBS SA

Case postale

CH-1211 Genève 2, Suisse

APT account number: 279-C8117533.0

IBAN: CH62 0027 9279 C811 7533 0

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