



association for  
the prevention  
of torture

2016

# Annual Report



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## Message from the President



My message concerning the year 2016 suitably begins with a tribute to Catherine Gautier who left us on 12 April 2016 shortly after celebrating her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday and as she was preparing to participate in our General Assembly, an event she would never miss. Catherine Gautier had taken over the torch from her husband and was loyal to APT for 30 years. It was also her generosity that helped us build the Jean-Jacques Gautier Centre. Her devotion to our cause merits our deepest admiration and warm appreciation.

This departure comes at a time when Jean-Jacques Gautier's pioneering vision is more alive than ever. In 2016, thanks to the publication of the results of an independent study commissioned by APT, we are finally able to demonstrate that torture prevention works. APT undeniably showed a certain degree of courage in posing the question "does torture prevention work". It implicitly amounted to commissioning an evaluation of the very reason for

our existence and the vision of our founder. While we naturally hoped for a positive answer, one can never assume the results of an academic study, especially one that covers some 30 years (1985-2014) and 16 countries around the world.

The study in this case shows that preventive measures really do reduce torture. It is primarily the safeguards benefiting detainees during their first hours of detention - such as immediate access to a lawyer - that have the greatest impact, complemented by the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of torture. Unannounced visits to places of detention and private interviews with detainees also contribute to reducing torture.

Finally, this study confirms what Jean-Jacques Gautier once said, namely that "there is no panacea to combat the cancer of torture," only a combination of measures that create an environment wherein no one is subjected to torture or ill-treatment.

It is on the strength of this approach and the results of this study that APT developed its new Agenda for Change 2016-2019. This Agenda guides our strategies and actions and has become the roadmap for APT staff who in 2016, under the effective and wise leadership of Mark Thomson, again demonstrated their professional abilities and unfailing commitment. Herewith I would like to thank all of them for the work accomplished. I would also like to thank my fellow APT Board and Bureau colleagues for their contributions and support.

Together, we can prevent torture.

Martine Brunschwig Graf, President

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## Putting plans into practice

It made perfect sense for me to find myself, last October, on a podium in Fiji with the Prime Minister and the Indonesian Ambassador in Geneva, being served with flower garlands and a mildly narcotic national drink, in half coconut shells, by large men dressed in grass skirts.

It made sense because the APT has helped Fiji, over the last five years, to ratify and implement the UN Convention against Torture. It also made sense because the Pacific governments' regional meeting was convened by the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI), of which Indonesia is a core member State and APT a privileged partner. I understood the respect they held for the Ambassador and the CTI through the presentation of a polished whale's tooth because I am from this island culture. And it is sweet music to my ears when the Prime Minister, my former childhood neighbour, states in the opening speech that they now have a national policy of zero tolerance of torture. After all it was his father, as Head of the local prison, around 50 years ago, who first showed me what prison life was about. Hence my presence on the podium and my work with the APT.

Behind the contents of this Annual Report will be similar personal tales from the very committed persons in the APT and our broad group of partners. All of them motivated to achieve changes in policies and practice to prevent torture and other ill-treatment. Most of them guided by our problem analysis and "Agenda for change", as contained in APT's four year strategic plan. Last year, 2016, was the first year of the application of the plan.

Why does the plan work so well for us? Firstly because it was conceived by us and not by external

planning consultants. Secondly because it provides a unique and lucid problem analysis to identify what, where, when, etc. are the high risks of torture. Thirdly it presents five changes we can all agree on and fourthly the APT contributions to those changes. Our aim was also to provide a document that was helpful for our partners, who have all complimented us on its clarity, vision and purpose.

Part of the inspiration for our strategic plan flowed from the findings of the research project "*Does torture prevention work?*", the launch of which is featured in this Report (pp. 4-5). So APT's first strategy is now on strengthening "legal and procedural safeguards during the first hours of police custody".

The APT continues to advocate for, and advise on strengthening public oversight of all places where persons are deprived of their liberty (e.g. Summer school for NPMs, p. 18), as well as strengthening on legal and policy frameworks (e.g. Anti-Torture Law Guide, pp. 6-7). However the new emphasis on changing detention practices, especially for persons in situations of vulnerability (e.g. psychiatric institutions, pp. 8-9), is a major development for us.

Last year also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coming into force of the international treaty helping States to better prevent torture (OPCAT). A section of this report (pp. 10-11) describes how we collected stories from National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) on how they are making a difference. We also produced a three-minute animation on the OPCAT. So popular a resource that it was translated into 14 languages before the end of the year. The collection of NPM stories and the animation are available on our website ([www.appt.ch](http://www.appt.ch)) along with



From left to right: Voreqe Bainimarama, Fijian Prime Minister; Triyono Wibowo, Indonesian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva; and Mark Thomson, APT Secretary General; Fiji, October 2016.

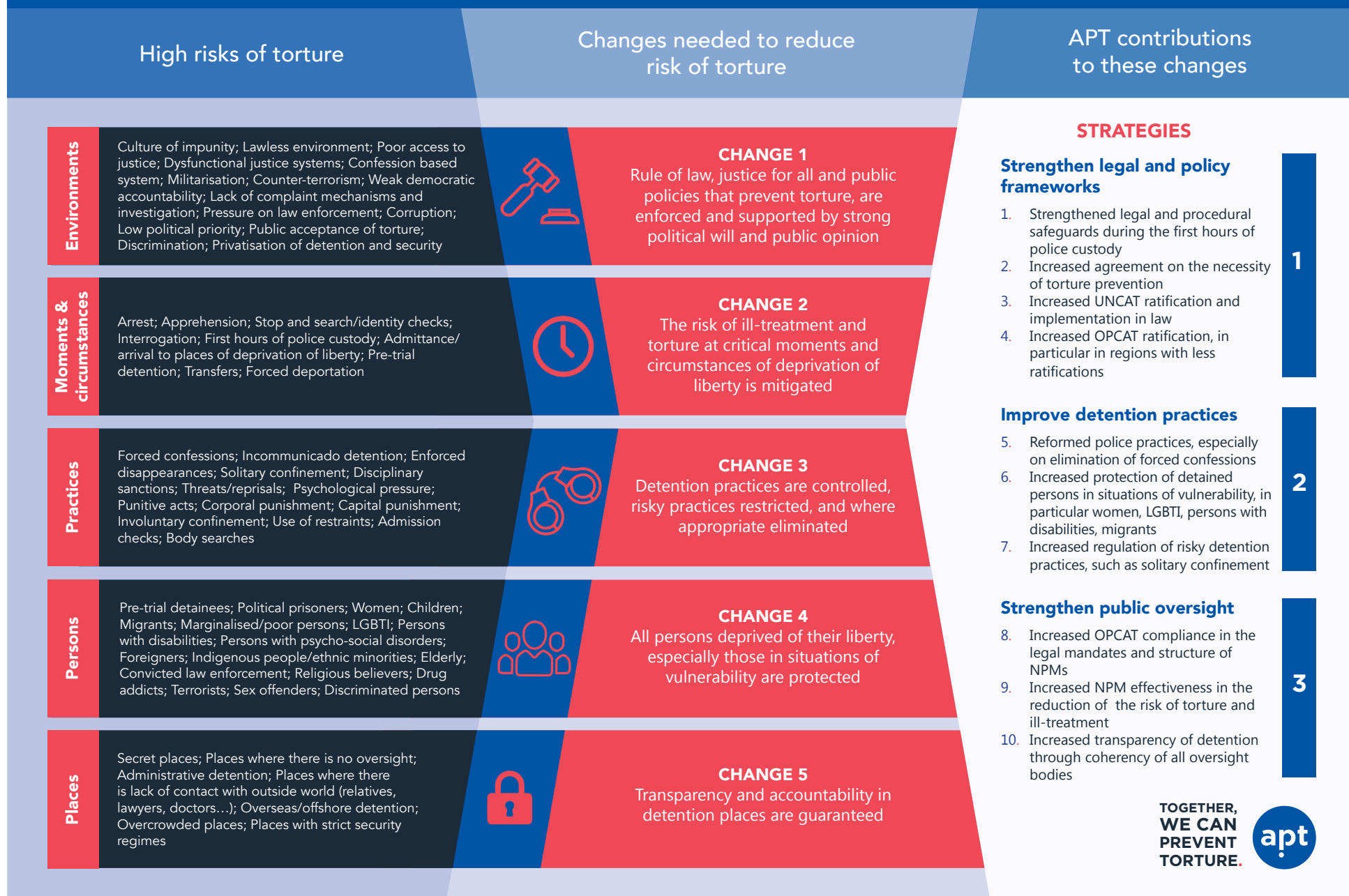
other resources such as the "Detention Focus Database", in English, French and Spanish.

