



THE SURVIVOR

Trends

Situation in East Africa not just about pirates

More of SURVIVORS' clients come from Somalia than from any other country; since January, Somalis have comprised more than 35% of SURVIVORS' client population. San Diego has one of the heaviest concentrations of Somali-Americans in the United States.

Recently, Somalia has become known throughout the world because of a rise in acts of piracy near Somalia's coast. Yet in this almost Texas-sized East African country, the

unstable political situation has created a fertile climate for many other problems. Rivalries among clans and the long-standing absence of authority in the country have exposed civilians in Somalia to torture and other human rights violations without effective legal recourse.

According to Human Rights Watch's World Report, an estimated 870,000 civilians have fled Mogadishu since 2007, and 6,000 civilians have

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Trauma conference to be held in Arizona in October

See page 5 for information about the workshop sessions, distinguished presenters, and registration details. •

News and Events

June is Torture Awareness Month

June 26 is the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The United Nations General Assembly selected this date to honor June 26, 1987, the day the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment entered force. The convention reaffirms that the equal and inalienable rights of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

A few years ago, several nonprofit organizations in the United States joined together to declare the month of June to be Torture Awareness Month as a way to bring greater awareness and allow for more action across the country.

"Our Golden State has a proud legacy of offering kindness and safety to torture victims, and I urge all those who have been persecuted to take advantage of the many resources avail-

able to them," proclaimed California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger last June 26.

Take action

Are you part of a religious congregation? Encourage your leaders to incorporate a thematic sermon, homily, responsive reading, prayer or some other form of liturgy within a worship service. Interfaith prayer and study resources are available online from the National Religious Campaign Against Torture at www.nrnat.org. •



Photo credit: International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

Follow SURVIVORS online

SURVIVORS provides regular updates on Facebook (social networking), Twitter (micro-blogging), and Delicious (social bookmarking).

Through these sites, we keep you updated on news related to torture and human rights, torture treatment, events, volunteer opportunities, job postings, and more. Visit www.notorture.org to find links to our pages. •



Help us use our resources efficiently

Please call (619) 278-2400 or email survivors@notorture.org to update your address or to receive our e-newsletter. •

Mission Statement

Survivors of Torture, International:

- Facilitates the healing of torture survivors and their families;
- Educates professionals and the public about torture and its consequences;
- Advocates for the abolition of torture.

We're hiring! SURVIVORS is looking for qualified candidates to fill full-time staff positions based in San Diego and Sacramento. Go online to www.notorture.org to find detailed job descriptions and application instructions. •

Reflections from the leadership

Congressional hearing focuses on torture survivors

By Jeanette Barrack, board chairperson and Kathi Anderson, executive director

As leaders of an organization serving torture survivors who have fled countries without stable democracies, where citizens have little means of voicing concerns to their leaders (and may be severely punished when they do), we are energized when we find elected officials of both parties who are not just willing but eager to learn about the work that we do.

On Thursday, May 21, SURVIVORS participated in the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing in the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C. Titled "Healing the Wounds: Torture Treatment Centers Around the World," the hearing gave us an opportunity to inform legislators about how treatment centers help survivors to overcome the physical and psychological torture they have suffered. Attending U.S. representatives included James McGovern, commission co-chair (D-MA); Christopher Smith (R-NJ); and Donna Edwards (D-MD).

By combining the expertise and experiences of all the panelists (Dr. Allen Keller, Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture; Abdallah Boumediene, ACCESS; Doug Johnson,

Center for Victims of Torture; a torture survivor from Ethiopia; and Kathi Anderson, SURVIVORS), our diverse voices united to answer the many questions posed by legislators during the two-hour hearing. Topics ranged from Iraqi refugees to the use of immigration detention to the urgent need for services. The testimony from SURVIVORS, submitted in written form and delivered by Kathi, focused on the dramatic increase in the number of our clients who are now detained and the damage detention has on the already poor psychological health of torture survivors.

The online news source Salon.com published an article about the hearing that quoted Representative McGovern. "Too often nowadays, we talk about torture in the abstract," he said. "But torture is real, it is brutal, and it is traumatizing."

As we continue with the effort to have the Torture Victims Relief Act reauthorized, we hope that more leaders will understand and act to address the far-reaching individual and societal consequences of torture. Please see page 5 to learn more about steps you can take to advocate on behalf of survivors. •

Survivors of Torture, International's

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SURVIVORS supports Senator Wyland's Genocide Awareness Act

The Genocide Awareness Act, by Senator Mark Wyland (R-Carlsbad), was approved on April 29, 2009, by the Senate Committee on Education. Senate Bill 234 would require that the California Curriculum Commission consider and vote on whether or not to include oral histories about genocides as a requirement for high school graduation.

