



association for
the prevention
of torture

2014

Annual Report



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Message from the President

Photo: Alberto Quiros Bonett



The year 2014, as this report shows, was rich in activities but also in strategic advances and developments in the prevention of torture. Allow me to share some of them with you.

Prevention is not merely an approach or methodology, it is a state of mind. This perception was clearly reflected in 2014 in the words of Didier Burkhalter, the President of the Swiss Confederation, who has honoured us with a message in this report. During its presidency of the Organisation for Co-operation and Security in Europe (OSCE) in 2014, Switzerland placed prevention at the heart of the political agenda and showed that the commitment of a country alongside civil society and national preventive mechanisms can advance the fight against torture. This mind-set is also reflected in the Convention against Torture Initiative, an intergovernmental initiative launched in March 2014, with APT support, aimed at universal ratification and better implementation of the UN Convention against Torture by 2024.

Prevention is not a solo race but requires the common effort and commitment of all concerned.

I had the opportunity to reiterate this on behalf of the APT at two major regional meetings held in 2014, one in Paris with all the actors of the French-speaking African countries and the other at the Regional Forum for Latin America in Panama. These meetings placed emphasis on the role of each stakeholder and the necessary cooperation between them. States are central to this endeavour and must demonstrate the political will to tackle the scourge of torture and implement preventive measures. National mechanisms spearheading prevention bear the responsibility to implement their mandate independently and efficiently. Finally, civil society plays a critical role in ensuring that these actors really help to improve the lot of people deprived of their liberty.

Prevention is complementary to other approaches to combat torture, such as denunciation, litigation, or support to victims through rehabilitation and reparation. This holistic approach was reaffirmed at events celebrating the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention against Torture. Cooperation between the APT and other international actors and NGOs engaged in this common struggle is important and was highlighted this year in joint activities, including with Amnesty International which launched a new global campaign in 2014.

Important issues and challenges still lie ahead but, together with this community we are starting to build, we are prepared to address them. Thank you for your commitment and support for the prevention of torture!

Martine Brunschwig Graf
President

Table of contents

Message from the President	1
Trends in 2014	2
Strategy I	4
Monitoring Places of Detention	
Americas	4
Regional OPCAT Forum	6
Europe and Central Asia	8
Africa	10
Middle-East and North Africa, Asia-Pacific	12
Strategy II	12
Laws and Policies against Torture	
Strategy III	18
Capacity strengthening and interactions	
Strategy IV	22
Informed Public Policy Debates	
Financial situation and institutional development in 2014	24
APT Staff in 2014	26
APT Board and Advisory Council in 2014	27
Artists against Torture	28

Trends in 2014

Photo: Amnesty International



APT's Secretary General Mark Thomson delivered the key note speech at the launch of the Amnesty International StopTorture campaign at the UK Section's General Assembly in 2014.

Pushing prevention forward

In 2014 the APT was behind a number of new initiatives of global significance to push further the efforts to effectively prevent torture and ill-treatment in all places where persons are deprived of their liberty.

Our role is increasingly to provide guidance to those actors, whether governmental or non-governmental, who want to bring about real reforms to improve the way that all persons are treated once detained.

Prevention of human rights abuses is an approach that has clearly gained ground in 2014, with United Nations sponsored debates, to which APT has contributed, as evidence of that positive trend. However, we have made it clear to States that this should never be seen as an easier solution to providing protection and justice for all but rather as a complementary strategy in their responsibilities of guaranteeing the human rights of all persons under their jurisdiction.

The preventive approach requires serious analysis of the causes of human rights abuses. This must be coupled with measures, such as legal safeguards and sound practices, to reduce the risk of ill-treatment.

Therefore, the APT, as a guide of these processes of change, has to provide more than expert advice. We also are obliged to be advocates of change and to sometimes convince decision makers to reform law and practice. This happened last year in Mauritania, Morocco, Brazil and Panama. Fortunately we are not alone in this task. As this Annual Report shows there are an increasing number of persons, institutions and countries wanting to prevent torture and ill-

treatment. So much so that a growing demand on the APT is not just on capacity strengthening but also to enable the sharing of experiences and challenges of these partners in prevention.

An example of this dual role of the APT in 2014 was the Jean-Jacques Gautier symposium for National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) where experts and NPMs examined the specific vulnerabilities of children in detention. Other examples, included in this report, were: the Forum on the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in Latin America; the conference for Francophone NPMs (mainly from Africa); the Torture Prevention Ambassadors project for National Human Rights Institutions in Asia-Pacific; and the first meeting of NPMs in the region of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The latter played a convincing role in helping the Swiss to re-focus OSCE attention on torture prevention.

Some of our national partners request more direct training on detention monitoring. We have for example trained African and Asia-Pacific National Human Rights Institutions and in Tunisia we trained officials from the police and the Ministry of Interior on how to cooperate with monitoring bodies.

Whilst the APT is pleased to provide this type of direct capacity building we are also continuing with the trend of making materials available on-line, in a variety of languages, in order to respond to global demands. Examples of this include the monitoring guides responding to the growing international problem of immigration detention; the publication of the trail-blazing opinions and recommendations of the French NPM; and the translation of our publications into Arabic, Spanish, French and Bahasa Indonesian.

As the organisation behind an international system to prevent torture (the OPCAT) as well as regional systems in Europe and Africa, we also need to take some responsibility to ensure that the systems work and have impact. The APT has introduced indicators to measure the success and impact of our work and that of our partners and we will endeavor to develop this further.

“Direct prevention aims at preventing torture before it happens, by reducing risk factors and possible causes. It is forward-looking, long term and aims at creating an environment where torture is unlikely to occur.”

Mark Thomson,
Human Rights Council panel on prevention

However, to really understand what works best in preventing torture we have commissioned an independent international research project to investigate and evaluate what has happened in 16 different countries, covering a period of 30 years. As the lead researcher Richard Carver has pointed out: it was a bold decision by the APT to commission research that could have concluded that our approach to torture prevention was in fact not effective. Fortunately, this does not seem to be the case. In 2014 the researchers completed all their country research work and the results are highly interesting. The report is due in 2016 and we expect it to provoke further debate on how to better prevent torture. It will also have an impact on APT's strategies and priorities.

In the meantime we remain committed to our innovative approach of encouraging others to take on responsibilities to prevent torture and ill-treatment. A fine example of this is the APT's supporting role in the Convention against Torture Initiative, a novel inter-state cooperation exercise to bring about universal ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture by 2024.

Every page of the report you now hold in your hands profiles the honorable, tough, courageous but so rewarding work of our national, regional and international partners in prevention.

I trust I can count on you to be one of them and thank you sincerely for joining us in pushing prevention forward for every person who may be in danger of abuse and reprisals in all places of detention in every country of the world.

Mark Thomson
Secretary General

Strategy I: Monitoring Places of Detention

Americas

In Latin America, the APT has worked intensively in [Brazil](#) over the last years. In December 2013, the National System to Prevent and Combat Torture was finally established by law, seven years after Brazil's ratification of the OPCAT. The System includes two bodies at the federal level, a National Committee and a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). However, it was not until July 2014 that the President officially appointed the representatives of public institutions and civil society organisations

which comprise the Committee. As a first measure, the Committee selected the members of the new National Preventive Mechanism through a public call for candidates. We expect the NPM be operational by the second trimester of 2015, and we will support this new body with training on preventive detention monitoring.

The APT participated in one of the first meetings of the National Committee in Brasilia and stressed, among other things, the role of the Committee in providing guidance for autonomous and independent Local Preventive Mechanisms.

Brazil received international attention at the beginning of 2014 after yet another episode of extreme and brutal prison violence. At least sixty people were killed in the [Maranhão](#) penitentiary system in 2013, and there were reports of wives and sisters of detainees being raped while visiting prisons. Together with the Prison Pastoral Care we issued a public statement calling on the State of Maranhão and federal authorities to take effective actions for systemic changes in the prison management and in the criminal justice system, including establishing local torture prevention mechanisms.

World Cup in Brazil

The Local Preventive Mechanism (LPM) of [Rio de Janeiro](#) continued to report on abuse related to the FIFA World Cup, hosted by Brazil in 2014. Public demonstrations led to an increased number of arrests in Rio. The LPM conducted monitoring visits to the places where the demonstrators were held, focusing on police stations and pre-trial detentions.

In the State of [Pernambuco](#) the APT convened, together with the National Human Rights Secretariat, a detention monitoring workshop for the members of the Local Preventive Mechanism. This is the second LPM to become operational in the country.

Another important step towards enhancing torture prevention in Latin America, this time in Central America, was the establishment of the National Preventive Mechanism of [Guatemala](#). After years of advocacy efforts by the national Network for the Prevention of Torture and Ill-treatment, the members of the NPM were appointed in March.



Training on the rights of women in the prison of Colón, Panamá.

The APT participated in the first meeting of the new NPM to discuss how to best support the new body.

Reactivating NPM processes

Panama and Peru are the only countries among the 14 States Parties to the OPCAT in the region which have not yet designated an NPM. The establishment of a new government in Panama in June 2014 provided a timely opportunity for the APT to reactivate the process of drafting the law. We therefore convened a roundtable meeting with members of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture to give the national actors guidelines on how to create its NPM. A result of these joint efforts was a draft bill of law, proposing to create a new institution to function as NPM. The draft will be revised and debated in the first months of 2015 by an inter-institutional working group. This working group also includes civil society organisations, something that the APT has strongly advocated for.

