



Celebrating Progress and Renewing Commitment on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

As we mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June, the members of the United Against Torture Consortium reflect on the progress made in the first phase of our project. The Consortium, funded by the European Union and launched on 26 June 2023, comprises the [Association for the Prevention of Torture \(APT\)](#), the [International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims \(IRCT\)](#), the [International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture \(FIACAT\)](#), [REDRESS](#), [Omega Research Foundation](#), and the [World Organisation Against Torture \(OMCT\)](#).

In the first three years of our partnership, the UATC has worked to strengthen and expand the anti-torture movement by pooling our collective expertise in torture prevention, protection, rehabilitation and strategic litigation. Learn more in our [2023-2026 Impact Report](#).

As we showcase some highlights from our work over the past six months, consider our collective impact, and look forward to a new phase as a Consortium, we are particularly inspired by the achievements of our 200 national partners, working with us to fuel the global fight against torture. We thank you, our partners and friends, for your support of our cause. But most of all, we honour all survivors of torture and other ill-treatment, and their families, around the world. The courage and inspiration of so many survivors who rebuild their lives, speak out on behalf of human rights, and support others is the foundation of everything the Consortium has achieved, and everything it will.

[READ OUR STATEMENT](#)

OUR IMPACT



Support to survivors: €2.2 million in financial and technical support was distributed to more than **200 organisations in 67 countries**, supporting over **12,000 survivors**.



Legal and policy wins: We achieved **39 legal victories** achieved, securing or advancing accountability and justice for over **57,000 victims across 25 countries**.



Survivor engagement: Launch of the historic **Survivors' Charter at the UN** in Geneva at a packed event **with the UN Special Rapporteur and 15 State representatives**.



Rapid crisis response: Over **2,200+ survivors in Bangladesh, DR Congo, and Israel/Palestine** received psychological and therapeutic support.



Awareness raising: More than **100 videos** featuring the voices of survivors and others confronting torture were produced in multiple languages, reaching over **nine million people** online and through and youth-led initiatives.



Movement building: **90 activities** to strengthen the capacity of National and Local Preventive Mechanisms, with **760 participants across 40 countries** in Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, and Europe.

IN FOCUS



Launch of the Historic Survivors' Charter at the UN

Developed by 43 torture survivors from 36 countries, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and more than 100 survivor organisations led by UATC



Africa's Model Law Against Torture

The Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa, APT, and FIACAT organised the first regional civil society consultation on the draft African Model Law Against Torture to

members, the groundbreaking Charter puts survivors' perspectives and experiences at the forefront of the UN human rights agenda.

[Read more](#)

discuss guarantees for detainees, prevention mechanisms, and greater alignment with regional and international human rights standards.

[Read more](#)



Global Torture Index 2026

On 25 June, OMCT and partners unveiled the 2026 edition of the Global Torture Index, now covering 39 countries and measuring the risk of torture through an interactive digital platform and data visualisations.

[Read more](#)

Advancing Accountable Policing of Protests

The UATC advanced accountable policing through a new UN complaint recognising excessive police force as torture. A complaint on behalf of a young Western Saharan human rights defender highlights severe injuries suffered during peaceful protest repression. We combined strategic litigation with rehabilitation and survivor-centred support.

[Read more](#)



Advocating for a Torture-Free Trade Treaty

The member States of the Alliance for Torture-Free Trade made a joint statement to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. This statement coincided with an advocacy mission to the UN, where civil society - including Omega - called on States to end the trade in tools of torture and to support a legally-binding Torture-Free Trade Treaty.

[Read more](#)

Protecting LGBTI+ Detainees from Torture in Latin America

UATC supported the third International Congress of Corpora en Libertad, meeting in Guatemala City, bringing together grassroots organisations, human rights defenders, State authorities, and international mechanisms to lay out a roadmap for ending torture of LGBTI+ persons in detention across Latin America.

[Read more](#)

MOVEMENT CORNER



Preventing Torture in Detention in Africa

ACAT Côte d'Ivoire and FIACAT, with the support of UATC, held an African regional conference in late May 2026, bringing together experts, civil society organisations, and institutions to discuss the prevention of torture in detention in sub-Saharan Africa.