"Oral histories help provoke meaningful conversation and debate in the classroom," Wyland stated. "The ultimate purpose is to make students even more aware of these horrible crimes against humanity, so ultimately, these occurrences don't happen again."

California is home to the largest number of refugees and immigrants in the United States, many of whom are torture and genocide survivors. Having endured unimaginable hor-

GENOCIDE, continued on page 4

SURVIVORS welcomes international visitors to San Diego



An international group of visitors, the majority of whom were from the Middle East, came to SURVIVORS' office while on a program organized by the Citizen's Diplomacy Council of San Diego. SURVIVORS regularly hosts visiting groups to discuss our specialized torture treatment program, vicarious traumatization, human rights, and similar topics of interest to our guests. •

"I think it's very clear from the reading of these opinions that the [Office of Legal Counsel]'s definition of torture and abuse inaccurately interpreted Article III of the Geneva Conventions, the Convention Against Torture, and U.S. law. I find it difficult to understand how the opinions found these interrogation techniques to be legal. For example, waterboarding and slamming detainees head-first into walls, as described in the OLC opinions, clearly fall outside what is legally permissible."

- Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), in a press statement after the April 2009 release of the Justice Department Office of Legal Counsel's memos on torture. •

SURVIVORS and Casa Cornelia collaborate to assist asylum-seeking torture survivors

During the past 12 years, SURVIVORS has developed a service delivery model in which the work of the agency's clinical staff is strengthened by a program where clients are referred and supported to make use of expert services and activities available in the community. Rather than duplicate existing services, SURVIVORS sustains partnerships with many specialized providers.

One of SURVIVORS' longest-running collaborations is with Casa Cornelia Law Center (CCLC), a public

interest law firm dedicated to providing quality pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations within the indigent immigrant community in San Diego. SURVIVORS sub-grants to CCLC to ensure that asylum-seeking torture survivors will receive assistance.

Most adult asylum seekers in the San Diego region are detained

in a U.S. immigration detention facility run by the Corrections Corporation of America. To identify torture survivors in need of professional support, CCLC interviews detainees at the immigration detention facility.

To obtain political asylum, torture survivors must convince an immigration officer or judge of their credible fear of returning to their

country of origin. To present their cases effectively, most asylum seekers need legal representation and SURVIVORS' medical affidavits and psychological evaluations.

After a torture survivor is identified, CCLC arranges for pro bono legal services to be provided by staff attorneys, Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representatives, and

attorneys from the private bar trained by CCLC. Once a detained torture survivor is granted asylum, CCLC refers the asylee back to SURVIVORS so that he or she can begin to access the whole program of health, mental health, and social services. •

*A study by researchers Andrew I. Schoenholtz and Jonathan Jacobs found that represented asylum cases are **four to six times more likely to succeed** than ones without legal representation.*



SURVIVORS' executive director Kathi Anderson (far left) joins staff from Casa Cornelia for a San Diego meeting with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Asylum detention: By the numbers

- More than **300,000** people are detained each year by U.S. immigration authorities.

Source: Department of Homeland Security's 2008 Annual Report.

- Taxpayers pay **\$141** per night for each person detained. Meanwhile, alternatives such as parole or ankle monitors cost roughly **\$13** per day.

Source: Associated Press

- Rates of release of individuals seeking asylum range from **4%** in Newark, New Jersey, to **98%** in Harlingen, Texas, in 2004.

- Asylum seekers who were eventually granted asylum spent an average of **10** months in detention, according to a 2003 study.

- **58%** of individuals in deportation proceedings do not have a lawyer during removal proceedings.

Source: *Jailed Without Justice*, a 2009 Amnesty International report available at www.amnestyusa.org. •

SOMALIA, from page 1

been killed in the city. Fearing for their lives, many torture survivors flee the country as asylum seekers, leaving their homes behind in pursuit of safety. In 2008, 21,800 Somalis applied for asylum in industrialized countries, reported the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This makes Somalis the second-largest nationality seeking asylum, following Iraqis.

According to Human Rights Watch, the number of Somalis in need of humanitarian assistance surpassed 3.25 million in 2009, as aid became limited due to violence and targeted attacks on foreign aid organizations.