I thank all of you for your interest, as well as support of our work. I would also like to thank all the staff members who contributed to this report and to the implementation of our strategic plan. Finally, I would like to thank our President, Martine Brunschwig Graf and members of the Board for their wise guidance and motivation in helping us achieve our objectives.

Mark Thomson CMG OBE  
Secretary General

# Agenda for Change for Torture Prevention

APT Strategic Plan 2016-2019



TOGETHER,  
WE CAN  
PREVENT  
TORTURE.





## Global study confirms that torture prevention works

Do torture prevention measures really have an effect on reducing the risk of torture? And, if so, which measures are the most effective?

Back in 2011, the APT commissioned an independent academic research project to answer these questions. Although we had seen a number of important advances and steps taken to prevent torture and other ill-treatment around the world, we recognised that donors and other stakeholders had valid claims for better evidence.

In July 2016, [Richard Carver](#) and [Lisa Handley](#) published the results of four years of research,

involving a team of more than 20 researchers, on 16 countries over a 30-year period (1985-2014). The methodology developed by the authors combines both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the impact of torture prevention measures. The study analyses the correlation between torture and more than 60 different measures States can take to prevent torture and identifies those that are most effective.

The study illustrates that torture can occur in very diverse social and political environments and circumstances and that prevention therefore is necessary everywhere and at all times. However, it

is clearly the first hours and days of police custody that are the most critical and where the risk of torture can be significantly reduced by safeguards.

The findings also show that investigating and prosecuting torturers, as well as having independent monitoring of places of detention, make important contributions to preventing torture.

“An effective implementation of fundamental legal safeguards, such as the right to a lawyer, to medical examination and to inform relatives, has recently been highlighted by an important independent research project undertaken under the auspices of the Association for the Prevention of Torture as being the most effective measure to prevent torture and therefore reinforces prior findings of the Committee against Torture in that regard.”

Jens Modvig, Chair of the UN Committee against torture, at the UN General Assembly, October 2016



Lisa Handley and Richard Carver presenting the research at an expert meeting in London.

The authors conclude: *"Both the case studies and quantitative analysis tell us that the risk of torture falls substantially when preventive mechanisms are in place, especially when proper detention safeguards are practiced."*

The book **"Does Torture Prevention Work?"** has been widely disseminated through our networks and through launch events in London, Geneva and New York. It provides us with solid evidence that we are on the right track. The results also greatly informed the development of our strategic plan 2016-2019.

To make the findings accessible to a wider audience, the APT produced a short briefing paper to highlight the main insights from the study. In our paper **"Yes, torture prevention works"**, we stress that torture prevention requires more than a set of measures. Only a combination of measures such as legal reform, implemented in practice and closely monitored, can contribute to reducing the risk of torture over time.

The book, published by Liverpool University Press, is available for purchase through regular academic book sellers or on [liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk](http://liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk).



*"This research is important because it provides independent academic evidence confirming what we and others have long been advocating for. Torture can be reduced thanks to safeguards such as notification of family or access to a lawyer immediately after arrest, moving away from confession-based systems and reforming police culture and practices, unannounced visits to police and prisons, as well as by ending impunity."*

*The limits identified by the research are also important. It clearly highlights the existing gap between good laws and their implementation in practice, a reality called 'doble kara' (double face) in the Philippines. The second point that struck me in country studies was the shifting nature of torture, in terms of places or victims. This underlines that prevention is needed everywhere and at all times and can never be taken for granted."*

*Finally, the research sets priorities for the future. It already indirectly inspired the 2016 Human Rights Council Resolution on safeguards in police custody, as well as the proposal by the Special Rapporteur on torture to focus on investigative interviewing. Our 'Agenda for Change 2016-2019' was also informed by these findings."*



Photo: Liverpool University Press

## Making torture a crime: focusing on anti-torture legislation

With [Fiji](#) and the [Central African Republic](#) ratifying the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT) in 2016, the community of States that have committed to respecting the Convention grew bigger. More still needs to be done to address the challenges and difficulties faced by non-State parties and APT continued to engage with them to advocate for ratification. Among other things, we participated in

a regional workshop, organised by the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) in Fiji to promote further ratification in the Pacific.

Making torture a crime is one of the requirements of the UNCAT, but very few practical tools are easily accessible to implement this obligation. This is one of the reasons why we published a *Guide on anti-torture legislation*, commissioned by the CTI.

A regional meeting in [Ghana](#) on the obligation to criminalise torture, organised by the CTI and APT in April 2016, was a first opportunity to present and use this guide.

As part of our efforts to support strong anti-torture legislation, we also work directly with national actors. Following the publication in 2015 of a training-of-trainers manual on the prohibition and prevention of torture in [Madagascar](#), the APT organised in 2016 a training event on how to use the manual.

In 2016, safeguards were recognised at the United Nations as essential to prevent torture in police custody. The APT contributed to the Human Rights Council resolution on safeguards in the first hours of police custody. We also participated in an expert meeting organised by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, in preparation for his report to the UN General Assembly, where he called for the adoption of a universal protocol on investigative interviewing.

We supported the work of the Committee against Torture with two briefings for its members. One on criminalisation of torture with REDRESS and one with Penal Reform International on the Nelson Mandela Rules for the treatment of detainees. The last briefing was part of the joint session with the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.

In [Malaysia](#), together with the Asia Pacific Forum, we held an online course and a one-week workshop on the specific role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in investigating allegations of torture and other ill-treatment. We were also invited to a workshop, organised in [Morocco](#) by



Training on the prohibition and prevention of torture in Madagascar in October.



the International Commission of Jurists, on the prevention of torture, aimed at judicial authorities.

In **Kazakhstan**, we contributed to two training sessions organised by the European Union and the Council of Europe to support authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the justice system.

The APT submitted observations to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa on its first draft General Comment on the right to redress for victims of torture and ill-treatment, under article 5 of the African Charter.

As part of our strategy to strengthen legal and procedural safeguards against torture, we submitted a third party intervention before the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in the case *Simeonovi v. Bulgaria*. Our intervention focused on the right to access a lawyer in the early stages of detention.



APT presented the Guide on anti-torture legislation to the UN Committee against Torture in Geneva.



