

Annual Report

2024



association for
the prevention
of torture

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		Ben Buckland	Vicky Tong Design



SUMMARY OF TERMS

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
CAT	Convention against Torture
ICPA	International Corrections and Prisons Association
INPT	National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (Tunisia)
IOI	International Ombudsman Institute
NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
LPM	Local Preventive Mechanism
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
SEANF	Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum
SPT	Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

Message from the President



Robert Roth

APT President



**Together,
we remain resolute
in our mission to
create a world where
torture is no longer
tolerated.**



As of 15 September 2024, the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) welcomes a new Secretary General. After an extraordinary 27 years of service, with the last six years as Secretary General, Barbara Bernath stepped down from her leadership role. On behalf of the APT Board and staff, I would like to reiterate our profound gratitude to Barbara. Her leadership was not just that of a director, but that of a true inspiration for all of us. Barbara's vision, unwavering commitment, and resilience have been instrumental in navigating some of the most turbulent periods in the organisation's history, including the global COVID-19 pandemic and the profound shifts in the contexts in which APT operates. Her legacy is one of transformation, growth, and an enduring dedication to the fight against torture.

Nicole Hogg took over the mantle of leadership in the midst of drafting the new Strategic Plan for 2025–2028, and her involvement in the process has ensured that the final document reflects the direction we aim to take in the years ahead. This Plan, formally adopted by the APT Board in November 2024, will serve

as a guiding framework for our operations and strategy. It is an essential tool that will help steer the organisation's work both internally and in its relationships with external partners and supporters.

An area of particular importance in our work is the United Against Torture Consortium, a partnership that unites six of the foremost organisations in the global effort to end torture. Each of these partners brings their unique expertise and approach to addressing torture at various stages. For APT, our focus remains on creating environments — legal, social, political, and administrative — that reduce the risks of torture and ill-treatment, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Looking ahead, our regional strategies will be reviewed in 2025. This process will provide us with new opportunities to fine-tune our approach, strengthen our impact, and advance our collective efforts to prevent torture worldwide. Together, we remain resolute in our mission to create a world where torture is no longer tolerated.

Message from the SG



Nicole Hogg

APT Secretary General



**The rights and dignity
of people deprived
of liberty must
be respected.**



I am really delighted to have taken up the role of APT Secretary General and to continue to take forward the good work of Barbara Bernath and our predecessors. My thanks to Barbara, the APT team, President Robert Roth and the entire Board for their support in my first months in the position.

At the time of writing, the global aid environment is under unprecedented pressure following the substantial withdrawal of US funding. Many human rights organisations are in crisis, yet there are growing needs. Torture prevention remains crucial in this environment.

Today, there are more states parties to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture, more National Preventive Mechanisms being designated, more police forces and judicial actors taking up the call to implement legal and procedural safeguards, including non-coercive interviewing, as foreseen in the ‘Méndez Principles’, and a greater awareness of the need to protect persons at heightened risk of torture and ill-treatment. There is a vital need to support these developments and to counter ongoing abuses around the world, including torture and ill-treatment

in the context of protests. The rights and dignity of people deprived of liberty must be respected.

The APT’s activities in 2024 aimed at fulfilling these objectives. To name just a few examples: In September, 2,000 national police officers in Mongolia learnt about the Méndez Principles; in December, we launched an extensive Global Report on Women in Prison, with contributions from NPMs in 46 countries; and over the year, in Brazil we monitored 500 detention control hearings in 174 courts across six states, to help ensure respect for safeguards.

I am proud of what APT achieves every day and the support we provide to people in need, though close work with multiple partners. Building on an ambitious new Strategic Plan for the coming four years, we have also recently reassessed our regional and thematic priorities to ensure a clear path forward and help us maximise the use of our human and financial resources.

I look forward to continuing the journey with this wonderful organisation, with our supporters and friends.

