



## eNews Update

Building a community of healing for survivors of torture.



Dear Friends,

Donate today to support  
Survivors of Torture  
International!

June is Torture Awareness Month, and June 26 is the United Nations Day in Support of Torture Victims - those who survived torture and those who died at the hands of their torturers.

With so many atrocities happening around the world and torture happening systematically in more than 100 countries, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless in the face of such violence. We must not forget that while we may not be able to stop all the evil in the world, we can take steps to help those who have survived torture. We can make a difference right in our communities one person at a time by creating welcoming communities that facilitate healing and help torture survivors rebuild their lives. This year's theme for June 26 is the right to rehabilitation. In 2012, the UN Committee Against Torture published [a General Comment on Article 14](#) of the Convention Against Torture, calling for as full rehabilitation as possible and includes that "a holistic approach to rehabilitation which also takes into consideration the strength and resilience of the victim is of utmost importance."

At Survivors of Torture, International (SURVIVORS), we are proud to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services for torture survivors living in San Diego, California. Asylum seekers receive medical and psychological documentation of their torture that helps them in their case for asylum, providing physical safety. Youth torture survivors navigate their feelings and their new surroundings with the help of therapists, ensuring that the effects of the torture will not be handed down through generations. SURVIVORS acts as family to those who feel most alone and abandoned.

I hope you will join us this month in voicing your support for torture survivors and for their rehabilitation:

- Join us in our social media campaign in honor of June 26, the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. [Download a sign](#), take your photo with it, and post it on [SURVIVORS' Facebook page](#), [SURVIVORS' Twitter page](#), your pages, and your representative's page.
- Help make a difference in the amount of funding to be appropriated to specialized torture treatment programs. If you live in California, please [contact Senator Dianne Feinstein](#), who is a member of the Appropriations Committee, to let her know that as her constituent, you would like her to support increasing the amount of funding to be appropriated for domestic torture treatment programs through ORR to \$16 million.
- Learn more about how SURVIVORS is helping torture survivors heal at one of our Journey to Healing tours.

Sincerely,  
Kathi Anderson  
Executive Director

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## **SURVIVORS Assisting Cajon Valley Schools with Refugee School Impact Grant**



**Cajon Valley Union  
School District**  
*Children Are First*

SURVIVORS has entered into an agreement to provide services at Chase and Meridian Elementary Schools within the Cajon Valley Union School District in El Cajon (a city in the eastern part of San Diego County). The district was the recipient of a Refugee School Impact Program grant through the Division of Refugee Assistance in the Office of Refugee Resettlement. The grant provides funding to assist with refugee youth's transition into our communities and educational system in the school districts that are most impacted by a large school-age refugee population. "We are very excited to provide services where they can have a big impact on these youth, which has a positive ripple effect on their families," said Kathi Anderson, executive director of SURVIVORS.

SURVIVORS is a sub-grantee and is currently in the pilot stage of the program. SURVIVORS' therapists and staff have been working in both schools once a week since April to work with the youth who have been identified as needing more support. An additional community partner and sub-grantee, YALLA, provides after school soccer activities and tutoring help. There are currently 100 children enrolled in the program, and SURVIVORS is working with approximately 20 youth a week, in small group settings. SURVIVORS' staff anticipates that some of the youth will be primary or secondary survivors of torture, and those youth and their families will be eligible for additional services from SURVIVORS as needed. More updates will be provided to you, our supportive community, as this exciting project continues this fall.

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## **SURVIVORS Joins San Diego Museum of Man in Taking a Stand Against Torture this Saturday, June 8**



Join us as we mark torture awareness month with a vigorous discussion of modern torture and the fight against it. SURVIVORS is partnering with PEN Center USA and San Diego Museum of Man to present Taking a Stand Against Torture, a reading and discussion by Larry Siems, director of Freedom to Write and International Programs at PEN American Center and author of The Torture Report.



Our own Dr. Julie Kuck, licensed clinical psychologist who works with SURVIVORS in providing psychological evaluations for our clients, will join in the discussion. Executive Director Kathi Anderson and Community Relations Manager Suzanne Bacon will also be in attendance.

Date: Saturday, June 8, 2013 - 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Event Location: San Diego Museum of Man in Balboa Park

The readings begin at 6:45 pm. A beer-and-wine reception will follow the discussion.

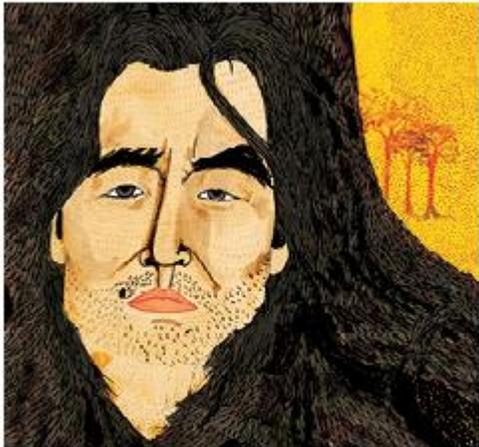
Location: San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101

Tickets: \$10. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

For more information, [please click here.](#)

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## Opens Thursday - SURVIVORS Partners with Mo'olelo Theater for "Extraordinary Chambers"



### Extraordinary Chambers

A Play by David Wiener

June 6 - 30, 2013

SURVIVORS is proud to be a partner organization for Mo'olelo's upcoming play written by David Wiener and directed by Seema Sueko. "Extraordinary Chambers" is the story of an American couple who travels to Cambodia for an innocent business trip, but become personally involved with Khmer Rouge survivors. The genocide, complicity, survival, greed and love collide in this play that shines a light on the Cambodian experience and asks how far are we willing to go to survive?