### ***Why is anti-torture legislation relevant to prevention?***

Anne Lardy, Legal and Advocacy Advisor

*"Without a clear and effective prohibition in law, investigations and prosecutions of acts of torture will be almost impossible in practice. Adopting comprehensive anti-torture legislation is therefore an important means to prevent torture. The independent research commissioned by APT concluded that laws were necessary but not sufficient to prevent torture. This is why we do not only focus on the obligation to make torture a crime, but we also advocate for States to adopt comprehensive anti-torture legislation, with a solid framework underpinning effective prohibition and prevention of torture."*

*It is not always straightforward for States to know what those legislative frameworks should contain. I think that the Guide on anti-torture legislation drafted by APT is useful to understand the elements needed for a system where complaints are lodged, where allegations of torture are effectively and independently investigated, and where charges can be brought and perpetrators convicted of their crimes."*



### ***How can effective torture investigations prevent abuses in the future?***

Matthew Sands, Legal and Advocacy Advisor

*"National investigations into allegations of torture are right to focus their attention on the immediate needs of the victims. Victims of torture can suffer long-lasting and severe trauma, which can only be addressed through meaningful and ongoing rehabilitation. But effective torture investigations must not stop there. Equal consideration should go towards the prevention of further abuse."*

*In 2016, I worked in partnership with the Asia-Pacific Forum to support the work of committed human rights investigators from across Asia-Pacific, to build their capacity to interview survivors of torture in a sensitive way and capture essential medical and psychological evidence. Our workshops gave participants practical experience of interviewing victims and built their confidence in using international standards such as the Istanbul Protocol on documenting and investigating allegations of torture."*

*Participants further explored how best to promote institutional and cultural changes that would prevent a repetition of the specific abuse. With practice, these lessons should help investigators to achieve a full and effective remedy for survivors of torture."*

## Vulnerabilities in detention: Monitoring psychiatric institutions

Raising awareness about the risks faced by specific groups in detention remained a priority for the APT in 2016. Throughout the year, our work focused especially on the situation of persons with mental disabilities and of LGBTI people in detention.

For the first time, APT addressed the role of detention monitoring bodies in preventing torture and ill-treatment in psychiatric institutions. These include psychiatric hospitals or psychiatric wards in general hospitals but also social care homes, which often are *de facto* psychiatric institutions where people are institutionalised for years. These places clearly fall within the mandate of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs).

The treatment administered in these institutions often violates the integrity of persons and can, in some cases, amount to torture. Isolation and physical restraints, such as tying a person to a bed, pose the greatest risks and are often imposed out of security or disciplinary considerations for periods that vary from a few hours to several months.

The APT's **Jean-Jacques Gautier Symposium** for NPMs focused on the monitoring of psychiatric institutions. The two-day meeting in September gathered representatives of NPMs from all regions and experts from very diverse backgrounds, including disability rights experts, lawyers, social scientists, psychiatrists and service users. The outcome report summarises the very rich discussions on issues

such as involuntary placement and treatment and seclusion and restraints. The participating detention monitoring bodies exchanged on their methodological challenges when monitoring these institutions and emphasised their role in cases of arbitrary deprivation of liberty, in identifying abusive practices and in assessing medical treatment, including the risks of overmedication. The different NPMs agreed on the need for a non-discriminatory approach to their work, recognising that persons with mental disabilities are subjects of rights whose consent must always be sought prior to any treatment and who have a right to live independently in the community, in line with the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The APT was also invited by the **International Ombudsman Institute** to conduct a three-day workshop on monitoring psychiatric institutions for more than 20 European Ombuds institutions with an NPM mandate. The workshop, hosted by the Lithuanian Ombudsman, was facilitated by APT jointly with renowned psychiatrists and experts from the SPT and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and included a visit to a psychiatric hospital. It enabled NPMs to share the challenges they face in this area of monitoring.

As the detention of persons with mental disabilities is often linked to a deprivation of their legal capacity, judges have a major responsibility. We were therefore pleased to be invited by the Academy of European Law to a seminar in Trier in October, to talk to European judges on disability rights in contexts of deprivation of liberty.



Workshop  
for European  
Ombuds  
institutions  
on monitoring  
psychiatric  
facilities, in  
Lithuania in  
June.  
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The situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons (LGBTI) deprived of liberty remains an issue of concern. APT chaired two relevant side-events during sessions of the **Human Rights Council** in Geneva. The first side-event, in March, was dedicated to torture and ill-treatment of LGBTI persons, while the second event, in June, addressed the detention of LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers. ("Q" = *queer*)

“*What I brought back from this fascinating symposium in September is a supply of important and stimulating information.*”

Anne Lecourbe, Contrôleur général des lieux de privation de liberté, French NPM



**Why do psychiatric institutions need independent monitoring?**

Isabelle Heyer Frigo, Americas Programme Officer

*"For a long time, psychiatric institutions have been totally unmonitored, while persons with mental disabilities were and remain vulnerable to both involuntary placement and treatment in those institutions. I could partially witness the daily reality in some European facilities as I had the opportunity to accompany NPMs in their visits to psychiatric hospitals. What struck me most was the common lack of individualised care and reintegration perspective, the emphasis on security considerations rather than care and the insufficient training and number of staff, which contributed to situations of abuses.*

*Participants at our Symposium made clear that NPMs and other detention monitoring bodies can play a vital role in making abuses visible and entering into a dialogue with the authorities to change attitudes and harmful practices. More broadly, these bodies can assist in shaping public policies and adopting non-discriminatory legislation that fully respect human rights, including by developing community services to facilitate inclusion in society. Finally, and equally importantly: monitoring bodies' public reports can contribute to sensitising society as a whole about the rights of persons with mental disabilities to be treated on an equal basis with others, in order to overcome historic stigma and discrimination."*



Silvia Quan, then Vice-chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, at the Jean-Jacques Gautier Symposium in September.

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## The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, 10 years on

2016 marked ten years after the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) entered into force, an opportunity for reflection and for renewing the commitment to torture prevention. By 2016, 83 States had ratified or acceded to the OPCAT and 64 of them had created their National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). More importantly, in only a decade the OPCAT system has substantially strengthened the protection for persons deprived of their liberty. The APT therefore decided to carry out a one-year campaign to highlight the positive changes which have happened thanks to the OPCAT.

During the year, we reached out to many actors who play a role in the torture prevention system: OPCAT bodies, NGOs, authorities and former detainees. We collected their **stories** and published them on

a special website, social media, and in the form of a booklet. These rich stories from around the world illustrate how the OPCAT, with its comprehensive preventive approach based on constructive dialogue and cooperation, has made a real difference in protecting persons deprived of liberty.

As part of this campaign, the APT produced an **animated video**, which in two minutes explains the OPCAT system. Thanks to our partners, the video was available in 14 languages by the end of 2016. The video was used as an advocacy and educational tool by many national and international actors, including NPMs, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), parliamentarians and national human rights institutions.

On 22 June, the date of the entry into force of the OPCAT, APT published a joint statement with 14 other international NGOs, calling on States to invest more in the OPCAT global torture prevention system. On this occasion, we also displayed the exhibition **Torture – the International Outlaw** at the UN in Geneva, together with Amnesty International and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims.

The OPCAT anniversary campaign created a new momentum towards further ratification and effective implementation of the treaty. Many NPMs took the opportunity of this anniversary to organise events and other activities to raise awareness about the treaty and their work in particular. It revealed that NPMs have developed a strong sense of belonging to a community, sharing a common mandate, anchored in an international treaty and supported by the SPT. The conference organised by the SPT in November to mark the anniversary was another opportunity to reinforce this community.

Photo: Danielle Kirby/OHCHR



Panellists at the UN celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Optional Protocol.