After a long delay in **Peru** to designate the NPM, some progress was made following visits of APT and other international experts to the country. In June, the congress approved a law that assigns the function of NPM to the National Human Rights Institution and allocates specific resources. Unfortunately, the enactment of the law is still pending. In a country where, according to a recent study by Amnesty International, more than 50% of the people fear torture and ill-treatment if they are arrested, the establishment of a monitoring body is urgent.



Fabricio Imparado is the Ombudsman for Persons Deprived of their Liberty and President of the Local Prevention Mechanism of the province of Mendoza in Argentina, since February 2014. In October 2014 he participated in APT's Regional Forum on the OPCAT in Latin America, organised in Panama.

“ In the case of Argentina, the Regional Forum on the OPCAT provided an essential space for dialogue between the different actors involved in the process of developing a National Preventive Mechanism. The law creating this mechanism has been in force since January 2013, but we still need a policy for effective implementation. In this context, APT's Sylvia Dias and Mark Thomson have been real facilitators of the discussion and of the result. We actually signed an agreement while in Panama, with all those involved, to work towards the establishment of the Federal Council of Local Preventive Mechanisms. This is one of the bodies which will form the National Preventive Mechanism.

The precarious financial situation suffered by the Local Preventive Mechanism in Mendoza was highlighted by the APT in a public statement in November 2014. The statement had a positive effect on the provincial authorities. While I am writing these lines, the provincial government is ready to decide on the budget in which, successfully, our mechanism has been included for 2015.”

Monitoring Places of Detention

Regional Forum on the OPCAT in Latin America

Torture and other ill-treatment in places of deprivation of liberty remains a reality throughout Latin America. National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) – if independent and properly skilled and resourced – can play a central role in preventing violations, by addressing their root causes and regularly conducting visits to detention facilities.

This was the message sent by participants of the first-ever [Regional Forum on the OPCAT](#), convened by the APT, under the auspices of the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Panamanian Government, from 30 September to 2 October 2014 at the headquarters of the Latin American Parliament (*Parlatino*) in Panama City.

The Forum gathered representatives from the 14 Latin American States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, all National and Local Preventive Mechanisms of the region,

civil society organisations and international bodies, including the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross. During three days, participants discussed the major challenges faced by NPMs and identified ways to increase the impact of these torture prevention mechanisms throughout the region. The participants discussed the specific risks and vulnerabilities faced by women, LGBTI persons, indigenous peoples and persons with mental health problems, and ways to address discriminatory attitudes and violence inside places of detention. The needs of these groups are rarely adequately addressed, exposing them to further risks of torture and other ill-treatment. Monitoring bodies therefore need to be properly skilled and trained on the specific vulnerabilities of each group.

Implementing recommendations

For monitoring bodies to have a positive impact, their recommendations must be implemented. As one of the participants said: *"If our recommendations do not lead to improvement in the situation of the persons deprived of their liberty, we fail."* While States need to show political will and cooperate with NPMs, monitoring bodies should also systematically follow up on their own recommendations, through new



visits and regular dialogue with the authorities on their findings.

Mitigating reprisals

Finally, the participants expressed concern about the recurrent practice of reprisals against persons who cooperate with detention monitoring bodies. Reprisals undermine the most basic principle of monitoring – *do no harm* – and constitute often a serious violation of human rights. The debate focused on ways to mitigate the risks of reprisals before, during and after a visit, and stressed the urgent need for monitoring bodies to adopt a proper policy in this regard.

On the third day of the Forum, the APT gathered, in a more closed setting, representatives of all NPMs, LPMs and the SPT to discuss the scope of their preventive mandate and issues related to the variety of places to be monitored. This included “non-



Elizabeth Odio Benito delivering her keynote speech during the opening ceremony of the Regional OPCAT Forum.

Photos: Alberto Quiros Bonett



traditional" facilities, such as psychiatric hospitals, centres for juveniles or homes for elderly persons.

The NPMs and LPMs expressed a strong interest in continuing this peer-to-peer exchange and unanimously agreed on the need to create an online space for regular exchanges and consultations, something that the APT will develop and make available in 2015.



Max José López Cornejo

is the General Director of International Conferences and Bodies at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. He has been a leading force in the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism in Panama.

“During the current process for the creation of a National Preventive Mechanism in Panama, the APT has played a pivotal role in joining together the separate efforts by civil society and the authorities. The APT was able to get all actors into one room, with the objective of creating a new institution in charge of preventing torture and ill-treatment in the country. The National Preventive Mechanism will now serve as a tool for persons who allege torture and ill-treatment. It will investigate cases of alleged torture and reporting findings to the judiciary or other investigative bodies.

In my opinion, the APT has had a great impact nationally and regionally. Its support and technical assistance has been extremely important in assisting Latin American countries to set up NPMs in line with international standards.”

Monitoring Places of Detention

Europe and Central Asia

The Europe and Central Asia region has the highest number of States parties to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the world. Finland ratified the treaty on 8 October, bringing the total number of regional States parties to 40. Still, torture and ill-treatment remain prevalent in many countries. The priority for the APT is therefore to focus on the effective implementation of the OPCAT and notably, on the effectiveness of the 38 existing National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). Too often, NPMs remain under-resourced and understaffed. They sometimes lack the financial or functional independence needed to effectively complete their mandate. To bring about effective change, NPMs also need support from the authorities and from the wider society.

However, eight years into the entry into force of the OPCAT, many NPMs in the region have brought positive changes in their countries. They have raised public awareness on the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, initiated improvements of conditions of detention and contributed to changes in laws, policies and practices.

In 2014, the APT was involved in a range of activities at the regional level, aimed at strengthening torture prevention mechanisms and endeavors in the region. We have, among other things, addressed the specific risks of torture and ill-treatment in police detention and the situations of vulnerability of certain groups in detention.

In April, we organised the first meeting of NPMs from the OSCE region, where these national institutions could discuss their experiences,

practices, achievements and challenges, and address recommendations to the OSCE and its participating States on how to contribute to more effective prevention of torture in the region. In November, the First South-East European OPCAT Forum held in Belgrade, [Serbia](#) gathered a wide range of international and national stakeholders, including several NPMs, to discuss how to prevent torture in the region and their respective roles in this process. The same month, we also participated in a conference on Eastern European NPMs, organised in Lviv, [Ukraine](#).

In addition, we worked throughout the year at a bilateral level, in a number of European and Central Asian countries on advocacy for OPCAT ratification and NPM designation.

OPCAT ratification was notably a key focus of our activities in [Tadjikistan](#), where a pilot detention monitoring group composed of the Tajik Ombudsperson and civil society organisations started its operations in the spring. The APT notably facilitated the dialogue on torture prevention during the follow-up visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to the country in February 2014, through a round-table which gathered the Special Rapporteur, civil society representatives and government officials.

In [Turkey](#), we co-organised with national actors a workshop on the establishment of an effective NPM following the OPCAT ratification in 2011. As the new Turkish National Human Rights Institution was designated as NPM in January 2014, we advocated for the full independence and effective functioning of this new institution.

We further worked with NPMs that have operated for several years and we encouraged them to undergo a self-assessment of their work. Such an assessment was undertaken by the 20 bodies composing the [UK](#) NPM. The findings, mainly positive, were discussed during a one-day event in which the APT participated. Such a review will be held annually. In [France](#), the mandate of the First *Contrôleur général*, M. Jean-Marie Delarue, came to



Transfer of a prisoner in a detention centre in France.
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Photo: Grégoire Korganow/CGLPL

an end in May 2014 and we jointly published the opinions and recommendations issued during his six years' term as the head of the French NPM. The APT was also invited by the new *Contrôleure* to meet her and the team, and we participated in the first exchange between the French and the Honduran NPMs. The work of the [German](#) NPM and some of the challenges it faces, including lack of adequate resources, was also discussed during an academic conference on "Human rights behind bars".

During the year we also provided expert advice for relevant events and projects, organised by our torture prevention partners. Notably, we have participated in several conferences and workshop consultations, for example on the follow-up of detention monitoring bodies' recommendations, organised by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights and the Human Rights Implementation Centre of the University of Bristol.



Helga Fastrup Ervik is the head of the National Preventive Mechanism, within the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Norway. The Norwegian NPM was designated in June 2013 and carried out its first visits in 2014.

“Already in its first year, the Norwegian NPM has clearly shown that it plays a vital role in protecting the rights and dignity of those in detention. Civil society, academia, labour organisations, national monitoring bodies and government authorities have both the will and resources to safeguard human rights. The Norwegian NPM, however, is the only entity in the country that works across so many diverse sectors and engages so many different stakeholders in dialogue. We have a unique opportunity to bring people and institutions together to prevent torture and ill treatment of detainees in Norway.