COUNTRIES

MEXICO

- Informed local judges on torture prevention and gender perspectives
- Contributed to Mexico's Penal Code reform with a focus on mental health

BOLIVIA

- Supported the drafting of Bolivia's anti-torture law

PARAGUAY

- Participated in a national seminar on the Inter-American Court's Advisory Opinion 29/22, promoting gender-sensitive prison policies
- Advocated for alternative measures to incarceration through national dialogue

CHILE

- Convened high-level discussion with judges on torture prevention and gender
- Fostered regional NPM exchanges, enhancing collaboration between oversight bodies and civil society

URUGUAY

- Supported Uruguay's NPM to lead a regional initiative on strengthening safeguards in mental health settings

BRAZIL

- Monitored 500 detention control hearings in 174 courts across six states through Observa Custódia
- Contributed to Brazil's prison reform plan, advocating for preventive mechanisms and measures against structural racism
- Supported judicial oversight with new detention monitoring guidelines and training

COLOMBIA

- Submission to the Constitutional Court on OPCAT ratification (with OMCT and IRCT)

SENEGAL

- Strengthened the NPM's capacity and facilitated knowledge exchange with the Swiss NPM

SWITZERLAND

- Supported efforts to criminalise torture under Swiss law (with ACAT Suisse); drew attention to the fight against torture through art, with an exhibition «Torture Must End Now»

TOGO

- Capacity strengthening and celebration of the NPM's 5th anniversary

CAMEROON

- Capacity building for the NHRI Committee on Torture Prevention

BELGIUM

- Provided training for the Netherlands' federal NPM and oversight bodies on mandates and collaboration

NETHERLANDS

- Delivered two training workshops for the Netherlands' NPM to support strategic planning and visits

GEORGIA

- Held meetings in Georgia with the NPM and CSOs to strategise on oversight during repression.

TUNISIA

- Participation in the INPT International Colloquium

MALDIVES

- Participation in the INPT International Colloquium.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Disseminated the Abidjan Rules on the ACHPR's alert and reporting mechanism with CSOs from South Africa

MADAGASCAR

- Coordinated a study visit by Madagascar's NPM to Mauritius on detention monitoring experiences

MONGOLIA

- Conducted first training workshop and joint visit with Mongolia's NPM, enhancing methodology on women's detention
- Engaged 2,000 national police officers in Mongolia in a discussion on the Méndez Principles
- Trained all Mongolian prison heads on their role in implementing and upholding human rights
- Supported Mongolia's NPM in reviewing its work to better capture impact

PHILIPPINES

- Year 2 of Basta Run Against Torture under the #SafeInCustody project

MALAYSIA

- Workshop introducing Méndez Principles to NHRI and police under #SafeInCustody

AUSTRALIA

- Co-organised the first in-person meeting of all Australian state and territory NPMs for training
- Developed and launched an e-learning course for staff and institutions in the Australian NPM

THAILAND

- Training of Trainers workshop with Royal Thai Police, Royal Police Cadet Academy, Department of Special Investigations, and prosecutors on operationalising the Méndez Principles
- National dialogue on OPCAT for Thai parliamentarians, government officials, and CSOs

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL



LATIN AMERICA

- ✧ Gathered Latin American NPMs in Costa Rica, adopting the San José Declaration to strengthen collaboration
- ✧ Convened NPMs, CSOs and OHCHR to develop a Human Mobility Monitoring Guide for protection of migrants
- ✧ Facilitated discussions at the Inter-American Court on Advisory Opinion 29/22 for prison policy advocacy

AFRICA

- ✧ Co-hosted the 2nd Annual Africa NPM Network Conference to strengthen regional torture prevention efforts
- ✧ Presented on women in prison at the 81st ACHPR session in Banjul
- ✧ Co-hosted a conference in South Africa with law enforcement leaders from the SADC region on implementing the Méndez Principles
- ✧ Contributed to the African Commission's expert study on detention conditions

ASIA-PACIFIC

- ✧ Held a regional conference with Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand on strengthening torture prevention
- ✧ Participated in the ASEAN Conference on making Southeast Asia a torture-free region
- ✧ Co-hosted the first NHRI-NPM Forum, with oversight bodies from Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mongolia and others
- ✧ Co-hosted a regional speech competition with youth participants from Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand
- ✧ Launched the #SafeInCustody online game to raise awareness with youth on rights on arrest
- ✧ Co-hosted a roundtable on NPM effectiveness with the New Zealand Ombudsman at the IOI Conference
- ✧ Led a peer exchange on UNCAT implementation and Sharia law with NHRIs from Malaysia, Indonesia and others

GLOBAL

- ✧ Co-hosted a webinar series on torture prevention for NHRIs from across the world
- ✧ Launched the Global Report on Women in Prison and shared our findings with oversight bodies around the world

CHANGE 1

People are treated with dignity and fairness by the criminal justice system



Arrest, interrogation and police custody are moments when the risk of torture and ill-treatment is heightened.