Animated video on APT's special website: [opcat10.apr.ch](http://opcat10.apr.ch)





*"When collecting stories of change for our anniversary campaign, I was really impressed by the large number of examples showing positive developments at all levels. One which inspired me was the testimony of a National Preventive Mechanism at the OSCE NPM regional meeting in October, telling us how it has experienced changes in the culture and practice of places of detention, as a result of eight years of work.*

*The fact that, under the OPCAT, States have agreed to let independent experts into their places of detention, on a regular and unannounced basis, is something extremely important. Today we take it for granted but only a few years ago it was considered utopian. It is still far from being a reality in many contexts.*

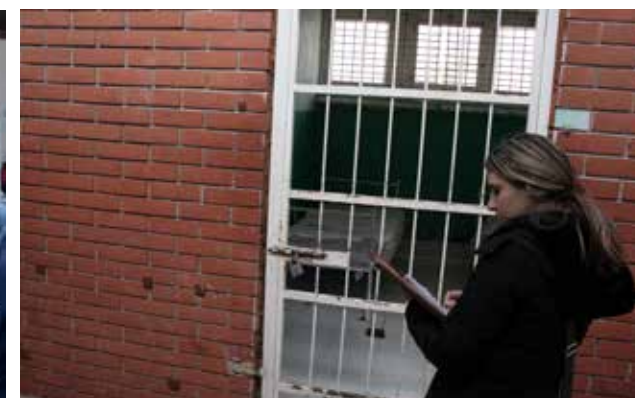
*Thanks to the work of monitoring bodies, in particular National Preventive Mechanisms, there are improved conditions of detention, safeguards, procedures, legislation and policies. States have also begun to take measures to address the risks faced by persons in situations of vulnerability in detention, such as children, women, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and migrants."*

NPMs, authorities, persons deprived of liberty and others shared their stories of positive changes brought about by the OPCAT in our anniversary booklet **"Putting prevention into practice."**



Putting prevention into practice

10 years on: the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture



Photos, clockwise from above: Parliamentary Ombudsman Norway, NHRC of Mali, Mental Disability Rights Initiative – Serbia, Paraguay NPM, Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights - Ukraine

## Establishing the first national torture prevention bodies in North Africa

It was a remarkable year for the prevention of torture in the Middle East – North Africa region. At the beginning of 2016 none of the four OPCAT State parties (Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) had National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). By December, new institutions were visiting places of detention in Tunisia and Mauritania. In Lebanon, the Parliament has – after years of political standstill – passed the NPM law. This is the result of our active engagement and support of national partners, combined with international advocacy.

**Tunisia** became the first North African country to establish its NPM. The law adopted in 2013 creates a new National Authority to prevent torture. Its 16 members were eventually appointed by the Parliament in March 2016. The first visit of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) to advise on NPM establishment took place the following month, and we provided the team with relevant background information. Following training by the APT, supported by other international partners, the NPM started its visits in autumn 2016.

In **Mauritania**, the 2015 NPM law was implemented. The visit by the Special Rapporteur on torture in February helped advance the process. The APT provided technical advice to the selection committee and advocated with civil society for effective candidacies. The 12 NPM members were appointed in April 2016 and the APT supported them with training workshops. The visit by the SPT in October was then the occasion for the NPM to start its operations.

National contexts and challenges are different,



Workshop with the Moroccan Human Rights Commission.

but in both Tunisia and Mauritania the NPMs face similar issues of creating a totally new institution: establishing its budget, offices and staff, defining its methodology, building collective identity and establishing trust with authorities. We will continue to support them in this crucial and sensitive initial phase.

Awaiting the adoption of the NPM law in **Morocco**, we continued our capacity strengthening programme with the National Council for Human Rights, in view of its possible integration of the NPM mandate. The Human Rights Committee also called to expedite the process of NPM establishment.





### How has the APT worked to support the newly established NPMs in the MENA region?

Yasmine Shams, Middle East and North Africa Programme Officer

*"The MENA region is witnessing for the first time the creation of National Preventive Mechanisms. Establishing successful and effective mechanisms will not only improve detention conditions and protect detainees' rights, but also raise awareness about vulnerabilities and risks in detention and encourage others to join the prevention movement.*

*We have seen how important it was to build strategic partnerships rather than doing one-off activities. This approach enabled us to better support our partners throughout the ratification and implementation processes. It is also great to see the fruitful impact of regional and international exchanges, and how these discussions inspire NPMs to come up with possible solutions to their problems. I'd also like to stress the importance of including all governmental and non-governmental actors in the dialogue on prevention. For example, in Mauritania, engaging with the government led to their endorsement of the NPM work.*

*Finally, I believe we should continue to raise awareness amongst MENA countries on the OPCAT and the NPM mandate, since torture prevention could play a vital role in increasing people's trust in their governments and helping to counter violence and terrorism."*

## Europe and Central Asia: Stock taking by experienced monitoring bodies

The Europe and Central Asia region is home to some of the most experienced National Preventive Mechanisms. Ten years after the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture it was time to take stock on successes – and challenges – in the implementation of their preventive mandate.

For the past three years, we have intensified our work with the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)** to support effective NPMs in the region. In October, the APT and the



Participants in the first annual meeting of NPMs from the OSCE region.

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OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights jointly organised the first Annual Meeting of NPMs from the OSCE region, in Vienna, Austria. This peer-to-peer exchange gathered 32 out of the 39 designated NPMs to discuss, among other things, the best strategies to ensure effective implementation of their recommendations by State authorities. After this first decade of preventing torture and ill-treatment under the OPCAT, NPMs in the region noted substantial improvements in material conditions in places of detention, the end of certain abusive practices and an overall change in cultures and attitudes towards persons deprived of their liberty. The meeting also confirmed once again the value of enabling NPMs to exchange experiences and to learn from each other.

Another important meeting took place in Brussels in December. Civil society representatives from around the world gathered for the **18<sup>th</sup> EU NGO Human Rights Forum**, which this year had torture as a central theme. Combating torture and other ill-treatment is one of the EU's human rights priorities, and is specifically referred to in the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019. The Forum therefore aimed at identifying ways to reinforce the EU and its Member States' action to prevent, fight and redress torture at home and worldwide. Specific sessions were dedicated to the needs and risks faced by certain groups, more vulnerable to torture and ill-treatment, such as women and girls, LGBTI person, children and minorities.

## Americas: Exchanging practices among National Preventive Mechanisms

In Latin America, only a few States have not yet established or designated their National Preventive Mechanisms by law. The APT continued to facilitate exchanges amongst operational National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). The first working meeting with almost all Latin American NPMs was an opportunity to share good practices on follow up to NPMs' recommendations to authorities.

States such as Panama and Chile have taken significant steps in 2016 towards designating their national torture prevention body. In **Panama**, the APT participated in the discussions on drafting NPM legislation and provided expert advice. A law

designating the Ombudsperson's Office as NPM was introduced to the Parliament in November 2016 and adopted in January 2017. In parallel, we worked with the Ombudsperson's Office and civil society organisations to launch a discussion on how concretely the NPM will be operating within the Ombudsperson's Office. In **Honduras**, where the NPM is in operation for five years, we delivered a workshop to strengthen its monitoring methodology, including follow-up to recommendations. We also advocated for the renewal of the NPM membership to be a public and transparent process.

**Brazil** remains a priority country for us. At the national level we supported the NPM to consolidate its work through a training session. The NPM then visited places of detention in six Brazilian states and published reports. Thanks to our advocacy with local civil society organisations, the members of the other body within the Brazilian system - the National Committee to Prevent and Combat Torture - were finally appointed in December 2016. At the state level, we worked closely with authorities and civil society organisations in São Paulo, Rondonia and Alagoas, to foster the establishment of their local preventive mechanisms. However, many states have not yet implemented the National System to Prevent and Combat Torture. We therefore joined forces with the NPM and the Federal Attorney's Office for the Rights of Citizens to promote the implementation of local torture prevention mechanisms in the remaining states of Brazil. Our call was widely published by media in ten states.