During 2014 while the Norwegian NPM was under development, the APT proved to be invaluable. APT's guide on establishing an NPM and identifying core principles for monitoring was a core document in our start-up phase. The practical guides on monitoring and the various briefing papers have contributed to building our team's expertise and have positively influenced the quality of our work. During our visit to Geneva, the APT dedicated an entire day to on-site training. We also benefited from APT's further guidance during its visit to Norway during the Civil Ombudsman's annual human rights seminar. The APT is a comprehensive knowledge bank that we tap into regularly, whether through their user-friendly website or via direct contact with their highly competent and helpful staff.”

Monitoring Places of Detention

Africa

National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) in francophone Africa share some common challenges and perspectives when it comes to the prevention of torture.

In June 2014 the APT joined forces with the International Organisation of *La Francophonie* and the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) to organise a seminar on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in francophone African countries. The meeting took place in Paris, and was an opportunity for States parties and other actors, including civil society, to share good practices and discuss the establishment and functioning of effective NPMs.

Finding a suitable NPM model

The current trend is to give the mandate of National Preventive Mechanism to existing National Human Rights Institutions. This is the case in Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius and Togo, where preliminary reforms of the NHRIs' legal basis include the NPM mandate. At the meeting in Paris, participants stressed that the choice of NPM type should be a result of broad and inclusive consultations and an in-depth analysis of the specific context, to find the most appropriate model for the country.

Furthermore, given the key role of NPMs within the OPCAT system, the Paris meeting recommended, among other things, a regular summer course (*université d'été*), to strengthen NPM capacities in detention monitoring methodology and specific thematic issues.



Bacre Ndiaye, OHCHR, Martine Brunschwig Graf, APT President, Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the International Organisation of *La Francophonie*, Lucy Asuagbor, African Commission and Wilder Tayler Souto, Vice-President of the UN SPT at the seminar on the OPCAT in Africa, organised by the International Organisation of *La Francophonie*.

Within a few months of the Paris meeting two new francophone African countries ratified the OPCAT: Morocco and Niger.

Strategic planning in Senegal

The only operational NPM in Africa, the Senegalese National Observer of Places of Deprivation of Liberty, took further steps in consolidating its preventive mandate in 2014. Following up on the recommendations of the SPT, after its visit in 2012, the NPM organised a first national strategic planning workshop. The workshop analysed the institutional strengths and weaknesses, defined a vision and identified the priority areas for the work of the institution in the coming three years. The workshop was organised with support from the APT, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in West Africa and the ICRC, and also

involved civil society organisations working against torture and ill-treatment. The APT will now assist the Senegalese NPM to finalise and implement its strategic plan.

New detention monitoring skills

To effectively prevent torture, the institutions in charge of protecting human rights need strong detention monitoring skills, particularly regarding the methodology of preparing, conducting and following up on visits. In 2014 the APT continued its joint three year project with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), aiming at strengthening the institutional capacity of African NHRIs to prevent torture. One of the key activities of the year was a training course on monitoring places of detention for francophone African NHRIs (a similar training was organised in

November 2013 for English speaking countries). The training started with an online learning component, and concluded with a face-to-face workshop in Lomé in May, hosted by the Togolese National Human Rights Commission. Participants from 12 countries exchanged experiences and discussed monitoring methodology, which they were able to apply during a visiting exercise to the central prison of Lomé and to a police station.



Training seminar in Lomé, Togo, on monitoring places of detention.

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Patricia Myriam Isimat-

Mirin is a member of

the National Human Rights Commission and a special adviser to the Ombudsperson of Côte d'Ivoire. In 2014 she participated in the detention monitoring training organised by the joint APT/NANHRI project "Enhancing the role of African NHRIs in the prevention of torture".

“As a trained magistrate I have always been concerned about the question of dignity in prisons. I am also marked by the stories of my grandfather, who was a prisoner in Germany during the Second World War.

We do not talk enough about torture in Africa, and even less about places of detention. The training course organised by the APT and NANHRI was therefore responding to real needs. How to address the issue of torture properly and independently? How to get all stakeholders to collaborate? The training met my expectations both in terms of methodology and experience sharing. It was very interesting. I only wish that this training could be carried out by sub-region, to make sure that we speak with one voice on these important subjects.

We followed up on the training in Abidjan in late October 2014. The Ombudsperson's Office, in partnership with ACAT, brought together all Ivorian human rights NGOs. These dynamic and enthusiastic exchanges resulted in a joint Declaration on the abusive use of pre-trial detention. The Declaration was formally presented at a Forum on Human Rights, organised by the National Human Rights Commission and the UN mission. We owe this positive development to the Lomé workshop!”

Monitoring Places of Detention

Middle East and North Africa

In 2014 we saw a steep increase in insecurity and human suffering in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Parties to the conflicts in Syria and elsewhere spread fear and violence, exacerbating other geopolitical and local security risks. In this situation, there is always a temptation to respond with torture and other human rights violations. However, countless human rights advocates, officials, opinion makers and ordinary citizens have continued to raise their voice and to take action to protect human dignity. Thanks to them, some progress has been made with regard to the prevention of torture and the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the region.

Tunisia continued to prepare the ground for the effective establishment of its National Preventive Mechanism, but the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture was not yet operational at the end of 2014. The Parliamentary Committee in charge of selecting NPM members encountered unforeseen problems in finding suitable candidates. Together with the OMCT office in Tunis we worked with the committee to find solutions and to hopefully have an operational NPM in 2015.

In **Mauritania**, a drafting committee has worked on the law to establish the National Preventive Mechanism. In August 2014, the Government presented the draft law to the public and followed up with consultations with civil society. The APT supported this process with legal advice and expert opinions, from Geneva and through two missions to Nouakchott.



APT met with representatives from the Mauritanian government, OHCHR and the SPT to discuss options for the National Preventive Mechanism.

Promoting transparency in places of detention requires a shift in the security paradigm. Such changes do not happen overnight; they need to mature over the years. In November, **Morocco** formally joined the OPCAT, after eight years of preparations. Morocco thereby became the fourth State Party to the treaty in the MENA region, after Leba-

non, Tunisia and Mauritania. The APT has worked since 2006, with many national and international stakeholders, towards this ratification and is looking forward to continue supporting the establishment of the Moroccan National Preventive Mechanism.

In the first quarter of the year, the APT and the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions (APF) conducted training for 19 staff members from National Human Rights Institutions in **Bahrain**, **Iraq**, **Jordan**, **Oman** and **Palestine**. The training included five weeks distance learning and a face-to-face workshop in Amman, Jordan, hosted by the National Centre for Human Rights. The participants exchanged experiences and views on UN human rights mechanisms, reform of national legislation, public awareness raising and on training of law enforcement officials. Issues like the use of solitary confinement, the vulnerability of foreigners in detention and the monitoring of juvenile detention centres were also covered. A prison visiting exercise enabled the participants to put skills into practice.

Asia Pacific

There is an emerging openness among States in the Asia Pacific region to the idea of monitoring and transparency of places of detention. Although the region remains underrepresented in terms of ratification, the interest in the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture is slowly developing in several countries.

The military coup in **Thailand** inevitably affected torture prevention initiatives in the country, including the postponement of the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's visit. There were also allegations of reprisals against human rights

defenders in the country. Despite these worrying developments, Thailand submitted its initial report before the UN Committee against Torture and expressed its ambition to ratify the OPCAT. This has opened more doors for the APT and our partners in Thailand. In December, the National Human Rights Commission and the APT co-organised a two-day introductory training on detention monitoring. APT Board member and expert from the Human Rights Commission of Maldives, Jeehan Mahmood, was invited to share her experiences in implementing the OPCAT. Through these activities, the National Human Rights Institution enhanced its capacity as an independent oversight body and can spur further efforts towards OPCAT ratification in Thailand.

The joint APT-Asia Pacific Forum project on torture prevention continues to strengthen the capacity of National Human Rights Institutions as monitoring bodies. A blended learning on monitoring police custody was conducted for personnel of the institutions from [Indonesia](#), [Malaysia](#) and [Timor-Leste](#). The face-to-face workshop, in Jakarta, included a visiting exercise to three police stations.

In the [Maldives](#), the Supreme Court brought criminal charges against the National Human Rights Commission, which is also designated as National Preventive Mechanism, for their independent Universal Periodic Review submission on the state of the judiciary in the country. This act of intimidation reaffirms the need to continue promoting effective independence of NHRIs and NPMs and the respect of the international human rights system. At the end of the year, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture conducted a follow-up visit to the Maldives and held working meetings and a joint detention visit with the NPM.



Hasna Tribak is a legal advisor at the executive office of Morocco's Inter-ministerial Delegate for Human Rights. On behalf of the Inter-ministerial Delegate, she organised a regional workshop on "Torture prevention in times of transition in North Africa", with the APT in 2012. She has followed all stages of the OPCAT ratification process in Morocco since.

“The absolute prohibition of torture is certainly one of the most important wake-up calls for humanity in recent decades. Yet, this ban, which first and foremost is a moral one but also in many countries a matter of law, is rarely genuinely guaranteed - regardless of the country's level of development.

It is very interesting to observe how legal dispositions against torture are refined, and even becoming more sophisticated over time. It is here that the prevention of torture takes on its full meaning. My previous experience, working with NGOs against human rights' violations in the Arab world, has allowed me to understand what the phenomenon of torture represents, its various facets, and the different ways to combat it.