In Mexico, the APT collaborated with the NPM to promote the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering, providing materials and technical expertise to strengthen their implementation. In Thailand, we continued our cooperation with the Royal Thai Police, Royal Police Cadet Academy, Department of Special Investigations and prosecutors on practical steps to implement the Méndez Principles. APT also co-hosted side events at the UN Human Rights Council on torture prevention during protests and the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on effective interviewing.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

BRAZIL

We continued training local justice actors in Brazil on upholding safeguards in the initial stages of deprivation of liberty, with a focus on custody hearings. Through our Observa Custódia initiative, we monitored compliance with requirements for in-person hearings and procedural safeguards. The data revealed concerning setbacks. Our latest survey, now covering 174 courts, found that only 26% fully complied with the Supreme Court directive on in-person hearings. Additional findings highlighted issues with detainee presentation, access to forensic examinations, and family participation. These insights reinforce the urgent need for strengthened protections.



CHILE

With Chile's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we co-organised a workshop on the broad concept of 'places of deprivation of liberty', as outlined in the UN SubCommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) 's General Comment No. 1 on Article 4 of the OPCAT. A wide range of national authorities — including the armed forces, police and ministries of education, health and migration — joined the discussions, which deepened understanding of deprivation of liberty within the OPCAT. The APT also took part in a workshop with CAT and SPT members), examining the connections between UNCAT and OPCAT. The event, coordinated by the NPM, brought together NHRI and NPM personnel to strengthen cooperation and synergies in their work.



ADVANCING EFFECTIVE INTERVIEWING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

A priority of the APT is to support implementation of the Méndez Principles in Southern Africa. With the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, its Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA), the Southern African Regional Police Commissioners Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) and the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF), we co-organised

a sub-regional meeting in Johannesburg with law enforcement officials, particularly heads of Criminal Investigation Departments, to identify opportunities for implementation of non-coercive interviewing methods and legal and procedural safeguards. This initiative was funded by the EU through the United Against Torture Consortium.

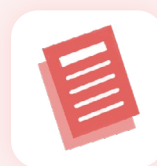


OTHER ACTIVITIES



MÉNDEZ PRINCIPLES

Developed and published an open online course

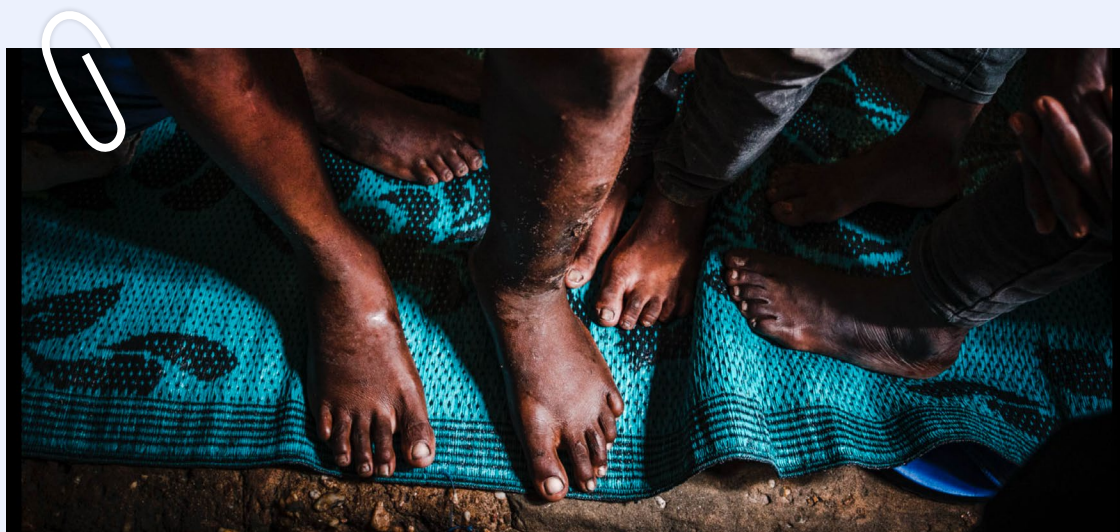


MAPPING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

Published Dr Sharon Shalev's landmark report

CHANGE 2

Persons in situations of vulnerability are safe from torture and ill-treatment



We continued to advocate at the UN and at regional levels to address the specific risks faced by people deprived of liberty.