Somalia

This crisis is made worse by a growing food shortage as Somalia faces its worst drought in at least a decade.

Additionally, perpetrators are using violence to silence critics in civil society. Human Rights Watch reported that targeted attacks on humanitarian aid and activists reached unprecedented levels in 2008. From January to November alone, 25 humanitarian workers were killed, and 24 were kidnapped. This violence has made it

difficult for organizations to effect positive change there.

To learn more about the situation in Somalia, visit www.un-somalia.org and www.hrw.org/africa/somalia. •

Client Demographics

60 new clients were served
January 1, 2009 - April 30, 2009

Geographic Origins

Middle East	3
Africa	53
Latin America	4
Asia	0
Eastern Europe	0

Ages	Gender	
0-20	6	Males 50
21-30	43	Females 10
31-40	5	
41-50	5	
51-60	1	
61 +	0	
<hr/>		
Detained	51	
Non-detained	9	

Counseling trainees support clients, gain clinical skills

For several years, SURVIVORS' clients have benefited from the help of counseling trainees who are brought on to SURVIVORS' team through a partnership with San Diego State University (SDSU). Dr. Brent Taylor, program director of SDSU's Marriage and Family Therapy program, helps coordinate this clinical training experience for the graduate students.

"Our trainees who volunteer at SURVIVORS not only gain critical clinical skills, but also an appreciation for the resiliency of the human spirit. Therapy gives people an opportunity to transform pain into healing and to stop the intergenerational cycle of trauma and abuse," Dr. Taylor says, adding that SURVIVORS has a special place in his heart because of his experiences working with refugees in Chicago.

SDSU, continued on page 5

GENOCIDE, from page 2

rors, they persevered in their search for liberty. Teaching children about genocide does not only highlight the brutality in the world but also shows the resiliency of the human spirit.

We all live and work among genocide and torture survivors, and recognizing their struggles and triumphs is an important part of building a strong community. Understanding the diverse experiences of our neighbors in educational curriculum is vital and often lacking. We are encouraged that the Genocide Awareness Act will help bring about an increase in knowledge of our students on the plight of the survivors living in our communities. At press time, the bill had not moved to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senator Wyland represents the people of California's 38th State Senate District, which includes cities in north San Diego County and south Orange County. •

SURVIVORS' board welcomes a new member: Don Cipriani

SURVIVORS' board of directors is pleased to welcome Don Cipriani.

Presently, Don works in juvenile court and community schools in San Diego teaching children detained in secure facilities, unaccompanied minors, gang-involved youth and other educationally disadvantaged students.

Don also brings a wealth of international experience. He has worked as a trainer and researcher for UNICEF in Pakistan, Switzerland, Nepal, and Italy; and worked as an independent evaluator for Defence for Children International in the Netherlands. During his time with UNICEF, Don conducted the first exploratory study ever on the minimum age of criminal responsibility and its core implications for children's rights protection worldwide.

"My interest in human rights from an international per-



Don Cipriani

spective quickly led me to SURVIVORS' doorstep after arriving to San Diego, and I'm eager to learn more about and contribute to SURVIVORS' critical work," he says.

Don holds a PhD in law from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands as well as a master's in public policy from University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. His first book is in press: *Children's Rights and the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility: A Global Perspective*.

Don's interest in human rights began early in his career. "Even by high school, I can recall being fascinated with issues of (criminal) justice and law. After college, my work as an elementary school teacher in Phoenix, Arizona, with Teach for America led to a specific focus on children's issues and juvenile justice."

We look forward to the perspective and input that Don will bring to SURVIVORS. •

Notecards help asylum-seeking torture survivors to feel less alone

SURVIVORS sends hand-written letters to asylum-seeking clients who are held in immigration detention. Through the letters, we try to keep clients' spirits high and, at the very least, let them know that they are not alone. "Your words gave me strength and positivity I was looking for at this intense, negative phase of my life," said one survivor in response to our letters.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please send blank notecards to: Survivors of Torture, International, P.O. Box 151240, San Diego, CA 92175-1240. The detention facility has strict rules, so please send us cards that are not adorned with glitter, pop-up decorations, or other attachments. It is also best to avoid cards with religious themes. Thank you! •

Conference on the Treatment of Extreme Trauma to be held in Arizona in October

The Hopi Foundation is sponsoring a conference on the Treatment of Extreme Trauma to be held October 2-3, 2009, in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The conference will also include the presentation of the Barbara Chester Award, an award named for the compassionate and accomplished woman who founded and directed the Center for the Prevention and Resolution of Violence in Tucson. The award honors outstanding clinicians and practitioners who treat survivors of torture. SURVIVORS' board member Jorge Cabrera is part of the selection committee for the award.