Personally, I think that the accession of Morocco to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture, in November 2014, is a major step. The action and advocacy of the APT have undeniably helped feed this process, and will continue now that a National Preventive Mechanism will be set up.”

Strategy II: Laws and Policies against Torture

The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI)

In 2014, the UN Convention against Torture marked its 30th anniversary. Ratification of the Convention is an important first step to end practices that lead to ill-treatment and torture.



The APT was therefore proud to support the Governments of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco to present a ten-year global initiative for universal ratification and implementation of the treaty by 2024. The **Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI)** was launched in March 2014 and immediately attracted strong support from the international community.

The CTI held its first annual forum in September. It brought together high level government representatives of 18 countries from all regions of the world and leading UN experts to discuss solutions to challenges in the fight against torture,

and to give strategic direction to the Initiative. Over the course of the year, the immediate objectives of the CTI were defined:

- Identify challenges and barriers to ratification and implementation of the UNCAT.
- Address these obstacles through inter-State cooperation, assistance and dialogue.
- Become a hub for sharing knowledge and good practices between governments.
- Build a global platform of States, the UN, national and international NGOs and experts.

“Universal ratification and full implementation of the Convention must remain our imperatives. I fully support the Convention against Torture Initiative to achieve universal ratification in the next ten years.”

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General

As the principal strategic partner of the CTI, the APT supported its development throughout the year, and will continue to offer advice and support in 2015.

In addition to the CTI, we helped mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Convention against Torture in other contexts. APT's Secretary General was invited as a panellist to the official UN celebration, organised by the Committee against Torture, to discuss how to promote the universal ratification of the Convention. In December we participated in a high-level event in Brussels, organised by the European Commission and the European External Action Service.

Reduce use of torture-tainted evidence

The APT continued to work with our partner in **Nepal**, Advocacy Forum, to investigate and respond to the use of confessions tainted with torture in the criminal justice system. Over the last two years, the project has been collecting data with the consent of over 400 detainees to demonstrate where, and by whom, torture-tainted evidence is used. In May, the APT met judges, lawyers, prosecutors and police to hear their analysis of available data and to consider ways to reduce the use of torture-tainted evidence in Nepal.

We also continue to offer advice on a range of legal questions. In 2014 the APT participated in meetings and panels on, among other things, the use of private security and military contractors in places of detention; guaranteeing the right to complain about torture and ill-treatment; and on the appropriate treatment of detainees in police stations.

In **Uganda**, after the adoption in 2013 of a road map to implement the Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, we contributed to the implementation of the law by giving advice on materials explaining the Act to multiple stakeholders.

UN Advocacy

The APT has also continued to cooperate with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights in **Indonesia** to develop a curriculum on the Convention against Torture, aimed at law enforcement personnel. The curriculum is a result of an inclusive and consultative process, involving stakeholders such as the police force, prosecution and judiciary. In 2014, two pilot trainings were held in different provinces.



Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, assisted Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco to launch the Convention against Torture Initiative in March 2014.



Discussion on forced confessions in Nepal.

The APT routinely provides advice on effective torture prevention to a variety of States and UN mechanisms. In 2014, we facilitated the work of multiple UN experts, and participated in the sessions of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review, the General Assembly in New York, and relevant treaty bodies, in particular the Committee against Torture.

The APT regularly prepares alternative reports and submissions on priority countries and thematic issues. For instance, we contributed to the development of the Human Rights Committee's General Comment on Liberty and Security, and in 2014 we provided further evidence to the Committee to assist the members in their expert review.



Ebenezer Appreku is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Ghana and Legal Adviser of the Ghana Permanent Mission to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and Vienna. He is also representing Ghana in the core group of States spearheading the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI).

“Ghana became a party to the UN Convention against Torture in September 2000, at the first UN treaty event held in New York. Today I am happy to know that necessary steps are being taken to enable Ghana to become party to the Optional Protocol as well. This has not happened earlier, not because of any fundamental national objection to the treaty, but rather a matter of bureaucratic oversight. I am also pleased to be the focal point for the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) in the Ghana Permanent Mission in Geneva. Ghana was, together with Chile, Denmark, Indonesia and Morocco, part of the core cross-regional group of States to launch this Initiative, which aims at promoting the universal membership and implementation of the Convention against Torture. We are receiving valuable support from the APT, in collaboration with the growing Group of Friends of the CTI.

As Mahatma Gandhi wrote in his philosophical contribution to the drafting of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights: ‘to every right there must be a corresponding duty’. Thus, the prohibition of torture in international law demands that States, represented by their Governments, ensure its prevention. In this regard, the meritorious effort of the APT in providing technical assistance to States towards universal membership and effective implementation of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol, as well as its support for the CTI, is commendable.”

Laws and Policies against Torture

Torture Prevention in the OSCE region

In 2014, Switzerland took over the Chairpersonship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and - as part of its overall priority of "improving people's lives" - made torture prevention a high-standing item on the agenda.

The OSCE is a key organisation, promoting respect for human rights and monitoring the situation in its 57 participating States. With its significant field presence, its diversity of institutions and its broad mandate, the OSCE is well placed to take on a coordinating role for torture prevention, and for example facilitate regular exchanges between National Preventive Mechanisms and other actors. As a strategic partner to the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the APT therefore seized the opportunity to advance the prevention of torture in the region. We advocated for three key measures:

1. Ratification and effective implementation of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in the region.



NPM pre-meeting during the OSCE Human Dimension Meeting.

2. Enhancing the capacity of the police to prevent torture and other ill-treatment.
3. Protecting persons and groups in situations of vulnerability in detention.

In April, we contributed to a Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting on prevention of torture with all OSCE participating States in Vienna. In connection with this, we co-organised a pre-meeting of National Preventive Mechanisms. NPMs from 17 countries exchanged experiences and practices, and put forward recommendations for States and the OSCE.

At the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, we organised a side event on the impact of cultures of policing on torture prevention. We also participated in sub-regional civil society workshops, in Belgrade and other cities, and in the concluding OSCE Parallel Civil Society Conference in Basel on 2-3 December. The objective of all these meetings was to contribute to the formulation of strong civil society recommendations on torture prevention to OSCE institutions and participating States.

In spite of the Swiss efforts, no consensus was found for a Ministerial Decision on torture prevention at the Basel Ministerial Council in December. We were, however, encouraged to see that the OSCE had positioned itself as a leading organisation on torture prevention in Europe. We hope that this momentum will be further strengthened under the coming Chairpersonships of the OSCE.

Other regional cooperation

The **European Union** is a key ally for APT, internally and through its external action. In 2014 for example,

the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the eradication of torture in the world. The APT had proposed several amendments to this resolution, which were picked up by individual members of the parliament and included in the final resolution. The resolution stresses the importance of the OPCAT as an international framework "with real potential to move towards the eradication of torture, especially through the creation of independent and effective National Preventive Mechanisms". In the resolution, the European Parliament also welcomes the joint project of the Council of Europe and the APT, aimed at drawing up a practical guide for parliamentarians on visiting immigration detention centres.

The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** (ASEAN), has intensified its focus on regional integration and community building for peace and stability in the region. This means a potential opening for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights to function effectively as a regional human rights mechanism. The APT has therefore engaged in low-key advocacy to stress the importance and relevance of having a torture prevention agenda within the ASEAN. We hope that this, in combination with a civil society engagement, can help bring the issue forward.

The **Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa** (CPTA) decided in 2014 to issue authoritative views on specific torture prevention issues. The APT, as a member of the Committee, contributed to the early stages in the development of a general comment on article 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights prohibiting torture. We will continue to support this process by providing strategic advice and inputs.



“In 2014, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. This convention has huge legal and moral significance. It must be noted however that many acts of torture are still committed in the world and each is a blow to our shared dignity.

Switzerland has made the fight against torture a priority of its foreign policy on human rights. In 2014, our presidency of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was an opportunity to place the prevention of torture at the top of the organization's work agenda on matters related to human security.

Focusing on the preventive dimension of the fight against torture, the Swiss presidency campaigned for the widest possible ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), which is a

fundamental instrument for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Our country has also promoted discussions aimed at strengthening national mechanisms for the prevention of torture, mechanisms foreseen by OPCAT, but whose requirements in terms of efficiency and independence are not sufficiently met in practice.

While the responsibility for implementation of the obligations contained in the Convention and its Protocol lies with States, civil society plays an important role in fulfilling this goal. Switzerland thus strives to associate its initiatives with local as well as international non-governmental organizations such as the APT, who are firmly integrated in the human rights city of Geneva.

In 2014, it was notably thanks to its strong partnership with the APT that the Swiss presidency was able to mobilise independent experts and representatives of national mechanisms and civil society throughout the OSCE region to reflect on how to prevent cases of torture therein and meet the needs of the actors engaged in this endeavour. Beyond 2014, collaboration with the APT will continue to be one of the main elements of Switzerland's commitment to combat torture. It is through such joined efforts that real progress can be achieved for human beings.”