We focused on those groups who experience intersecting forms of discrimination. We mobilised and supported NPMs in their efforts to monitor the situations of women, LGBTIQ+ persons, migrants, persons with disabilities and persons with mental health conditions deprived of liberty. We also raised awareness and facilitated exchanges between judges in Latin America. We supported the efforts of civil society organisations and networks, including women relatives of persons deprived of liberty, to protect persons in situations of vulnerability from torture and ill-treatment.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

LATIN AMERICA: THE ROLE OF JUDGES IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND LGBTIQ+ PERSONS IN PRISON

We organised several activities with judges in Mexico, Chile and Brazil during the year. We also facilitated regional exchanges among judges from other countries in the region. These efforts aimed to strengthen their role in preventing torture and protecting the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ persons deprived of liberty. In Brazil, we developed a manual on detention monitoring for judges. It addresses the situations of persons at heightened risk and provides recommendations for alternatives to detention. In Chile, we organised a two-day regional seminar for judicial authorities, NPMs and other experts on protecting women and LGBTIQ+ persons in prison. Participants shared good practices and legal criteria to reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment, with a focus on alternative measures.

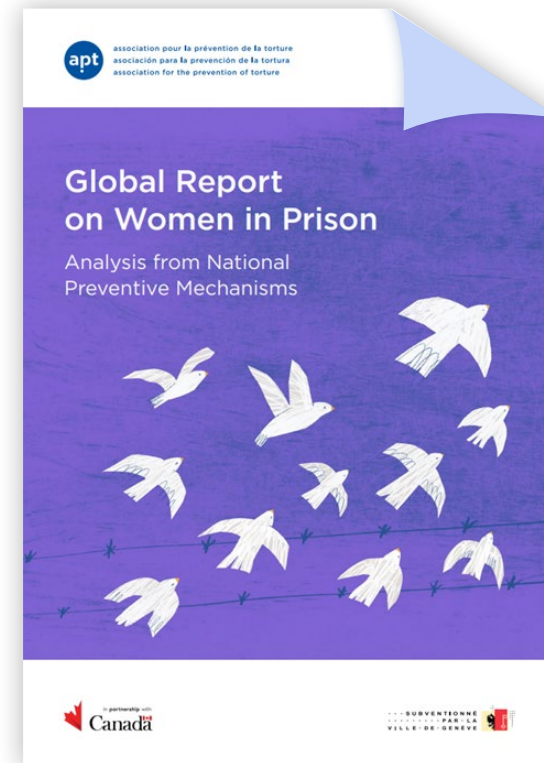
TACKLING TORTURE AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

APT continued researching the discriminatory use of torture in criminal justice systems, advocating for stronger recognition of discrimination as a basis for torture within UN special procedures. We submitted a written contribution on intersectional discrimination to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and engaged with the UN Expert Mechanism on Racial Justice (EMLER) on preventive strategies against racial discrimination in law enforcement. At the UN, we addressed the risks of racial bias in AI and new technologies in policing, highlighting their links to torture and ill-treatment. We also reinforced the need for independent oversight to prevent racial discrimination in detention and policing. Additionally, we advocated for institutional reforms in law enforcement and criminal justice, particularly in Brazil.



GLOBAL REPORT ON WOMEN IN PRISON

In December, we released the first global analysis of women in prison based on the findings of NPMs. The report included data from 46 countries across Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America. It highlights significant areas of concern for women in prison. These include intersectional discrimination and harmful detention practices, such as invasive body searches, solitary confinement, and use of restraints. The report also revealed neglect of gender-specific needs, including healthcare and contact with families. It calls for urgent reforms and greater use of gender-responsive alternatives to detention. We have begun sharing our findings with national and international bodies, such as the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, to inform policies and practices related to women in prison.



OTHER ACTIVITIES



MIGRANTS IN DETENTION

In Costa Rica, a regional meeting with NPMs, civil society and OHCHR resulted in the development of the Human Mobility Monitoring Guide

CHANGE 3

Strong arguments and new voices are mobilised to prevent torture



Strong collaborations and fresh perspectives are essential for raising awareness and galvanising support for torture prevention.