**How would you describe the overall situation for NPMs in Latin America?**

Audrey Olivier Muralt, Director,  
Regional Office for Latin America

*"After Europe, Latin America is the only continent where many National and Local Preventive Mechanisms have been operational for several years. We can see that changes in detention processes and procedures have taken place, thanks to their work, and the stories collected during the OPCAT 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary campaign also illustrated this.*

*NPMs have the ability to propose solutions and do make a difference in the lives of persons deprived of their liberty, but only if they are taken seriously. For instance, if the recommendations made by the NPMs of Paraguay and Brazil to specific prisons would have been implemented, tragedies could maybe have been avoided. We will therefore continue to work with NPMs and key actors to enable NPMs to achieve their goal.*

*We have also forged partnerships with new actors, including the Parlato and the National Council of Judges in Brazil, to encourage parliamentarians and judges to play a greater role in preventing torture and ill-treatment."*

Photo: Luiz Silveira/Agência CNU



APT Board member speaking at a workshop for Brazilian judges.

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Regional meeting of Latin American NPMs in Panama.  
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Photos: María Alejandra López

## Africa: Sharing good practices in the region

With the ratifications by **Ghana**, **Cabo Verde** and the **Central African Republic**, Africa has become the second region with most State parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, after Europe and Central Asia. However, there are still only a few National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) designated and operational. In 2016, APT therefore focused on good practices in terms of NPM designation processes and functioning.

Following the 2015 ratification by **Rwanda**, we facilitated a number of initiatives to support the NPM designation process. In May we helped organise a study visit to **Mauritius** for representatives of



Rwandan delegation visiting a prison in Mauritius.

the Rwandan Ministry of Justice and the National Commission of Human Rights. For the Rwandan participants, it was useful to learn more about the Mauritian experience and to identify challenges and good practices that could help their own NPM designation process.

The lessons learned from the Mauritius visit were also discussed at a broad and inclusive consultation in Kigali in September. This meeting, which brought together representatives from the government, State institutions, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, correctional services and civil society organisations, decided that the NPM will be designated within the National Human Rights Commission. The participants also adopted a roadmap, with the perspective of establishing the NPM by July 2017. In December, the APT facilitated working meetings of a drafting team, which came up with a preliminary draft NPM law.

The APT continued also to support the **Senegalese** NPM to strengthen its operational capacities. In April, we facilitated an internal evaluation of the operational and organisational functioning of the NPM and gave our recommendations for the effective institutional development of the mechanism.

Finally, the Summer University in Lyon on police monitoring enabled participants from the NPMs of **Mali**, **Mauritius**, **Senegal** and **Togo** to exchange with experts and their peers from other regions. A psychiatrist from the Senegalese NPM also participated in APT's Jean-Jacques Gautier Symposium on monitoring psychiatric institutions.



### What were the highlights of APT's work in Africa?

Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme Officer

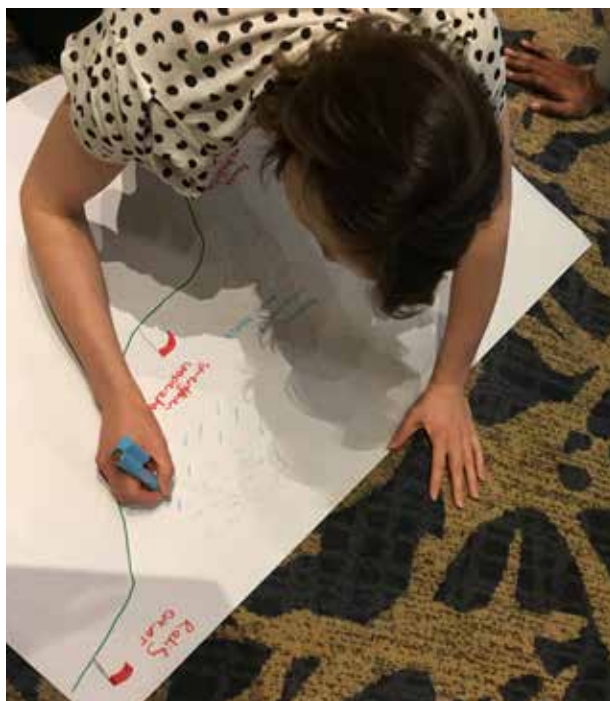
*"The most significant achievement in Africa was the OPCAT ratification by Ghana on 23 September 2016. It was the result of 10 years of relentless advocacy. I remember well my first mission to Ghana in May 2006. It was followed by a series of initiatives including in-country visits, submissions to UN human rights bodies and bilateral meetings with Ghana's delegation in Geneva. Thanks to Ghana's leadership and influence in Africa, an effective OPCAT implementation could pave the way for improved prevention of torture in the whole region.*

*The study visit of a Rwandan delegation to Mauritius was unique. It was the first time that a country in the process of establishing a National Preventive Mechanism asked to consult with another country, with a functioning NPM, to learn from its experience. It's a sign of a serious commitment by Rwanda to establish an effective and credible NPM and goes beyond the usually recommended broad consultation at the national level. I am happy to see that Rwanda has used the lessons learnt from Mauritius to nourish the discussions in the ongoing NPM designation process. I also look forward to a time when, in the future, other countries would benefit from the good practices of the Rwandan NPM!"*



## Advocacy for prevention in the Asia-Pacific region

Advocacy for the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture in **Indonesia** gained stronger momentum this year. The preventive approach and the possible structure of a National Preventive Mechanism composed of five institutions were discussed during a two-day national OPCAT seminar. 80 representatives from governmental ministries, law enforcement, national institutions and civil society were made aware of the benefit of the treaty and the preventive experiences already



Regional training in Jakarta on monitoring of immigration detention, organised by the APT and APF.

implemented in Indonesia. The five institutions – the National Human Rights Commission (KOMNAS HAM), the Ombudsman, the Children's Commission, the Women's Commission and the Witness and Victim Protection Agency – also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen their cooperation on detention monitoring. An APT workshop enabled them to discuss opportunities and challenges of a multiple NPM structure.

In **Mongolia**, to follow up on the 2015 ratification, we held a dialogue on OPCAT implementation, in partnership with the national human rights commission. This was an opportunity for members of ministries, law enforcement and NGOs to discuss the designation of a functioning NPM. We also conducted a workshop for the civil society network on how to engage effectively with the future NPM.

In **Thailand**, a possible OPCAT ratification is on hold due to the ongoing constitutional reform. Nevertheless, we maintain our collaboration with the Ministry of Justice to raise awareness on OPCAT and torture prevention. During a briefing for the National OPCAT Committee, concrete and technical questions were discussed with the 40 members from relevant ministries, law enforcement, the judiciary and the National Human Rights Institution.

A follow up training on monitoring immigration detention, organised in Jakarta, Indonesia, in November, concluded a three-year cooperation project with the Asia Pacific Forum to strengthen the torture prevention capacity of National Human Rights Institutions in the region.



**What were the main developments on the prevention of torture in the Asia-Pacific region?**

Shazeera Zawawi, Asia-Pacific Programme Officer

*"Efforts to prevent torture are gaining more momentum than before in the region. For example, the APT has strengthened its cooperation with the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia. This makes it easier to reach out to government agencies and law enforcement. During a national conference in Jakarta, governmental agencies expressed their conviction that there is a need to monitor places of detention, and showed their support for OPCAT ratification."*

*"The Asia-Pacific is one of the regions with the lowest number of OPCAT States parties. I have learned that when governments, National Human Rights Institutions and civil society understand the overall benefits of preventing torture, it strengthens their political will to ratify the OPCAT."*

## Police custody: Summer school for French speaking NPMs

Torture and ill-treatment most frequently occur in the early stages of deprivation of liberty; that is, when a person is arrested and interrogated by the police. It is therefore crucial that monitoring bodies are well equipped to monitor police custody. To this aim, the APT organised in July, in partnership with the Institute of Human Rights in Lyon and with support of the International Organisation of the Francophonie, the first French speaking Summer University for National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), entitled "Strategies and methodologies for the monitoring of police custody".