"Barbara was an extraordinary woman and gifted clinician," Jorge said. "When she died of cancer in 1997, the Hopi Foundation established the award in her name and to honor those that have made exceptional contributions to the field and sometimes at great risk to their

own lives."

The conference has been designed to impart specialized knowledge and practical, applied skill sets to service providers, clinicians, counselors, and others working with persons impacted by severe trauma. CEUs, CEs, and CMEs will be provided to conference attendees from accredited institutions.

Sessions include:

- Finding the Resilient Self: The Process of Recovery
- Dismantling PTSD: The Long-Term Consequences of Trauma for Individuals, Families, and Communities
- Training and Dialogue on Healing the Wounds of Mass Violence
- Expressive Arts as a Means of Healing Traumatized Children



photo by Owen Seumptewa © 1999

Register and find details online at www.barbarachesteraward.org.

SDSU, from page 4

"Their powerful stories had a deep impact on my professional development. One client from Thailand described how his dad tortured him, tying him to a ladder, leaving him out all night long. It is likely that the father was tortured and the pain was passed down to his son. The intergenerational transmission of emotion and experience can continue to affect people's lives for generations. The images from my traineeship site remain imprinted on my mind."

Joyce Everett completes her traineeship

SURVIVORS' most recent counseling trainee was Joyce Everett, who helped at SURVIVORS from June 2008 through April 2009. We thank her for the dedication and enthusiasm she displayed as a part of the clinical team during this time.

Joyce wrote this note about her experience:

Interning at SURVIVORS for the last year has been a truly transformative experience. I have been blessed to work with a staff of professionals whose compassion and knowledge is inspiring. Their commitment to helping torture survivors heal and reclaim their lives is tireless.

I am most humbled by the clients, who are the very heartbeat of the organization. The depths of the staff's compassion are rivaled only by the breadth of resilience, courage, and strength of SURVIVORS' clients. The clients are amazing, brave, beautiful people. I will miss everyone.

My heart has been forever touched from working with torture survivors and I am deeply grateful to Kathi Anderson and everyone at SURVIVORS for being such an important part of my own life's journey.

*Peace Always,
Joyce*

Government employees can give to SURVIVORS through workplace payroll deductions. Contribute through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #24619) or California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC #1845).

SURVIVORS receives 2009 Global Awareness Award from the San Diego Peace Corps Association



Charlene Peña, SURVIVORS' senior administrative assistant, taught English in Kazakhstan as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She accepted this award on behalf of SURVIVORS on May 16, 2009.

Advocate for torture survivors

Act on behalf of torture survivors by encouraging your representative to support H.R.1511, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2009 (TVRRA). By providing much-needed support for treatment programs, TVRRA helps ensure that torture survivors will have access to the healing resources they need. At the time this newsletter went to print, San Diego Representatives Susan Davis, Brian Bilbray, and Bob Filner had already signed on as cosponsors. We hope that Congressmen Darrell Issa and Duncan Hunter will also support the legislation.

Online at www.notorture.org, you can send a letter to encourage your representative to support this important legislation if he or she has not yet signed on as a cosponsor.

Thank you to all of our community supporters!

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Companies and Organizations

<i>Chipotle, San Diego</i>	<i>Qualcomm, Incorporated, San Diego</i>
<i>Easter Seals of South San Diego County</i>	<i>St. Gregory the Great, San Diego</i>
<i>Google, Incorporated</i>	<i>Souplantation, San Diego</i>
<i>Latham & Watkins, LLP</i>	<i>South Bay Expressway, L.P.; San Diego</i>
<i>Presbyterian Urban Ministries, San Diego</i>	<i>Third Avenue Charitable Organization, San Diego</i>

We are grateful for your generous support. The lists cover support received **January 1, 2009 - April 30, 2009**. We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude for support that may not have been recognized. •

Thank you to everyone who help us prepare this newsletter for mailing each quarter. We regularly receive help from volunteers who join us via partnerships with the Easter Seals of South San Diego County and Qualcomm, Incorporated. This year, we have also received help from volunteers at Clairemont Covenant Church, First United Methodist Church, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, St. Brigid's Catholic Church, and St. Gregory the Great Catholic Parish. •

Cooking Class Recipe: Eggplant with Meatballs

SURVIVORS holds Healing Club activities to bring together torture survivors from many countries and backgrounds in one, safe space. Group activities help survivors feel less isolated and form new, trusting relationships. This is a recipe for one dish that was made in a recent Iraq-themed cooking class.