Didier Burkhalter, Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs,
President of the Confederation and of the OSCE in 2014

Strategy III: Capacity Strengthening and Interactions

National Human Rights Institutions - increasingly important actors

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) play a key role in both the promotion and protection of human rights, including in torture prevention. This was recognised by the UN Human Rights Council, which in 2014 adopted a resolution containing, for the first time, an explicit reference to their role in prevention.

In 2014 we continued our partnership with the **Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)**, for the second phase of a three year project to build the capacity of these institutions to prevent torture. While representatives of francophone NHRIs gathered in May in Lomé, Togo, for a sub-regional workshop on detention monitoring, a larger group of 25 African NHRIs met

in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in November. This time the objective was to share best practices and learn more about how NHRIs can most effectively be involved in the training of public officials.

As part of the meeting of the NANHRI General Assembly in Geneva in March 2014, APT also facilitated a session on strategies to enhance the implementation of our joint project on torture prevention. This was an important opportunity to engage regional NHRIs and discuss strategies for ensuring that knowledge and expertise gained by project participants is fully institutionalised.

We also worked with the Asia Pacific Forum to build the torture prevention capacity of NHRIs in this part of the world. A key activity in 2014 was the kick-off, in Sydney, of our **joint Torture Prevention Ambassadors project**, involving nine human rights commissioners and senior staff members from Australia, South Korea, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines and Timor Leste. These ambassadors are now working on a range of innovative torture prevention projects in their countries, with the support of APT and APF and two dedicated project mentors. In 2014, the project also included an Arabic-language training on torture prevention, held in Amman, Jordan, and a training course on

monitoring police detention for participants from three South East Asian NHRIs.

The APT also strengthened its links with individual NHRIs, particularly where they have been designated as NPMs. Following the publication of our briefing paper on NHRIs as NPMs, we responded in 2014 to a number of requests for assistance by NHRIs who have just been given, or are likely to be given, such a mandate, including in Greece, Mauritania, Morocco, Norway and Turkey.

To enhance the long-term impact of these projects, we have aimed to further develop synergies between different activities. The NANHRI training in Togo (see above), for example, was followed by a one-day meeting with the Human Rights Commission on its role as NPM. Similarly, in May, the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs (ICC) organised a one week training course in Geneva which included a half-day workshop with the APT.

Training law enforcement officials

The APT has provided most of its capacity-building activities to monitoring bodies, in order to contribute to a well-functioning preventive system worldwide. However, it is also essential to train and raise awareness of those directly in charge of implementing the law: the police and the penitentiary. Training officials is a key component of any strategy aiming to reduce the risks of torture and ill-treatment. Such trainings activities with law enforcement officials can be of various kinds: training prison personnel on human rights and torture prevention in the framework of existing curricula, sensitising detaining authorities on their role under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT), or participating in conferences



Torture Prevention Ambassadors meeting in Sydney.



ICC workshop at the APT.
.....

attended by public officials to raise awareness on specific detention issues.

Following the launch in **Tunisia** of the APT's guide on Monitoring Police Custody, the Home Minister asked us to raise awareness by police officials of monitoring systems in general, and of the OPCAT in particular. The APT welcomed this initiative from the Tunisian government, since dialogue among stakeholders is a central condition for success of the OPCAT system. In April 2014 we therefore organised, with the support of the World Organisation against Torture, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee of the Red Cross, a training course on how to prepare to receive visits by independent monitoring bodies. The training was well-attended by police officers, gendarmes and high-ranking officials from the Home Ministry. Among the invited experts were a member of the Swiss National Preventive Mechanism and high-ranking officers from Lebanon, with experience in the field of torture prevention.



Endang Sri Melani is a senior investigator for Indonesia's National Commission on Human Rights. Since 2008, she has been involved in detention monitoring across Indonesia, especially of immigration detention centres and correctional institutions. She is actively promoting the rights of asylum seekers. In 2014 she was one of the speakers at the international conference on "Tackling Torture – OPCAT from Southeast Asian Perspectives" in Bangkok, Thailand. She also participated in the APF/APT training course on monitoring police detention, for three South East Asian NHRIs.

“The situation in detention centres in Indonesia doesn't get the public attention it deserves. The public considers that torture and ill-treatment is a result of the detainees' own actions.

Even though Indonesia ratified the UN Convention against Torture in 1998, there is still a lot to do in terms of implementation and criminalisation of torture. The Indonesian Government is also still considering ratification of the Optional Protocol (OPCAT).

It is therefore important for the National Commission on Human Rights to continue its monitoring activities in places of detention, and to do it with a preventive methodology. We have visited almost all immigration detention centres and some correctional institutions in the country. We will now also focus on monitoring of police detention. Police detention has received very little public attention, in spite of the fact that abuse often happens when the police try to get confessions.

The National Commission on Human Rights has an important role to play. Not to accuse or point fingers, but as a constructive partner to improve the situation and to work for the protection, fulfilment and strengthening of human rights in Indonesia.”

Capacity Strengthening and Interactions

Focus on vulnerabilities in detention

Because of their gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, etc., certain persons are more exposed to risks of torture, ill-treatment and other violations of their rights. The APT has intensified its work on such groups in situations of vulnerability in detention. We have been supporting monitoring bodies as well as detaining authorities to better address the specific needs and to enhance the protection of these groups.

The **Jean-Jacques Gautier NPM Symposium** is a new initiative to make sure that National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) are well equipped to respond to situations of vulnerabilities in detention. In launching the Symposium series we also pay tribute

to Jean-Jacques Gautier's idea to open up places of detention to outside scrutiny.

The Symposium series provides a space for exchanges among NPMs and key experts on issues that require further attention. The first meeting was dedicated to children deprived of their liberty. In June it gathered in Geneva representatives of 14 NPMs from all regions and a dozen other human rights actors with specific expertise on the protection of the rights of children in conflict with the law.

In **Switzerland**, the APT was invited to the biannual "Penitentiary Days" organised by the Swiss training center for penitentiary personnel in November. It was attended by important stakeholders such as prison directors, penitentiary personnel, politicians and academia from across the country. The theme this year was vulnerabilities in detention and the APT

made a presentation on the specific risks faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex (LGBTI) detainees and discussed ways forward in subsequent workshops.

Within the Americas region, we highlighted the need for educational programmes, offered at State institutions in charge of prison security, to address the issue of vulnerabilities. In

Panama we advocated for the inclusion of a module on torture prevention, with a special focus on women and migrants, into the curriculum at the Penitentiary Academy. We designed and presented a module to a group of trainers, who will replicate the training to new students. At the end of year, we contributed to a workshop for human rights NGOs and State institutions in Panama, organised by UN High Commissioner for Refugees, focusing on treatment and conditions for LGBTI persons in detention.

In **Honduras**, the National Preventive Mechanism invited us to deliver a two-day module on women in detention at the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma*. The module was part of a one-year post-graduate course designed and organised by the NPM. We helped to include a gender perspective in the course and encouraged participants, mostly justice operators, to implement the UN Bangkok Rules for the treatment of women prisoners.

Mitigating the risk of reprisals

There is an increasing concern among detention monitoring bodies about reprisals against persons visited in places of detention. The global torture prevention system builds on independent monitoring visits and on direct contacts between the monitors and those deprived of their liberty. It is therefore extremely worrisome that individual detainees, already in a situation of vulnerability, have been exposed to threats and ill-treatment as a result of their contacts with institutions created to prevent torture.

In January 2014, the APT hosted a meeting on how to mitigate the risk of reprisals. It gathered experts from National Preventive Mechanisms



The Jean-Jacques Gautier NPM Symposium allowed participants to learn from peers and experts and to strengthen their work related to children in conflict with the law.

in Austria, Brazil, France, the Maldives, Serbia, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom, as well as representatives from the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT), the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT), the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The discussion continued at the Regional Forum on the OPCAT in Latin America, where participants came up with a list of concrete measures for mitigating the risk of reprisals before, during and after a visit. In early 2015, the CPT and SPT adopted guidelines on this issue.

Tools and resources

Working for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment requires knowledge, skills and commitment. To support national actors with improving and strengthening their capacities, we continue to develop and make available hands-on advice and practical tools in a variety of languages.

In cooperation with the UNHCR and the International Detention Coalition, the APT published a **Practical Guide on Monitoring Immigration Detention**. It can also be used as a checklist for authorities, detention centre staff and journalists on the standards that need to be applied when asylum-seekers and migrants are detained.

