



THE SURVIVOR



Welcome to the holiday issue of our newsletter. To save on printing and postage, we did not do a full newsletter mailing in November. If you made a donation in the past few months, please know that your donation will be acknowledged in our next 8-page newsletter.

Thank you for your support. We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season.

- The Board of Directors and Staff of SURVIVORS

SURVIVORS participates in exchange program with Kenyan torture treatment center

This fall, SURVIVORS hosted a visitor from Kenya named Taiga Wanyanja. He came to our office as part of an exchange program sponsored by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), an umbrella organization that accredits approximately 140 torture treatment centers around the world. Taiga is the center coordinator of MATESO, an organization in rural Kenya that serves survivors of torture from Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan. He applied to the exchange program to build his knowledge in clinical, fundraising, and management skills.

Taiga is a torture survivor himself. He was arrested on a charge of being involved in a movement against the government of Kenya. He was then imprisoned for more than a year. During that time, he suffered many forms of physical and psychological torture. Like many of our clients, he didn't know if he would survive.

Fortunately, the officials released Taiga from prison and he was able to return to his family. It was difficult for Taiga to recover from this terrible experience but he is now a leader in his community, where he works hard to help other survivors of torture to receive the care they need.

After his two-and-a-half week visit to SURVIVORS, Taiga wrote in an email to SURVIVORS' staff: "My internship at [SURVIVORS] was an eye opener, inspiring and an added value to me."



Taiga Wanyanja

Taiga also did his share of educating us during his visit through lectures to social work students, lawyers, reporters, and the public. He spoke about the challenges of providing services in refugee camps, some of which have tens of thousands of refugees, and the situations in Somalia and Sudan that have caused people to cross into Kenya.

Please visit www.notorture.org to read a *San Diego News Network* article about Taiga and our common mission to provide healing services to survivors of torture. •

Client Quote

"Your words gave me the strength and positivity I was looking for at this intense, negative phase of my life." •

Client Demographics

25 new clients were served
August 1, 2009 - October 31, 2009

Geographic Origins

Middle East	1
Africa	19
Latin America	2
Asia	3

Ages	Gender
0-20	Males 17
21-30	Females 8
31-40	
41-50	
51-60	
61 +	

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.

Client Quote

"I have to be healthy to help myself. . . [At SURVIVORS], they are good people. They help all, doesn't matter what they look like. They saved my life. They helped me a lot. I'm going to school, going to work, I have a place to live now." •

Clinical interns join SURVIVORS' team

This fall, three graduate-level social work students began unpaid internships at SURVIVORS under the supervision of DeeDee Gullo, clinical director, and Tricia Hilliard, senior mental health clinician. The interns are Svjetlana Lasic, Ashley Spong-Reitzin, and Emilie Harrell. Svjetlana and Ashley are studying at University of Southern California and Emilie is studying at San Diego State University.

From the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Svjetlana has lived in the United States since 1998. She graduated with a B.A. in Psychology from California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). She has previously worked with survivors of domestic violence through the Educational Participation in Communities program at CSULA.

Ashley received her B.A. in Psychology at the University of Indiana, Bloomington. She was involved with the nonprofit organization Big Brothers, Big Sisters for four years.

Emilie attended Brigham Young University-Hawaii and grew up in Redlands, California. She became interested in working with people who have survived crime because of her experience visiting a group home of human trafficking victims in Cambodia. She said she has already learned a lot from interning at SURVIVORS.

"I've learned that it's really important to find out about someone's strengths and where they are coming from. There is always more to learn about someone," Emilie said. "And in general, our clients are so grateful and hopeful. It's nice to be somewhere where people appreciate you so much."

We appreciate the skills, enthusiasm, and compassion that the clinical interns bring to our office each and every day. •

Student volunteer group forms

A "Students for Survivors" volunteer group was recently launched to help raise awareness and funds for SURVIVORS. Students build skills in advocacy, fundraising, and communications while learning about torture survivors in San Diego. For details, email Maren Dougherty, public affairs director, at mdougherty@notorture.org. •

Survivors of Torture, International's

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Molina Healthcare Honors Community Leaders

Molina Healthcare recognized Kathi Anderson, SURVIVORS' executive director, with a 2009 Community Champion Award on October 6, 2009. Awards are given to individuals and organizations that exhibit dedication "to improving the quality of life in the community they serve." •

Connect with SURVIVORS online

-> www.facebook.com/notorture
-> www.twitter.com/notorture

Women of Africa forum held in San Diego



SURVIVORS participated in the Women of Africa forum in November. The goals were to connect people who are working with women of Africa; explore times when their experience has been the most impactful; focus on conditions that make it possible for Africa's women to act as agents of social transformation; develop an understanding of the possibilities; and catalyze bold individual and collective action toward a better future.

New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof (fourth from right) participated in a breakfast with leaders who were honored in the Women of Africa Honor Roll that included SURVIVORS' executive director Kathi Anderson (third from right). •