In 2024, partners from Southeast Asia joined us in signing the [#SafeinCustody](#) manifesto, pledging to uphold the rights of persons deprived of liberty. We commemorated International Women's Day by recognising the role of women monitors from NPMs in different regions. We also invited partners and experts to share their insights through blog posts on a range of topical issues such as including family members in detention monitoring teams.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

#SAFEINCUSTODY

We concluded our [#SafeInCustody](#) project in August 2024. This three-and-a-half-year initiative strengthened safeguards in the first hours of police custody. The APT led this work with civil society partners in Southeast Asia: SUARAM (Malaysia), Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, and the Cross Cultural Foundation (Thailand). The project promoted transparency in police custody, effective interviewing practices, and youth awareness of the absolute prohibition of torture. At the closing conference in Bangkok, we launched the [#SafeInCustody](#) Manifesto, with representatives from government, civil society and NHRIs pledging their support. We also presented an interactive online game and a website showcasing good practices for torture prevention.



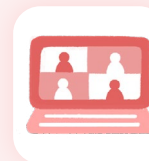
TORTURE MUST END NOW

The APT was proud to present the 'Torture Must End Now' exhibition in March 2024. Held on Quai Wilson in Geneva, the exhibition was a collaboration with Artistes Contre la Torture (ACT) and the Haute École d'Art et de Design (HEAD) Geneva. It featured works by 11 HEAD Geneva students, who explored themes of mental and physical torture, modern slavery and gender-based violence in 30 thought-provoking pieces.

UNITED AGAINST TORTURE CONSORTIUM

As part of the United Against Torture Consortium (UATC), we established a working group of experts on torture during protests and other assemblies and hosted a webinar on breaking the cycle of violence against protesters, bringing together experts and advocates. To mark the 40th anniversary of the UNCAT, we launched a video series featuring survivors and anti-torture advocates who reflected on progress and ongoing challenges in the fight against torture. Our UATC partners are World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT), Omega Research Foundation and REDRESS.

OTHER ACTIVITIES



VIRTUAL TRAINING ON DETENTION MONITORING

We developed an interactive online tool that simulates a prison inspection visit to prepare monitors for real-world experiences



CONFERENCE ON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT

We hosted a public conference in Chêne-Bougeries, Geneva, featuring survivor Ms Gladys Ambort



CHANGE 4

Effective and independent oversight protects persons deprived of liberty



We continued our long-standing support for NPMs around the globe, working regionally and at the country level.

We also worked with NHRIs and civil society organisations to strengthen detention oversight, including in places where OPCAT ratification has yet to take place or where no NPM yet exists. In Europe, our activities included training and coaching for new and soon-to-be established NPMs in the Netherlands and Belgium. We helped the Netherlands NHRI plan and conduct its first visits under its new mandate. In the Asia Pacific, we supported Australia's NPM with in-country training and co-creating an online course for their members. We conducted training for the Mongolian NPM, focusing on women deprived of liberty, and worked with Thailand's NHRI to prepare for possible OPCAT ratification.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



MONGOLIA

The APT has worked closely with Mongolia's NPM following its establishment. We helped them plan and conduct effective visits to places of deprivation of liberty. We also cooperated with them on efforts to strengthen safeguards in police custody across the country. Our support was both bilateral and regional. We accompanied them on a visit to a women's prison near Ulaan Baatar. We also invited them to a regional NPM workshop in Bangkok, co-organised with the Asia Pacific Forum.

THAILAND

We partnered with the Thai NHRI's NPM initiative to advocate for OPCAT ratification, including during a parliamentary hearing. We also strengthened their capacity to conduct visits to places of detention and helped them plan how to integrate the NPM mandate within the NHRI, should OPCAT ratification proceed. This groundwork is essential for states to establish NPMs within the one-year treaty deadline.

MADAGASCAR

Building strong regional relationships and expertise is central to our work with NPMs. We organised a study visit to Mauritius for the NPM team from Madagascar to learn from their monitoring experience. These insights were shared with others in the NPM upon their return. We will further support the Madagascar NPM to integrate these lessons into their monitoring practice in 2025.

AUSTRALIA

With the Australian NHRI and the Australian NPM, we co-organised the first in-person meeting and training of Australia's multiple-body NPM. We brought the head of the UK NPM to Australia for this workshop, allowing participants to learn from one of the largest and most established multiple-body NPMs in the OPCAT system. Following the training, we worked with the NPM and other partners to develop a bespoke e-learning course for new NPM staff and members.