[Read more](#)



'Look, Resist, Transform'

Survivors of eye injuries from torture in protest in 10 countries met in Bogota, Colombia for a first of its kind survivor-led international conference, attended by UATC, to declare 18 March the International Day Against Ocular Violence and demand global action against police abuse of so-called less-lethal weapons.

[Read more](#)



How Gen Z is Reshaping Resistance in Police Brutality

Across East Africa, Gen Z activists are transforming responses to torture and police brutality through digital mobilisation, legal literacy, and grassroots advocacy. Kenyan human rights lawyer Anne Kavutha Mutua, a UATC Innovative Lawyers Awards recipient, explains how young people are expanding pathways to justice and accountability.

[Read more](#)

Prevention and Rehabilitation of Torture in Bangladesh

UATC and ODHAKAR convened a National Consultation on the Prevention of Torture and the Implementation of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT) in Dhaka with politicians and civil society. National partners received in-person workshops on stress management from specialists at UATC's partner in Nepal.

[Read more](#)

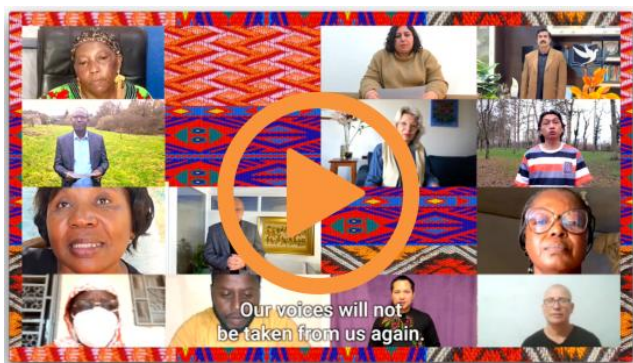


Supporting CSOs to Reduce State Violence and Increase Accountability

Omega funded partners in seven countries working to address state violence and lack of accountability in their country. We supported training police in the Gambia, rehabilitation in Lebanon, as well as projects in Argentina, Chile, Kenya, the Philippines, and Serbia.

[Read more](#)

WATCH



'Our Voices Will Not Be Taken From Us Again'

Watch and hear survivors of torture speaking, individually and together, the words of the Charter they wrote, a unique and powerful statement that demands to be heard - not only by State actors responsible for torture, but by everyone whose job it is to uphold human rights.



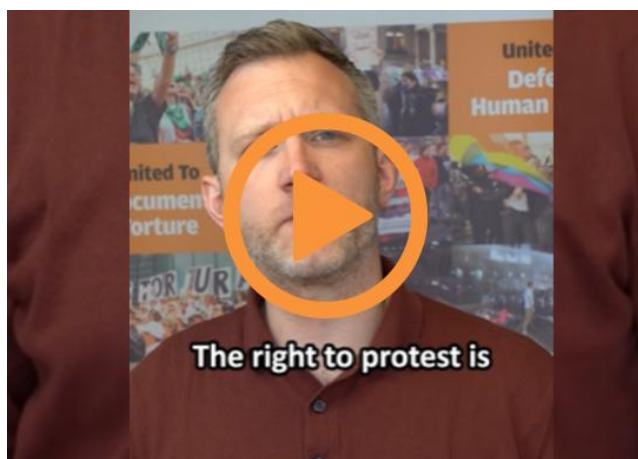
'Humans Are Meant To Be Together'

OMCT speaks with UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Assembly and Association Gina Romero about why the rights to peaceful assembly and association matter - and how their suppression, often through torture and ill-treatment, is becoming a global crisis.



The less lethal weapons industry is global

During the First International Meeting of Survivors of Ocular Violence, organised by UATC partner the International Center for Research on Ocular Violence (CIIVO), a new survivor-led research group based in Bogota, Omega exposes the global industry in weapons used to harm protesters.