The course offered a combination of theoretical and practical modules, delivered by experts from

the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, the ICRC, the Council of Europe, the Bar association, civil society organisations and police officers. Participants included representatives of NPMs from Africa, Europe and Latin America, as well as a few from academia and civil society. Over five days, they could dwell upon key risk moments of police custody.

Enriched by their peers, they had the opportunity to look deeper into specific issues, such as the use of force, arrival at the police station, interrogations, police working conditions, material conditions in detention areas, situations of vulnerability, and strategic follow-up to visits.



**Why is it important for NPMs to focus on police custody?**

Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Detention Advisor

*"We know that when a person is in the hands of law enforcements agents, especially in the very first hours following the arrest, the imbalance of power is at its peak. This situation of powerlessness means that the risk that ill-treatment takes place is greatly increased. NPMs, with their broad mandate that includes unrestricted access to all places of deprivation of liberty and the possibility to talk in private to any detainee, can play a crucial role, in particular by addressing the root-causes of abuse and ill-treatment."*

*Police stations are usually smaller places that can transition quickly from quiet to bustling, and their monitoring is therefore special in many ways. It is important that visits are conducted without warning, including during weekends or at night, and that strategies are developed to prevent reprisals. What's more, police powers do not stop at the station's doors, and monitoring bodies need to also consider risks related to transfers, forced returns or policing of protests."*



Participants in the Summer school for French-speaking NPMs in Lyon in July.



## NHRIs: Capturing outcomes of regional torture prevention projects

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) can be powerful actors for change in the fight against torture and ill-treatment. This was the message of the nine **"Torture Prevention Ambassadors"** from NHRIs in the Asia-Pacific region, who presented the outcomes of their projects at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva 2016. Over 18 months, the "Ambassadors" implemented a range of projects. For example, in the Philippines the project involved an innovative dialogue with hundreds of police officers from around the country, culminating in a national torture prevention summit to help implement the findings.

Other projects – all supported by regular meetings and expert mentoring from APT and the **Asia-Pacific Forum** – harnessed the unique role that NHRIs can play in torture prevention, including by facilitating dialogues, training public officials, providing independent oversight of places of detention and investigating allegations of torture.

This important role of NHRIs was also in evidence as our three-year project with the **Network of African NHRIs** drew to a close. This was marked in 2016 by the publication of an outcome report and a series of short films that highlighted the diverse ways in which NHRIs across the region have taken the lessons of the project and used them to implement torture prevention strategies in their home countries. This included, for example, developing

a manual for police training in Namibia, which was then used by the NHRI to integrate torture prevention into the police curriculum around the country. Our training on how NHRIs can contribute to a reduction in the overuse of pre-trial detention also led many of them to coordinate their initiatives on the topic as part of 2016's inaugural African Pre-Trial Detention Day on 25 April.

By capturing the outcomes of these two regional projects in comprehensive reports and videos, launched at separate sessions of the Human Rights Council, the lessons and ideas of the project could be shared with NHRIs and torture prevention actors in other regions, serving as inspiration to help launch their own torture prevention projects.



Video from police training in Namibia, result of a 3-year project with African NHRIs.



**What has the APT done to strengthen the role of NHRIs in the prevention of torture?**

Benjamin Buckland, NHRI Advisor

*"In addition to the completion of our two multi-year projects in Africa and in Asia-Pacific, we deepened our links with other networks of National Human Rights Institutions around the world, providing training in partnership with both global and regional NHRI networks. For the second year, we also collaborated with the International Ombudsman Institute.*

*One thing that stood out for me was a lunch event that I organised as part of the IOI world conference. Big conferences can be quite formal so we arranged a closed-door lunch with the heads of two dozen institutions, so that they could talk openly and frankly about their NPM mandates and the ways they make and implement recommendations. The combination of the topic and the informal setting led many of them to comment that it was the most useful meeting of the conference.*

*Playing this type of convening role, something that requires a great deal of trust among the participants, is something I think the APT does best and this is an achievement I hope we can build on in our work next year."*

## Financial situation and institutional development in 2016

In 2016, APT closed its financial year with a balanced result for the third consecutive year, despite a number of obstacles.

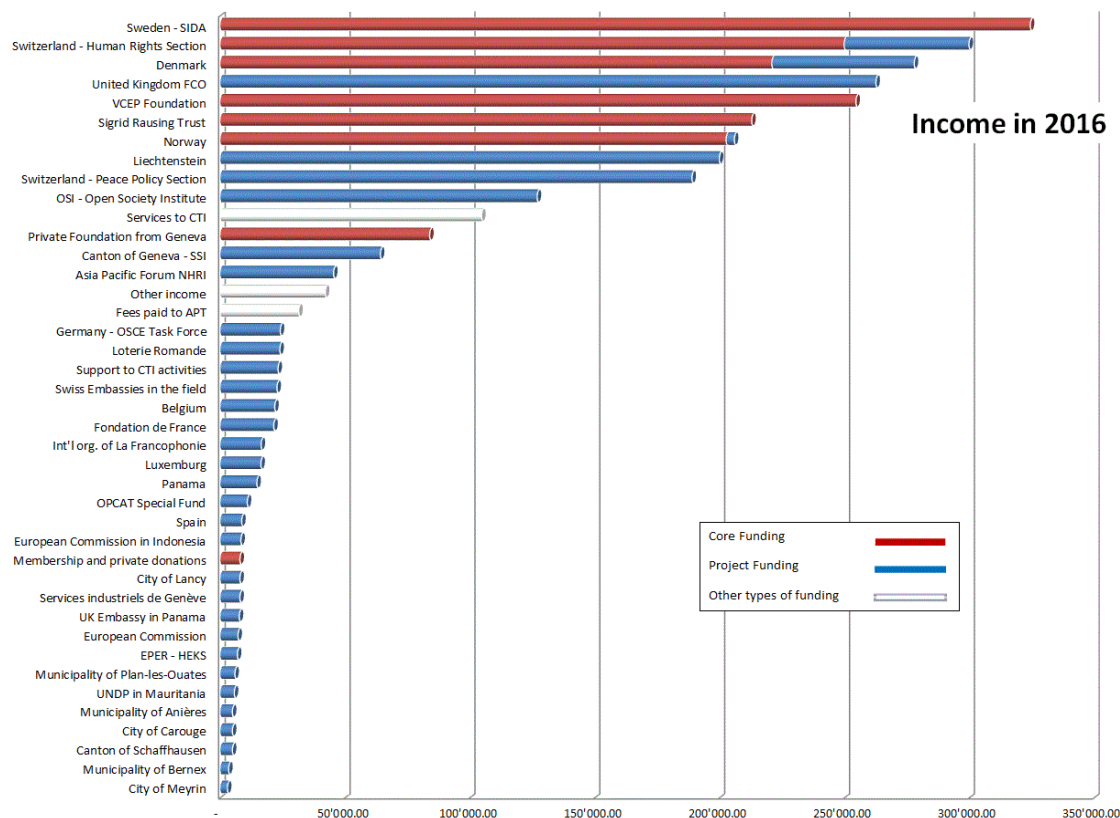
Firstly, APT experienced a decrease in income compared to the previous year, from CHF 3'359'067 in 2015 to CHF 3'020'366 in 2016. This was partly due to the unfavourable economic climate wherein APT, like many other organisations, suffered from the strength of the Swiss franc, which negatively affected total donations received in foreign currencies. At the same time, as APT had anticipated, certain governmental cooperation policies and associated funding were reoriented towards the migration crisis, to the detriment of other issues such as the fight against torture.