Board and staff



OUR BOARD

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OUR STAFF

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Vulnerabilities & Policy

Nicole Hogg

Secretary General, replacing

Barbara Bernath

(until September 2024)

Sara Vera López

Senior Adviser
Latin America & Oversight

Elodie Lugon

Administrative Assistant, replacing

Linda Asamoah

(until February 2024)

Laurence Pavia

Human Resources
& Administration Manager

Nid Satjipanon

Regional Project Manager

Helena Szczupak

Research Associate
(until December 2024)

Cécile Trochu Grasso

Fundraising Manager

Manachaya Yankittikul

Project Officer
(until September 2024)

Jasmine Zik-Ikeorha

Senior Adviser
Learning Development & Outreach



Funding and finances

2024 was marked by stability and we were able to implement our work plan with sufficient funds to cover our activities and institutional costs.

Our spending and revenue levels were both on par with 2023. We ended the year with a positive financial result, for the fifth consecutive year. In part, this is due to ongoing support through multi-year contracts with key donors, including the EU, Denmark, the UK, the Canton and City of Geneva and Canada. We also express sincere appreciation to Switzerland once again for its increased core support in 2024. We thank our individual donors for their valuable support and are particularly grateful to Laurent and Denise Gautier for their generous and renewed donation. Other efforts to generate our own income, especially through renting office space, provide core support for both institutional and activity costs.

ASSETS	CHF
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	1 126 210
Accounts receivable	365 952
Accrued income and prepaid expenses	49 715
Total Current Assets	1 541 877
Fixed Assets	
Jean-Jacques Gautier Centre	2 421 157
IT hard and software	64 347
E-learning platform	71 750
Total Fixed Assets	2 557 254
Total Assets	4 099 131

LIABILITIES AND WEALTH	CHF
Short-term Liabilities	
Accounts payable	74 835
Other current liabilities	4 000
Income received in advance	60 548
Accrued expenses	115 446
CTI current account	233 775
Total Short-term Liabilities	488 604
Restricted Funds	
Restricted funds of ongoing projects	584 343
Restricted investment funds	136 097
Restricted funds for Jean-Jacques Gautier Centre	2 151 378
Total Restricted Funds	2 871 818
Wealth	
Tied capital	500,000
Reserve Jean-Jacques Gautier Centre	289,967
Balance brought forward	(89 110)
Annual result	37 852
Total Wealth	738 709
Total Liabilities and Wealth	4 099 131

INCOME, CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS	CHF
Restricted	
Foreign governments	375 118
Swiss government and public institutions	354 240
Private foundations	13 900
Intergovernmental organizations	562 992
Total Restricted Income	1 306 250
Unrestricted	
Foreign governments	265 692
Swiss government and public institutions	515 000
Membership, private donations and bequests	124 032
Other income	84 294
Services to CTI	33 148
Total Unrestricted Income	1 022 166
Total Income	2 328 416

EXPENDITURES	CHF
Salaries	(1 290 806)
Consultants	(225 782)
Direct costs of activities	(440 700)
Administration costs	(102 629)
Rent and maintenance costs	(55 064)
Auditors, legal and financial services fees	(27 667)
Meeting expenses, General Assembly, Board and Bureau	(25 677)
Total Expenditures	(2 168 325)
Operating Result Before Depreciation	160 091
Depreciation of fixed assets	(138 700)
Total Operating Result	21 391
Operating Result (reported)	21 391
Bank fees	(2 279)
Exchange difference, net	14 652
Extraordinary, non-recurring or prior-period income	30 722
Result Before Change in Restricted Funds	64 486
Allocation to restricted funds	(1 306 250)
Use of restricted funds	1 279 616
Net Increase in Restricted Funds	(26 634)
Total Annual Result	37 852

We thank all our donors for their trust in our work towards societies without torture or ill-treatment.

CORE

- Switzerland
- Denmark
- City of Geneva
- Luxembourg

PROJECTS

- European Union
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Canton of Geneva
- City of Geneva
- OPCAT Special Fund
- A private Swiss foundation
- Netherlands (Embassy in Brazil)
- Canton of Baselstadt
- UN Development Programme (Brazil)
- Plan-les-Ouates
- Chêne-Bougeries
- Loterie Romande
- Fonds Mécénat des SIG

We also warmly acknowledge, in memory of Jeanne Egger, her legacy donation to our organisation.



association for
the prevention
of torture



**Association for the
Prevention of Torture**

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