Eggplant with Meatballs

1 eggplant sliced
 1 green pepper sliced
 1 onion sliced
 2 cloves garlic
 1 8-ounce can of diced tomatoes
 1/3 cup vegetable oil
 1 pound lean ground beef or lamb
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp Arabic spice (combination of cinnamon, allspice, black pepper)

Place the eggplant in the colander and sprinkle 1/2 tsp of salt on it. Leave it to drain for 30 minutes. Combine the meat with chopped garlic, salt and spices. Make small patties, 1 inch in diameter and place them in a nonstick pan and sauté them in 1 tbs. oil on both sides. Pour the diced tomatoes over it and leave it to simmer in the sauce for 5 minutes.

Dry the eggplants and sauté them in oil on both sides. Place the sliced onions and green peppers in a deep pan. Place the eggplant on top. Arrange the meat patties on top of the eggplants, and pour the sauce over the vegetables.

Bring to boil, and reduce the heat to medium. Simmer for 20 minutes until the vegetables are cooked well. Serve with plain white rice.

Source: *Iraqi Family Cookbook*, 2008:

<http://iraqifamilycookbook.blogspot.com> •

Give to SURVIVORS through American Express



With an American Express card, you can redeem Membership Rewards® points to make donations, set up recurring donations, and earn rewards for every donation made.

Perfect for Father's Day or summer birthdays:

Through **June 30, 2009**, you can buy Charity Certificates for your loved ones without a purchase fee. After making a donation online, you can pick a graphic design and write a personal message to the recipient. The certificate will then be mailed to the recipient through e-mail or postal mail. Your gift is tax-deductible to you and gives the recipient the joy of contributing to SURVIVORS. Go online to www.americanexpress.com/CharityOffer for details. •

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement
Wellpoint Associate Giving Campaign
Women's Association of Presbyterian Church, Chula Vista

Sell on eBay to Support SURVIVORS

Ready for some summer cleaning? Sell items on eBay and donate 10% to 100% of the final sale price with eBay Giving Works to support our work.

How to use eBay Giving Works:

1. Create a new listing and click "Customize your listing."
2. Look for the "eBay Giving Works" field in the "Choose how you'd like to sell your item" area.
3. Choose "Select a new nonprofit."
4. Type "Survivors of Torture, International" in the "Nonprofit Name or Keyword" field.
5. Select Survivors of Torture, International and a percentage (10-100%) you wish to donate to us. If your item sells, SURVIVORS will receive the percentage you selected to donate.

You can also give your used cell phones, ipods, and other small electronics directly to SURVIVORS to resell or recycle. E-mail Special Initiatives Manager Sara Vaz at svaz@notorture.org for details. •

Restoring the hope of torture survivors in San Diego County is accomplished with the help of our financial supporters. Because of you, survivors are rebuilding their lives. We are grateful. **These lists cover the period of January 1, 2009, through April 30, 2009.** We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude for support that may not have been recognized. •

Contact Information

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About us

Survivors of Torture, International was incorporated in February 1997 in response to a need in our community to bring assistance to the segment of the population that struggles with the wounds of politically motivated torture.

It is estimated that 11,000 survivors of torture live in San Diego County and 400,000 - 500,000 live in the United States. Torture survivors may be left with lifelong physical and mental health problems if not treated by trained professionals.

Since 1997, SURVIVORS has engaged a caring network of professionals — board members, attorneys, interpreters, therapists, physicians, dentists — and all of you in

the community who give support and encouragement in many ways. Your support enables us to help torture survivors rebuild their lives. Treatment helps survivors heal, reconnect with their families, go back to school, and find employment.

Ninety-one cents of every dollar raised goes directly to SURVIVORS' programs. Learn more at www.notorture.org. •

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Two ways to shop online to support SURVIVORS

1. Shop through GoodShop.com and a percentage of each purchase will be donated to SURVIVORS. Stores include Amazon, Apple, Target, and Best Buy. Just enter Survivors of Torture, International as the organization you want to support.

2. Shop at www.lipgoddess.com for lip glosses and 20% of your purchase can go to SURVIVORS. To ensure SURVIVORS will receive the donation, select the items you want to buy, then checkout and input *Sales Rep* next to "Where did you hear about us?" and type SURVIVORS in the "Comments" section. •



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