The APT collaborated with the *Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté* (French NPM) to publish and translate into English and Spanish a compilation of the public **Opinions and Recommendations** issued during the term of Jean-Marie Delarue. Because they go well beyond the situation in

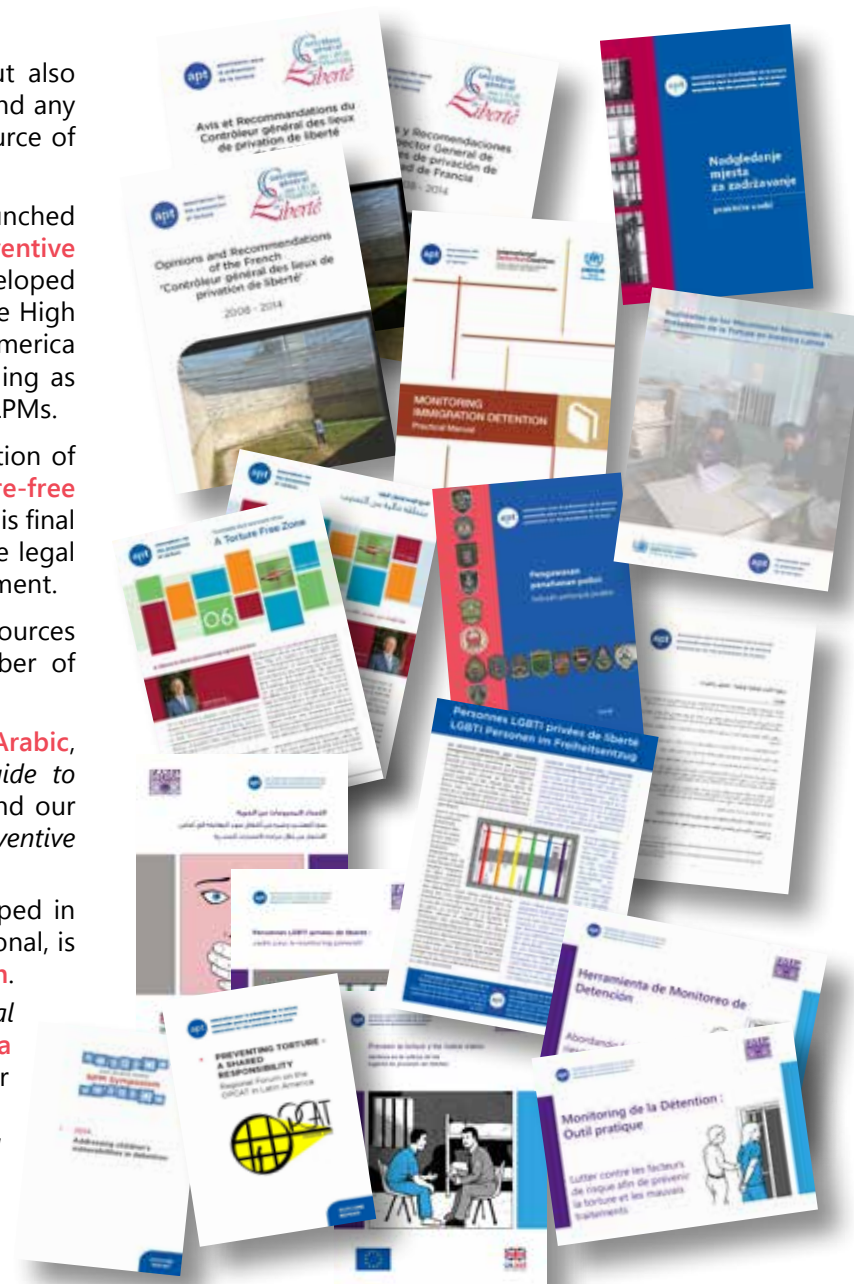
France, NPMs, other monitoring bodies, but also authorities in charge of closed institutions and any person interested in the issue will find a source of inspiration in the texts.

During the Regional OPCAT Forum, the APT launched a publication on **National and Local Preventive Mechanisms in Latin America**. It was developed in cooperation with the regional office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for Latin America and includes maps, information on functioning as well as the legal basis of existing NPMs and LPMs.

In 2014 we published the sixth and last edition of the **Middle East and North Africa – A Torture-free zone** e-bulletin in both Arabic and English. This final issue focused on the role of members of the legal profession in combating torture and ill-treatment.

We are also trying to make existing resources and tools accessible in an increased number of languages:

- We translated several publications into **Arabic**, including *Women in detention – a guide to gender-sensitive monitoring* (PRI-APT) and our Briefing on *Membership of National Preventive Mechanisms: Standards and experiences*.
- The Detention Monitoring Tool, developed in partnership with Penal Reform International, is now also available in **Spanish** and **French**.
- *Monitoring Police custody – a practical guide* was translated into **Bahasa Indonesia**, as well as the thematic paper on *Women in detention*.
- *Monitoring Places of detention – a practical guide* was translated into **Montenegrin** by the local OSCE Mission.



Strategy IV: Informed Public Policy Debates

Contributing to public debates

In 2014 many of our communication and advocacy activities were linked to the **30th anniversary of the UN Convention against Torture**. Most importantly, we supported the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) from its early stages. Together with the governments of Chile, Denmark, Ghana, Indonesia and Morocco we helped mobilise further support and awareness around the initiative. We also stressed the critical role of civil society in achieving the vision of the Convention.

The Convention against Torture introduced a new approach to human rights protection, by including a *duty to prevent*. The concept of prevention is therefore more developed in the fight against torture and other ill-treatment than in other areas. In June, the UN Human Rights Council invited APT's Secretary General Mark Thomson to take part in an expert panel, to raise awareness among States about how prevention can be better reflected in policies and strategies at all levels.

While celebrating the anti-torture treaty, we were also painfully reminded that the work for a torture free world is far from over. In the early 1970's, the first Amnesty International campaign against torture made a strong impression on Jean-Jacques Gautier, who in 1977 founded the APT. In 2014 Amnesty launched its fourth global anti-torture campaign, *StopTorture*, revealing alarming results of research into public attitudes and the widespread use of torture in all regions of the world. During the year we have supported this campaign through joint events and communication activities.

The 26 June – the **International Day for Victims of**



Torture – is an important day for the global anti-torture movement and in 2014 the APT took part in several related events. Apart from our own Jean-Jacques Gautier NPM Symposium in Geneva, we also co-organised a well-attended roundtable with the Swiss Amnesty section in Bern. The objective was to discuss the human rights aspects of solitary confinement and detention in maximum security - a theme which was highlighted in the annual report of the National Commission for the Prevention of Torture (the Swiss NPM). Furthermore, we were invited to participate in a panel discussion, organised in London by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and to publish a guest blog on the FCO website.

Taking position against torture

We have taken public position, through statements, press releases, letters and submissions, on issues of relevance to the prevention of torture. For example, we reacted strongly to the charges brought against the National Human Rights Commissioners in the **Maldives**, after their submission of a report to the Universal Period Review of the UN Human Rights Council. This was not just a threat against

our long term partner, but a serious attack on the international human rights system as a whole. In **Australia**, we called on the Senate to refuse a new bill, which would violate the right to protection for asylum seekers who risk torture or other ill-treatment if sent back to their home countries.

Finally, the use of torture by the **United States'** Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the so called "war on terror" once again made international headlines in 2014. After months of delay, a summary of a Senate Committee report into CIA torture and detention was finally released by the end of the year. *"Mistreatment of detainees is not just something that happens at CIA black sites. It can happen – and happens – in federal prisons, in police cells and in immigration detention. It happens in all places where oversight is missing"*, wrote APT's Secretary General Mark Thomson in an opinion piece in Swiss newspaper *Le Temps*, calling on the US government to build a system of independent detention monitoring to prevent torture and restore faith in justice.

Outreach communication

The APT has put substantial effort into strengthening the **website**, to provide accessible and useful information, analysis and resources for torture prevention actors around the world. We were therefore happy to note that the number of users had doubled in the two years following the launch of the new website in 2012.

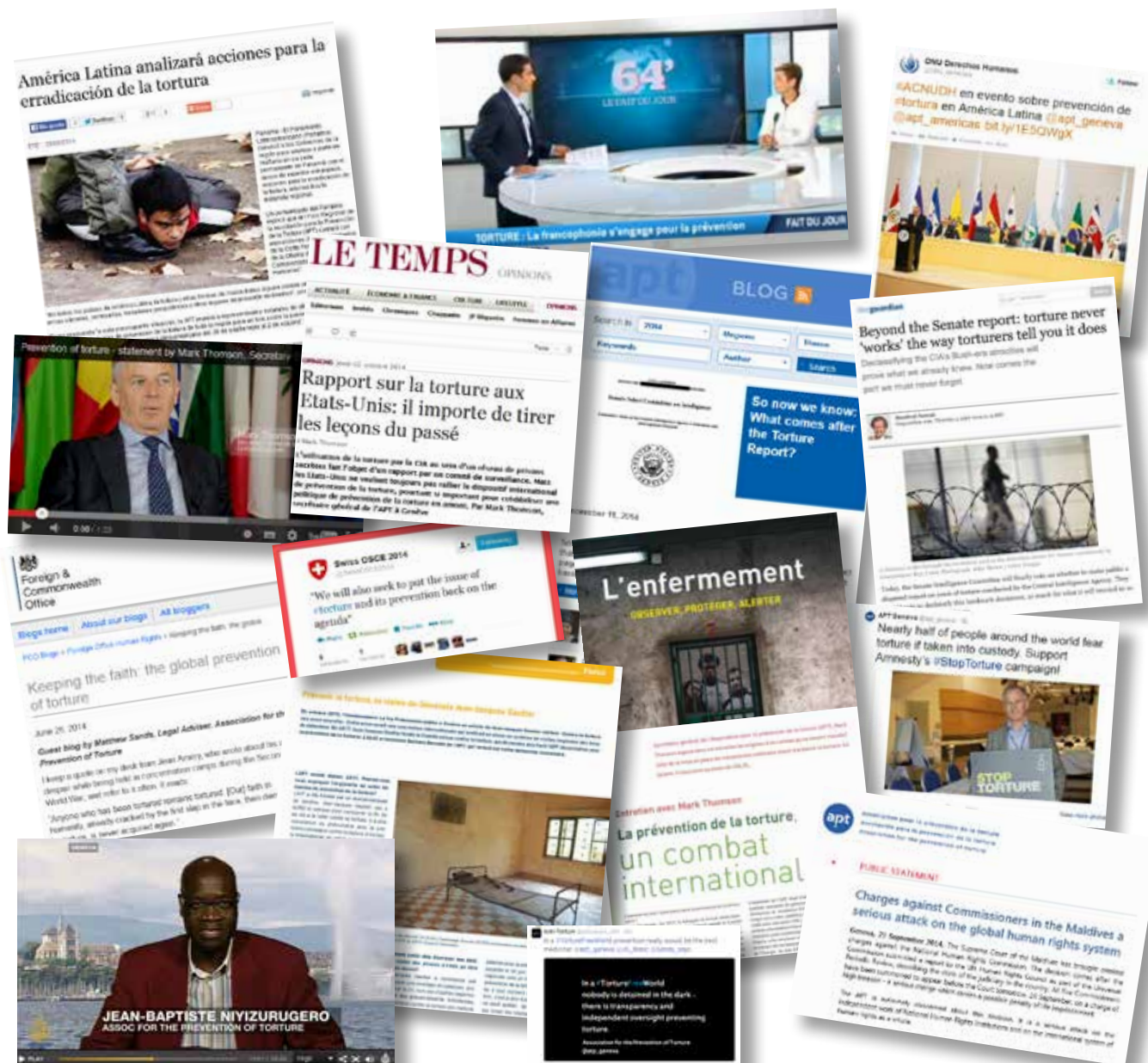
Reflecting the positive developments in Brazil, we have now made parts of our website available in Portuguese, and translated all country files on Latin American countries in the OPCAT Database into Spanish.

