



FACT SHEET

REGIONAL VICTIMS OF TORTURE PROGRAM (VOT)

CHALLENGE

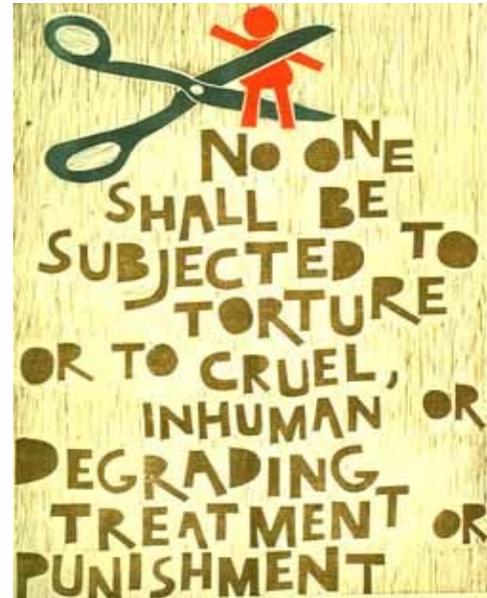
Survivors of torture account for a significant number of vulnerable persons in South Africa. Many asylum seekers survive torture in countries of origin, en route to South Africa to seek asylum, and in South Africa itself at the hands of police and prisons officials. South Africa nationals also can face torture at the hands of domestic security organs. Survivors of torture of all nationalities struggle to find care they need in South Africa, from psychosocial support to medical care to assistance in finding housing and meaningful work.

APPROACH

Under a three year, \$1.5 million award which runs through 2014, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation is honing its clinical capacity to respond to demand from survivors, with more effective and rigorous psychosocial services. CSVR interrogates the phenomenon of torture in South Africa at all levels. Armed with clinical history and evidence base for best practices for treatment and rehabilitation of victims, the program will work to share this knowledge across sub-Saharan Africa to put an end to torture in law and in fact.

OBJECTIVES

1. To increase access to effective and holistic rehabilitation services to victims of torture in South Africa;
2. To develop clinical systems of monitoring and evaluation of psychosocial services to victims of torture;
3. To research and share effective treatment and rehabilitation approaches for torture survivors;
4. To ensure that advocacy initiatives on access to rehabilitation, the prohibition, and the prevention of torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment reflect the needs of victims.



RESULTS

- New clinical relationships established with 216 survivors of torture who have entered CSVR rehabilitation and counseling system.
- Best practices manual and clinical model successfully developed.
- Clinical monitoring and evaluation system developed, the first such system in the world for providers of rehabilitation services to survivors of torture.
- Comprehensive research on torture of non-nationals completed.
- Successful, sustained liaison with South African Parliament on recent passage of Anti-Torture Bill.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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