To meet these challenges, APT was able to reduce certain expenditures in order to achieve a balanced financial result, without affecting its ability to implement its strategic plan and respond to requests from its partners in the field. For example, APT favoured regional meetings as they are more financially efficient and have the merit of encouraging the exchange of good practices between countries. In addition, wherever possible, APT

encouraged participants in its seminars to cover part of their costs. Finally, APT also benefited from a number of *pro bono* contributions and invitations from its partners.

As confirmed by the results of the study "*Does torture prevention work?*", APT's expertise is more than ever sought by both prevention mechanisms and civil society at the national level and by high-

level policymakers. As testament to this, APT is accompanying efforts to develop a universal protocol on investigative interviews and procedural safeguards aiming to ensure that no person is subjected to torture, ill-treatment, or coercion during questioning. The organisation's recognised status as a reference in the field of torture prevention contributes to the strengthening of its relations with several traditional institutional donors.



In the framework of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals initiated in 2016, APT is convinced that the prevention of torture is an effective means of sustainable development within societies because it contributes to ensuring access for all to justice and the establishment of effective institutions, as called for in Goal 16. With its 40 years of experience in preventing torture, APT intends to continue its work with perseverance and efficiency. Encouraged and inspired by its operational and financial partners, APT remains confident that more and more institutions and individuals will engage with it in this endeavour, so that together we can prevent torture.

# Operating Accounts and Balance Sheet 2016\*

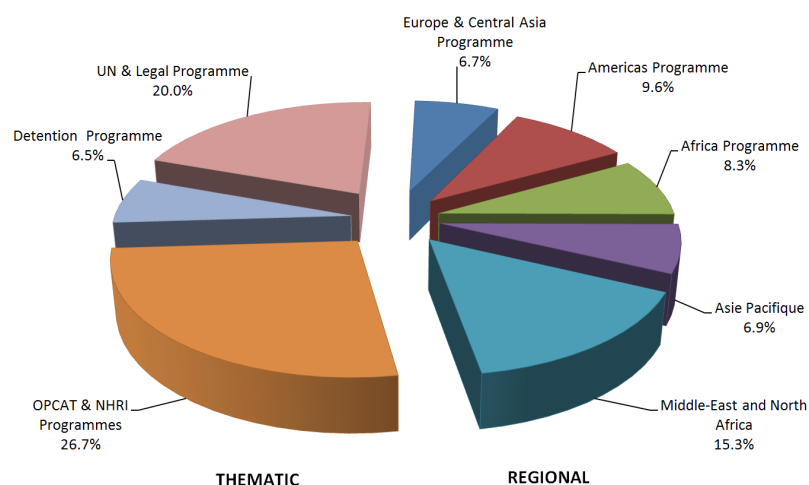
Income 2016	CHF
<b>Restricted</b>	
Foreign governments	616'821
Swiss government	385'674
Private foundations	155'613
Other subsidies	125'628
<b>Total restricted income</b>	<b>1'283'736</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>	
Foreign governments	748'335
Swiss government	250'000
Private foundations	551'689
Other subsidies	8'027
Other income	73'784
Services to CTI	104'795
<b>Total unrestricted income</b>	<b>1'736'630</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3'020'366</b>

Expenditure 2016	CHF
<b>Operations</b>	(1'753'261)
<b>Communication and Outreach</b>	(519'760)
<b>Management and Secretariat</b>	(652'402)
<b>Policy and Strategy</b>	(17'895)
<b>Research Project</b>	(24'751)
Depreciation of fixed assets	(86'960)
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>(3'055'029)</b>
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>(34'663)</b>
Interest, banking fees and exchange rate difference	(7'562)
<b>Result before restriction in funds</b>	<b>(42'225)</b>
Allocation to restricted funds	(1'283'736)
Use of restricted funds	1'339'431
<b>Net decrease in restricted funds</b>	<b>55'695</b>
<b>Result 2016</b>	<b>13'470</b>

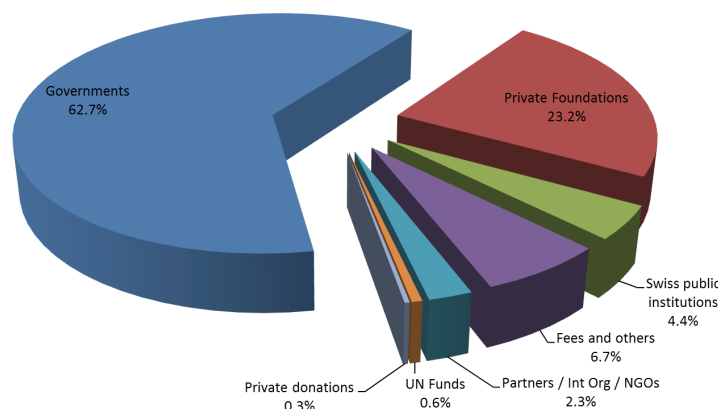
Assets	CHF
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	355'137
Accounts receivable	155'685
Accruals and other current assets	81'327
<b>Total current Assets</b>	<b>592'149</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>	
Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	2'930'757
Office material	23'172
Furniture and fixture	79'574
IT hard and software	1'325
<b>Total fixed Assets</b>	<b>3'034'828</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3'626'977</b>

Liabilities and Wealth	CHF
<b>Short term Liabilities</b>	
Income received in advance	158'418
Liabilities Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	5'835
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf loan, short term part	-
Other liabilities	154'174
CTI current account	223'435
<b>Total short term liabilities</b>	<b>476'937</b>
<b>Long term Liabilities</b>	
Fondation Pro Victimis	200'000
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf loan, long term part	-
<b>Total long term liabilities</b>	<b>200'000</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	
Restricted funds on ongoing projects	191'754
Restricted funds Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	2'604'300
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>2'796'054</b>
<b>Wealth</b>	
Reserve Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	261'967
Other reserves	90'000
Balance brought forward	(211'451)
Result of the year	13'470
<b>Total Wealth</b>	<b>153'986</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Wealth</b>	<b>3'626'977</b>

## Allocation of operational costs



## Who are our donors?



\* as in annual audited accounts accessible on our website



## APT Staff in 2016

Mr Mark Thomson, Secretary General  
 Ms Barbara Bernath, Chief of Operations  
 Ms Audrey Olivier Muralt, Director, Regional Office for Latin America

Ms Sandra Andenmatten, Finance Officer  
 Mr Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Detention Adviser  
 Mr Benjamin Buckland, NHRI Adviser  
 Ms Eva Csergö, Europe and Central Asia Programme Officer

Ms Rosita Ericsson, Communication Officer  
 Ms Catherine Felder, Administrative Assistant  
 Ms Veronica Filippeschi, OPCAT Adviser

Ms Mireille Gheryani, Administrative Assistant  
 Ms Paola González\*, Administrative Assistant, Regional Office for Latin America

Ms Anja Härtwig, Publications Officer

Ms Isabelle Heyer Frigo, Americas Programme Officer

Mr Octavian Ichim\*, Legal and Advocacy Adviser

Ms Anne Lardy, Legal and Advocacy Adviser

Ms Sara Vera López\*, Project Officer, Regional Office for Latin America

Mr Adrian Moore, Web and IT Manager

Ms Claire Nevache\*, Project Officer, Regional Office for Latin America

Mr Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme Officer

Ms Sylvie Pittet, Administrator

Ms Anna Rottenecker, Institutional Development Officer

Mr Matthew Sands, Legal and Advocacy Adviser



APT staff and Board at a Board meeting in Geneva, **top row from left to right:** Jehaan Mahmood, Anne Lardy, Eva Csergö, Isabelle Heyer Frigo, Esther Schaufelberger, Sylvie Pittet, Romain Zappella, Anja Härtwig; **middle line left to right:** Mervat Rishmavi, Walter Suntinger, Maria-José Urgel, Adrian Moore, Sylvia Diniz Dias, Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Catherine Felder, Jacques Lederrey, Ottavia Maurice, Erika Schläppi, Barbara Bernath, Mark Thomson, Anna Rottenecker; **front row:** Susan McCrory, José de Jesus Filho, Martine Brunschwig Graf, Krassimir Kanev, Suzanne Soukoudé.