SURVIVORS is assisting the theater staff by providing information about the effects of torture. The cast of the play recently attended a Journey to Healing tour to help in the preparation of their roles.

On Sunday, June 9, SURVIVORS' executive director, Kathi Anderson, will speak after the 2 pm show.

**Support SURVIVORS when you purchase your ticket for any performance! Enter the code SURVIVORS online or mention SURVIVORS over the phone, and \$5 of each ticket will be donated to SURVIVORS. Tickets are going fast, so act quickly.**

The play will be showing from June 6-30, 2013, at Mo'olelo at The 10th Avenue Theatre, 930 10th Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101. For tickets and information, please visit [www.moolelo.net](http://www.moolelo.net) or call (619) 342-7395.

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### SURVIVORS Partners with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture



SURVIVORS is joining with the [National Religious Campaign Against Torture \(NRCAT\)](#), whose purpose is to "mobilize people of faith to end torture in U.S. policy, practice and culture." SURVIVORS will be participating in the efforts to urge Senator Dianne Feinstein to provide leadership to the Senate Intelligence Committee to release its 6,000 page report on CIA torture. By fully understanding what happened in the past, we can better prevent it from happening again in the future.

Many faith groups share common goals with SURVIVORS and support our work. If you would like to join us in this campaign, there are several things you can do:

- 1) Urge your congregation or faith group to show NRCAT's film "Ending U.S.-Sponsored Torture Forever" before June 30, 2013, [described here](#). Contact SURVIVORS for more information.
- 2) If you are a religious leader who would be willing to send a letter to Senator Feinstein to ask her to release the report, please [contact SURVIVORS](#) to get involved.

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### SURVIVORS Welcomes Erika Hess, Senior Mental Health Clinician



SURVIVORS is pleased to welcome Erika Hess to the our team.

Erika has her Master of Science in Counseling from San Diego State University and is licensed-eligible as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT). She also holds a B.A. from the University of Minnesota in Psychology, Family Social Science, and French Studies. Most recently she has been working with foster youth and adults with severe mental health concerns, but also has experience working with diverse populations around issues of drug addiction, domestic violence and homelessness. She speaks French, and worked in social services in Senegal. She has a particular interest in social justice, advocacy and the uses of narrative practice in mental health treatment. She also assists with instruction of a course in the San Diego State MFT program entitled, "Psychopathology: A Social Justice Approach." Erika will be coordinating individual therapy for clients, working with Cajon Valley Union School District's newcomers youth program, and assisting new clients at SURVIVORS.

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## Journey to Healing Tours



*"Thank you for such an inspiring tour. My guest and I learned so much about the programs and services offered by your organization." - Comment from a recent tour guest*

Our Journey to Healing tours continue to be a wonderful way to introduce or reintroduce people to SURVIVORS. Come meet our staff, volunteers, and hear from a client about how we are creating a safe haven for torture survivors, helping them to rebuild their lives, and building a welcoming community. See our map up close that shows the more than 80 countries where our clients were tortured in their home countries (above).

Our next Journey to Healing tours are **Thursday, June 6, 5:30-6:30 pm, Tuesday, June 18, 5:30-6:30 pm, and Wednesday, July 10, 5:30-6:30 pm.** [See the schedule for additional dates here.](#) We will not be asking for donations. We will welcome your feedback. Call our office at (619) 278-2400 or email us to reserve your spot today!

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## Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial are designated Choice Dollars that can be directed to SURVIVORS. If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/>, contact your local Thrivent Financial representative or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836). You can always call SURVIVORS for assistance as well (619) 278-2400.

## Ongoing Opportunities

**Get a Tax Benefit**  
 Donate a Vehicle to  
**Survivors of Torture, International**



- Any Vehicle, Anywhere
- Running or Not
- **Free**, Easy, Fast

Get a Tax Benefit and a big "Thanks" from us

www.notorture.org  
 877-999-8322

powered by  


Donate your car, truck, or RV to benefit SURVIVORS through the [V-DAC program](#).



**Combined Federal Campaign:** Federal employees can pledge some or all of their Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to SURVIVORS and talk up our work among your colleagues. **Our agency code is 24619.** We receive CFC donations from across the country, each of which really makes a difference in our ability to serve our clients!

**California State Employee Charitable Campaign:** State employees can pledge some or all of their California State Employee Charitable Campaign (CSECC) contributions to SURVIVORS and talk up our work among your colleagues. **Our agency code is 16890.**

### Support SURVIVORS through Ralphs!



SURVIVORS is registered with Ralphs' Community Contribution Program. If you shop at Ralphs and you register as a supporter of SURVIVORS, Ralphs will contribute to the organization every time you make a purchase.

To sign up or register again (which needs to be done each September), simply log on to the [Ralphs website](#), and click "enroll" under "participant." Our Agency code is **84761**.

**Social Networks:** Connect with SURVIVORS on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

**Goodsearch:** Support SURVIVORS by searching or shopping online through [Goodsearch.com](#)

**Recycle for SURVIVORS:** You can give your used cell phones, ipods, and other small electronics directly to SURVIVORS to recycle or resell through our online thrift

shop. Call us at (619) 278-2400.

***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.*

**Consider being a sponsor of our 2013 Helping Survivors Heal Fundraiser. [Contact us for more information.](#)**

Survivors of Torture, International  
P.O. Box 151240  
San Diego, CA 92175-1240  
Phone: (619) 278-2400  
Web: <http://www.notorture.org>

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