Social media has changed the way we, and the rest of the world, communicate. We now use Twitter and Facebook to engage with a broad range of people who are interested in human rights issues and to keep connected with partner organisations, donors, policy makers, researchers, students and others.

We also continued to produce short **videos** to give visibility to our partners and reach new audiences. In 2014 we interviewed experts on children in detention at the Jean-Jacques Gautier NPM Symposium and we video recorded sessions at the Regional Forum on the OPCAT. However, the most popular video was our interview with Fabio Simas from the Local Preventive Mechanism of Rio de Janeiro, sharing his experiences of monitoring places of detention during the mass arrests of protesters linked to the FIFA World Cup organisation.

More and better media reporting is necessary to build awareness and support for torture prevention. We therefore aim to provide **media-friendly information** and encourage journalists to contact us for background information and advice on torture related issues. In 2014 we contributed to news stories in both international and national media, on issues ranging from the Committee against Torture's review of Australia to the Swiss effort to pass a ministerial decision on torture prevention at the OSCE. In Latin America, the Regional Forum on the OPCAT was widely covered by print and broadcast media across the region.

During 2014 the APT's expertise was acknowledged through media requests for interviews and articles for various newspapers and blogs. We issued several public statements on topics related to our work and were very active on social media. Our voice was also heard in collaborative projects with partners such as NGOs, international organisations and NPMs.



Financial situation and institutional development 2014

The year 2014 proved to be a good year for the APT, which finished on a positive financial result.

This has been possible thanks to the continued support of APT's donors, particularly those who have expressed their continued confidence in the organisation with core support. This type of funding enables the APT to be creative and innovative in order to fulfil its main mission. Also, the APT has engaged in in-depth partnerships with some of its major donors, providing expertise for the implementation of the donors' torture prevention projects (see for example pages 16-17 in this report).

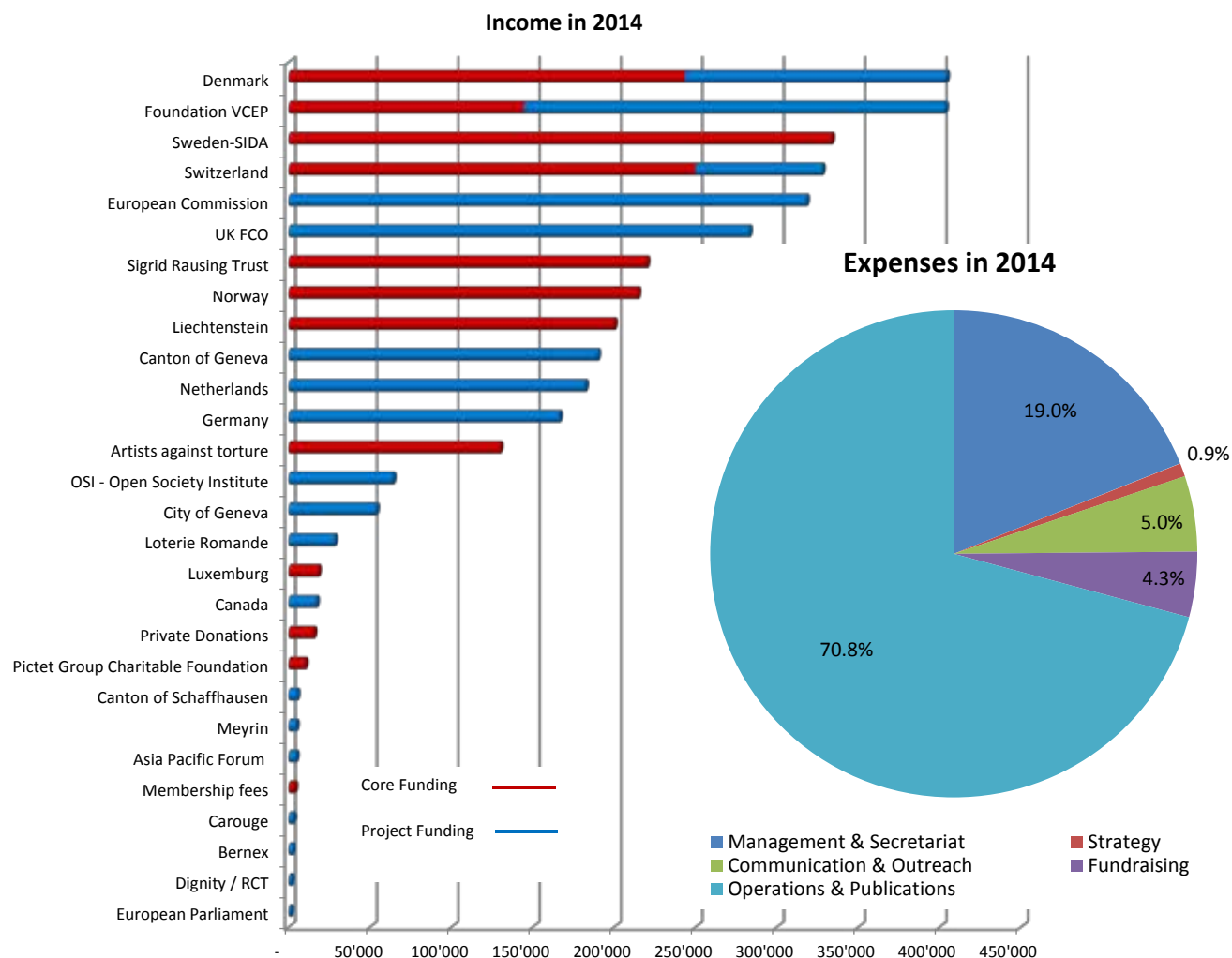
“Relatively modest resources, including a small staff, have been used efficiently, transparently and strategically to achieve much.”

Brian Pratt & Harriet Ware-Austin (INTRAC),
Evaluation of the Implementation of APT's Strategic
Plan 2011-2012, February 2014

In 2014, the APT continued to diversify its funding sources to reduce the risk of financial dependence on a limited number of donors. Thus, during this year, the APT relied on 30 different donors that it will seek to retain, while remaining attentive to new opportunities. One of these opportunities arose while organising the first Regional Forum on the OPCAT in Latin America from 30 September to 2 October, which was mainly funded by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. While fundraising for the Regional Forum, the APT was able to establish contacts with potential new donors.

The APT would like to sincerely thank all of its donors for their continuous support this year. We would like to thank specifically our main donors: Denmark, VCEP, Sweden, Switzerland, the European

Commission, the UK FCO, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, Norway and Liechtenstein for the indispensable role they played in the achievements described in this report.



