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2 March 2016

**United Nations Human Rights Council
34th session (27 February – 24 March 2017)**

**Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other
cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

Oral Statement, Association for the Prevention of Torture

Mr President,
Mr Special Rapporteur,

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) would like to warmly welcome Mr Nils Melzer in this crucial mandate. We look forward to continuing the extensive collaboration we have had with former Special Rapporteurs and their support staff.

Recently, the APT commissioned an independent research to address the question "Does Torture Prevention Work?".¹ The research confirmed for the first time that torture prevention works and it shows which measures are the most effective ones to reduce torture and ill-treatment and that although the international framework to prohibit torture is unequivocal, it is not always translated in practice.² The study shows that abstaining from unofficial detention, implementing procedural safeguards in the first hours and days after arrest have a great impact in reducing torture. Reducing reliance on confession-based evidence in criminal proceedings was also found to have positive impact on preventing abuse. The APT is therefore encouraged to see that the new Special Rapporteur will continue the work started by his predecessor of promoting non-coercive interviewing practise, including by contributing to the development of universal guidelines on investigative interviewing.

We are also pleased to see that the Special Rapporteur will advocate for the implementation in practice of norms, procedures and mechanisms included in international treaties to effectively prevent torture and ill-treatment.

¹ Dr. Richard Carver and Dr. Lisa Handley, "Does Torture Prevention Work?", Liverpool University Press, 2016 <http://liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/products/80890> (last accessed on 20 January 2017).

² APT, « Yes, Torture Prevention Works », §§ 5-9, available at http://www.apt.ch/content/files_res/apt-briefing-paper_yes-torture-prevention-works.pdf (last accessed on 20 January 2017).

Lastly, we welcome the thematic priorities highlighted in your report. What kind of support would you hope for from States, UN agencies, NGOs and experts in that regard?

Thank you.