



Briefing note on:

APT Delegation to Indonesia

30 November to 4 December 2009

Promoting Indonesian initiatives to prevent torture and ill-treatment

From 30 November to 4 December 2009, a delegation of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) will be in Indonesia to support national initiatives to prevent torture and ill-treatment in Indonesia.

- On 2 and 3 December 2009, the APT will co-host a roundtable discussion on ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and a National Preventive Mechanisms in Indonesia, together with ELSAM and Komnas HAM.
- On 4 December, the APT and ELSAM will launch the publication *Combating Torture: a Manual for Judges and Prosecutors* in Bahasa Indonesia.

The APT is a Geneva-based international non-governmental organisation working worldwide to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment. The APT is convinced that the risk of torture and other forms of ill-treatment exists everywhere. The APT's challenge is how to prevent it. The organisation has played a leading role in the adoption and entry into force of the OPCAT.

The OPCAT establishes a novel preventive system based on two bodies: the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) and national preventive mechanisms (NPMs) that States Parties to the OPCAT have to establish. Both OPCAT bodies have the mandate to regularly monitor all places of detention and propose recommendations and observations to prevent torture and other ill-treatment, through a process of constructive dialogue with national authorities. As of 25 September 2009, 50 States are Parties to the OPCAT, including three in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Indonesian Government has expressed its commitment to ratify the OPCAT in its national human rights action plan 2004 – 2009, as well as before a number of UN mechanisms. There has already been significant preparatory work undertaken, including research and a national consultation on the National Preventive Mechanism on the OPCAT jointly held by Komnas HAM and Komnas Perempuan in February of this year. The OPCAT would further assist Indonesia to meet its obligations to prevent torture under the UN Convention against Torture. The APT therefore believes Indonesia is in a favourable position to move ahead with OPCAT ratification.

Finally, the next meeting of the States Parties to elect a new Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) is due in October 2010, when the SPT will increase in size from 10 to 25 members. If Indonesia ratifies the OPCAT in time for these elections, it will be able to present a candidate for the SPT. This would offer an opportunity for Indonesia to share its expertise and good practices in the prevention of torture and ill-treatment as well as to improve the regional balance of the SPT, which currently has no Asian member. It would also demonstrate Indonesia's leadership in terms of the protection of the rights of those deprived of their liberty.

OPCAT States Parties and Signatories in Asia-Pacific

3 Asia-Pacific States Parties	Date of ratification	2 Asia-Pacific States Signatories	Date of signature
Maldives	15 February 2006	Timor-Leste	16 September 2005
New Zealand	14 March 2007	Australia	19 May 2009
Cambodia	30 March 2007		

The APT Delegation

Jem Stevens, Asia Pacific Programme Officer

Ms. Stevens is responsible for the APT's programmes in the Asia-Pacific Region. She is a graduate in law with a master's degree in human rights and democratisation. She has previously worked as a Human Rights Officer with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal and for a number of human rights and non-profit organisations in Japan.

Audrey Olivier, OPCAT Coordinator

Ms. Olivier is responsible for coordinating APT's work on the OPCAT, both within the organisation and with all its partners worldwide. For example she is responsible for maintaining APT's on-line information on the OPCAT, in particular the unique service on developments with NPMs. She has been working at the APT since 2006 and has been involved in torture prevention operations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. She completed a Masters degree in International and European Law as 'field legal officer' from Aix-en-Provence School of Law and holds a diploma in Politics and Public Administration.

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For more information on the APT and the OPCAT

Please see the APT website: www.apr.ch with publications including:

- [Frequently Asked Questions on the OPCAT](#)
- [OPCAT manual: a guide for prevention](#) (also available in [Bahasa Indonesia](#))
- [Establishment and designation of effective national preventive mechanisms](#) (also available in [Bahasa Indonesia](#))
- [Guide to monitoring places of detention](#) (also available in [Bahasa Indonesia](#))

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