Operating Accounts 2014*

Income 2014	CHF
1 Restricted	
Foreign governments	1'008'629
Swiss government	364'904
Private foundations	333'872
Other subsidies	323'685
Total restricted income	2'031'090
2 Unrestricted	
Foreign governments	809'645
Swiss government	250'000
Private foundations	465'001
Other subsidies	17'291
Other income	65'601
Total unrestricted income	1'607'538
TOTAL INCOME	3'638'628

Expenditure 2014	CHF
1 Operations	
Salaries operations	1'214'829
Capacity strengthening and advice	542'868
Travel costs	127'676
Accommodation costs	28'179
	1'913'552
2 Communication and Outreach	
Salaries communication and outreach	417'402
Publication costs	201'264
	618'666
3 Management and Secretariat	
Salaries management & secretariat	392'024
Secretariat costs	120'280
IT - Hardware, software and database	21'786
Staff related expenses	7'662
Building and garden upkeep	43'193
Auditing and legal fees	122'254
	707'199
4 Policy and Strategy	
Meeting and reception costs	3'910
Bureau, Board and General Assembly meetings	29'036
	32'946
5 Research Project	
	459'116
Depreciation of fixed assets	134'624
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3'866'103
Operating Result	227'475
Banking fees and exchange rate difference	7'998
Result before change in funds	219'477
Allocation to restricted funds	(2'031'090)
Use of restricted funds	2'325'044
Net addition to restricted funds	293'954
RESULT 2014	74'477

Balance Sheet 2014*

Assets	CHF
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	577'838
Accounts receivable	305'630
Accruals and other current assets	70'969
Total current Assets	954'437
Fixed assets	
Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	3'043'000
Office material	33'009
Furniture and fixture	113'607
IT hard and software	50'977
Total fixed Assets	3'240'593
Total Assets	4'195'030

Liabilities and Wealth	CHF
Short term Liabilities	
Income received in advance	302'129
Liabilities Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	5'835
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf loan, short term part	144'000
Other liabilities	171'808
Total short term liabilities	623'772
Long term Liabilities	
Fondation Pro Victimis	200'000
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf loan, long term part	216'000
Total long term liabilities	416'000
Restricted Funds	
Restricted funds on ongoing projects	322'235
Restricted funds Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	2'717'530
Total restricted funds	3'039'765
Wealth	
Reserve Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	261'967
Other reserves	90'000
Balance brought forward	(310'951)
Result of the period	74'477
Total Wealth	115'493
Total Liabilities and Wealth	4'195'030

* as in annual audited accounts

** a detailed list regarding APT's donors and projects can be found in the annual accounts on pages 17-19.

APT Staff in 2014

Mr Mark Thomson, Secretary General

Ms Barbara Bernath, Chief of Operations

Ms Sylvia Diniz Dias, Director, Regional Office for Latin America, Panama

Mr Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Detention Advisor

Mr Benjamin Buckland, NHRI Advisor *(from July)*

Ms Eva Csörgő, Europe & Central Asia Programme *(from August)*

Ms Rosita Ericsson, Communications

Ms Charlotte Fèvre, NANHRI Project

Ms Catherine Felder, Administration

Ms Veronica Filippeschi, OPCAT Programme

Ms Mireille Gheryani, Administration

Ms Paola González, Regional Office for Latin America

Ms Anja Härtwig, Publications

Ms Isabelle Heyer Frigo, Americas Programme

Ms Anne Lardy, Legal and Advocacy Advisor *(from August)*

Mr Adrian Moore, Web & IT

Mr Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme

Ms Tanya Norton, Detention Monitoring Advisor

Ms Sylvie Pittet, Administration

Mr Matthew Pringle, Europe & Central Asia Programme *(until May)*

Mr Vincent Ploton, Fundraising and Institutional Development *(until February)*

Ms Anna Rottenecker, Fundraising

Mr Matthew Sands, Legal and Advocacy Advisor

Ms Esther Schaufelberger, Middle East & North Africa Programme



The APT team in Geneva (from left to right): Mark Thomson, Isabelle Heyer Frigo, Anja Härtwig, Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Shazeera Zawawi, Barbara Bernath, Benjamin Buckland, Anne Lardy, Anna Rottenecker, Sylvie Pittet, Romain Zappella, Mireille Gheryani, Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Catherine Felder, Eva Csörgő, Veronica Filippeschi, Rosita Ericsson
(absent from the picture: Esther Schaufelberger, Adrian Moore, Matthew Sands).
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Ms Maria-José Urgel, Regional Office for Latin America

Mr Romain Zappella, Fundraising *(from April)*

Ms Shazeera Zawawi, Asia-Pacific Programme

National Delegates

Ms Rebecca Minty, Australia

Ms Patriani (Mita) Mulia, Indonesia

Mr Abdelwaheb Hani, Tunisia

Ms Amanda Dissel, South Africa

Interns & Temporary Staff

Elena Brmbeska, Valentina Caron, Oriana Contreras, Emily Cross, George Dvaladze, Alexandre Lefèvre-Jimenez, Claire Nevache, Thaila Poli, Anna Sanchis Ferrer



The APT's regional office team (from left to right): Paola González, Maria-José Urgel, Claire Nevache, Sylvia Diniz Dias.
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APT Board and Advisory Council in 2014

President

Ms Martine Brunschwig Graf, Switzerland

Vice-President and Treasurer

Mr Renaud Gautier, Switzerland

Board members

Mr Daniel Dufour, Switzerland

Mr José de Jesus Filho, Brazil

Mr Krassimir Kanev, Bulgaria

Mr Michael Kellet, UK

Mr Jacques Lederrey, Switzerland

Ms Jehaan Mahmood, Maldives

Ms Ottavia Maurice, Switzerland / Italy

Ms Susan McCrory, UK

Mr Manfred Nowak, Austria

Ms Monica Pinto, Argentina

Ms Mervat Rishmawi, Palestine

Mr Christian-Nils Robert, Switzerland

Ms Erika Schläppi, Switzerland

Ms Susanne Soukoudé, Togo

Mr Walter Suntinger, Austria

The Board is elected for 3-year periods by the General Assembly.

Honorary members

Ms Catherine Gautier, Switzerland

Mr Marco Mona, Switzerland

Advisory Council

Ms Maggie Beirne, Ireland / UK

Ms Silvia Casale, UK

Mr Malcolm Evans, UK

Ms Hannah Forster, Gambia

Mr Nejib Hosni, Tunisia

Mr Marco Mona, Switzerland

Mr Bacre Waly N'Diaye, Senegal

Ms Maggie Nicholson, UK

Mr Erik Prokosch, USA

Mr Jean-Pierre Restellini, Switzerland

Ms Paz Rojas, Chile



The APT congratulates Catherine Gautier, the widow of its founder Jean-Jacques Gautier and Honorary member of the APT Board, on her 100th birthday.

Artists against Torture

The association Artists against Torture was founded in 1993 by Marco Mona, at the time President of the APT, together with a number of other committed individuals, to raise funds for the APT.

Artist against Torture brought together 19 internationally celebrated artists, such as Georg Baselitz and Jasper Johns, who each contributed with an original graphic piece of art (etching, lithograph, wood-cut, silk-screen print) to form a unique portfolio.

The portfolio was reproduced in a total of 150 sets of prints, with a foreword written by Czech President Vaclav Havel. In 2012, the last exhibition of the portfolio took place in Germany, in

the Ritter museum. The benefits from the sale of prints from the portfolio have also supported the construction of APT's new headquarters, the **Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier** in Geneva.

In 2014, after 21 years of existence and active support to the APT, the association Artists against Torture was dissolved. The APT is very grateful to Ruedi Mettler, Gottfried Boehm, Martita Jöhr, Franz Meyer, Heinz Müller, Alois Riklin, Ruedi Tachezy and Marco Mona for their personal engagement in the association, who for many years actively supported APT's mission to bring the prevention of torture forward.



During an exhibition of the portfolio in September 2003.



Who we are

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is an independent non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, working globally to prevent torture and other ill-treatment.

The APT was founded in 1977 by the Swiss banker and lawyer, Jean-Jacques Gautier.

Since then the APT has become a leading organisation in its field. Its expertise and advice is sought by international organisations, governments, human rights institutions and other actors. The APT has played a key role in establishing international and regional standards and mechanisms to prevent torture, among them the **Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture**.

Vision and Mission

The APT's vision is a world free from torture where the rights and dignity of all persons deprived of liberty are respected. Its mission is to enable actors worldwide to effectively prevent torture and ill-treatment.

To achieve this, the organisation works within four coherent strategies, that we believe are both necessary and effective in the prevention of torture and ill-treatment:

- **Promote transparency and monitoring of places of detention** to reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment on persons deprived of their liberty.
- **Advocate for legal and policy frameworks** so that torture and other forms of ill-treatment are criminalised and prevented in law and in practice.
- **Strengthen capacities of torture prevention actors and facilitate interaction** to foster

the identification and replication of good practices in detention issues.

- **Contribute to informed public policy debates** so that torture can be universally rejected.

Status

The APT is recognised by the Swiss authorities as a non-profit association. The work of the International Secretariat in Geneva is supervised by an international Board, elected by the Annual General Assembly.

The APT has consultative status with the United Nations, the African Union, the Organisation of American States and the Council of Europe.

APT's regional office for Latin America was granted the status of "International Organisation" by the Panamanian government in 2013.

Funding

The APT is funded by individual donations, charitable foundations, governments and inter-governmental agencies (which are listed on page 24 of this report). However, the APT insists on its independence with regard to policy, strategy and priorities.

Awards

The APT is a recipient of the following awards:

- President of Tunisia Solidarity Award, 2012
- Chico Mendes Prize, Brazil, 2007
- Human Rights Prize of the French Republic, 2004
- Prize of the Foundation for Geneva, 2004



Photo: Thomas Hegelors



association for
the prevention
of torture

APT International Secretariat

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