Ms Yasmine Shams, Middle East and North Africa Programme Officer

Ms Maria-José Urgel\*, Deputy Director, Regional Office for Latin America

Mr Romain Zappella, Fundraising Officer

Ms Shazeera Zawawi, Asia-Pacific Programme Officer

*\* only for parts of the year*

### Delegates

Sylvia Diniz Dias, APT National Delegate in Brazil

### Interns

Ionna Bouvier, Caroline Mouchet, Mirella Nicastro, Vaishali Sharma



Audrey Olivier Muralt and Sara Vera López of the APT Regional Office team based in Panama.



# APT Board and Advisory Council in 2016

## President

Ms Martine Brunschwig Graf\*, Switzerland

## Vice-Presidents

Mr Michael Kellet\*, UK

Ms Erika Schläppi\*, Switzerland

## Treasurer

Mr Klaus Belzer\*, Switzerland

## Board members

Mr Abdelwahab Hani, Tunisia

Mr José de Jesus Filho, Brazil

Mr Krassimir Kanev, Bulgaria

Mr Jacques Lederrey\*, Switzerland

Ms Jehaan Mahmood, Maldives

Ms Ottavia Maurice\*, Switzerland / Italy

Ms Susan McCrory, UK

Mr Manfred Nowak, Austria

Ms Mervat Rishmavi, Palestine/UK

Ms Suzanne Soukoudé, Togo

Mr Walter Suntinger, Austria

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

*\* Bureau members*

## Honorary members

Ms Catherine Gautier, Switzerland (†)

Mr Marco Mona, Switzerland

## Advisory Council

Ms Maggie Beirne, Ireland / UK

Mr Rafendi Djamin, Indonesia

Ms Silvia Casale, UK

Mr Malcolm Evans, UK

Mr Nejib Hosni, Tunisia

Mr Marco Mona, Switzerland

Mr Bacre Waly N'Diaye, Senegal

Ms Maggie Nicholson, UK

Ms Monica Pinto, Argentina

Mr Erik Prokosch, Switzerland

Mr Jean-Pierre Restellini, Switzerland

Ms Paz Rojas, Chile



During its General Assembly in April, the APT congratulated Martine Brunschwig Graf on a successful 10 years as its President.

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## Catherine Gautier – in memoriam

Last year, on 12 April, the wife of Jean-Jacques Gautier died at her home at the age of 102. She was the second of five children of Charles Zanello and Annette, born Cingria. Her father was a businessman in the construction industry and her mother, the sister of two diversely renowned artists (Alexandre and Charles-Albert Cingria), had a musical and artistic temperament.

Prevented from studying because of poor eyesight, Catherine worked as a florist, but her main passion

was scouting and it was in this context that she met Jean-Jacques. For both Jean-Jacques and this sporting young woman with brown hair and exceptionally clear blue eyes it was a case of love at first sight. She was Catholic and he Protestant. They married, each keeping their confession, and their Christian convictions drew them both into the ecumenical movement.

Catherine followed her husband with all her positive energy during his 'third age' inspirational period when he created the Swiss Committee Against Torture. Nevertheless, she felt that his passion for the cause was taking too much out of him and feared for his health. It was his driving passion that inspired the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture. Among the first people involved in the committee from its beginnings was a young theologian, Francois de Vargas, who I believe was regarded by the couple as a spiritual son.

Even at a very advanced age, Catherine continued to cultivate ties with many people. Regardless of whether or not they were members of her family, she helped everyone, attentive to their situation and asking questions.



Photo: Helen Putzman Penet

Catherine Gautier cutting the ribbon during the Inauguration of the Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier in 2012. (to her left: Pierre Maudet - member of the Canton of Geneva government; to her right: her son Laurent Gautier, Navi Pillay - then UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Martine Brunschwig Graf - APT President, Mark Thomson - APT Secretary General)

Similarly, her husband's foundation – which became the APT – always remained close to her heart, to such an extent that she would not miss a general assembly for anything in the world, while insisting – though not too forcibly, which would have been out of character that one or other of her children came along too.

Catherine's financial contribution towards the construction of the beautiful APT office building was undoubtedly a final mark of her fidelity to Jean-Jacques and his ideals.

François Gautier  
(one of the four children)



Photo: François Gautier

Jean-Jacques and Catherine Gautier.

## 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 (OPCAT)**.

## 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 lead and support endeavours to prevent torture and ill-treatment.

APT's work is based on our analysis of high risks of torture and the changes that are needed to reduce those risks. Our own contributions to those changes focus on three interlinked strategies:

- **Advocate for strengthened legal and policy frameworks**, so that torture and other forms of ill-treatment are criminalised and safeguards are in place.
- **Promote improved detention practices**, to reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment in police custody and increase protection of

all detained persons, in particular those in specific situations of vulnerability.

- **Advise on effective public oversight**, through increased transparency in places of detention and a strong and effective OPCAT system.

## 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.

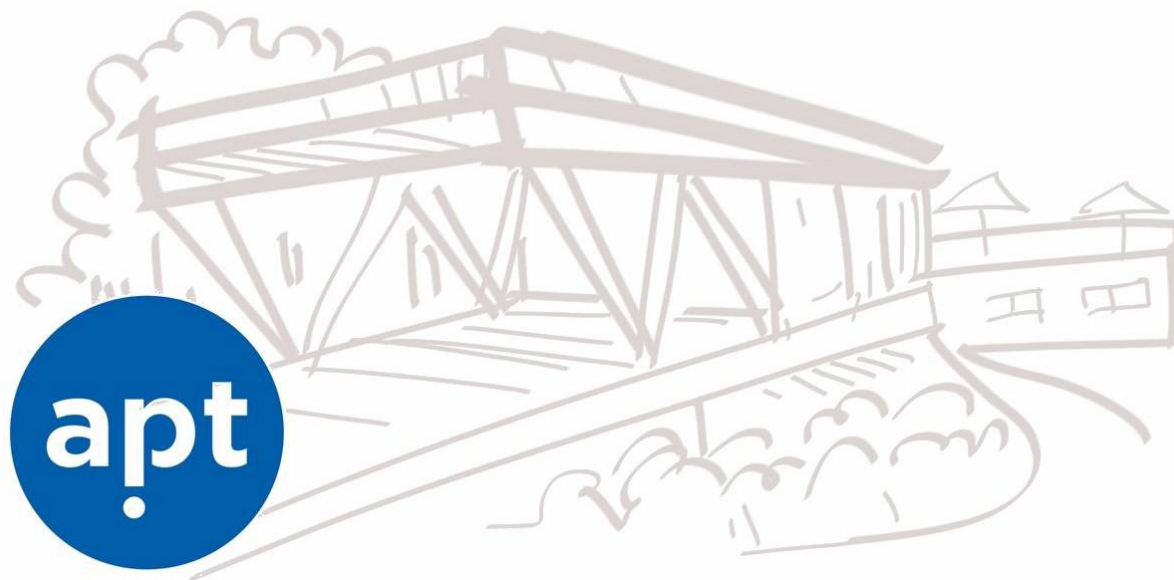
## Funding

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





Founded in 1977 by Jean-Jacques Gautier



association for  
the prevention  
of torture

**APT International Secretariat**

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