Monitoring the Right to Protest

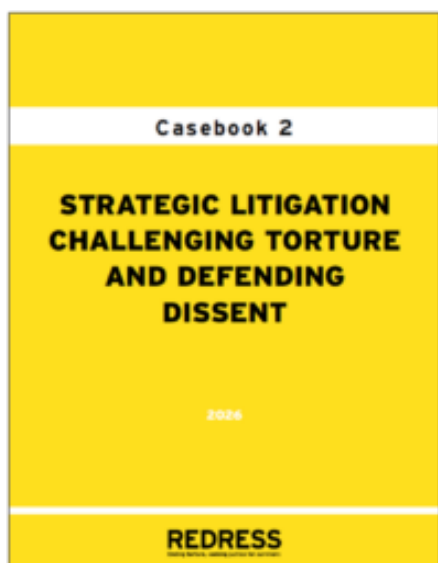
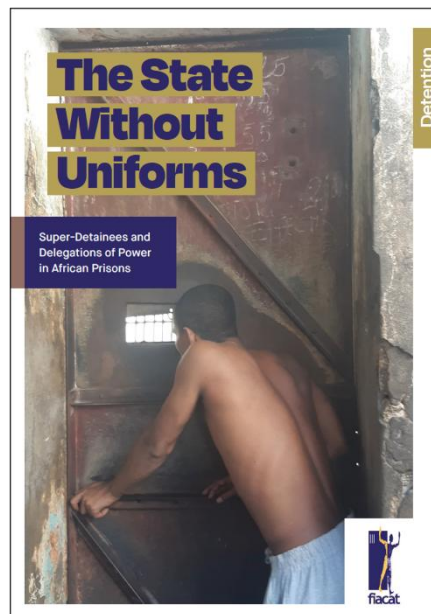
The UATC introduces our joint guidance note, 'Challenging Repression', exploring the importance of monitoring the misuse of police weapons at protests.

PUBLICATIONS

The State Without Uniforms

FIACAT has published a study on informal governance in African prisons, analysing the delegation of authority to certain detainees, which is linked to prison overcrowding and insufficient staff, and examining the State's responsibility in this mechanism.

[Read the study](#)



Challenging Torture and Defending Dissent

REDRESS launched a second strategic litigation casebook spotlighting 26 cases where torture was used to silence dissent. Covering protesters, journalists, human rights defenders, environmental defenders, and political dissidents, it offers practical legal strategies to challenge repression and defend fundamental freedoms and rights worldwide.

[Read the Casebook](#)

Building Reparation Pathways for Survivors in Bangladesh

REDRESS and BLAST published briefing papers examining reparation pathways for survivors of torture linked to Bangladesh's 2024 uprising. One examines survivors' needs and experiences, while the other assesses gaps in existing mechanisms. IRCT and BLAST published a documentation report on the urgent unmet rehabilitation needs of survivors.

Read the reports [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)



New translations: Challenging Repression: A Guide to Addressing the Misuse of Police Weapons in Protests

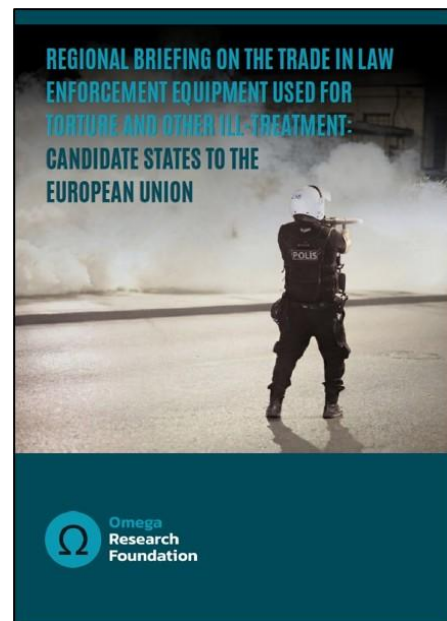
“Challenging Repression”, a practical tool from UATC to help monitors safeguard the right to peaceful assembly, was published towards the end of 2025. We are pleased that the guide is now available in Arabic, English, Spanish, and French.

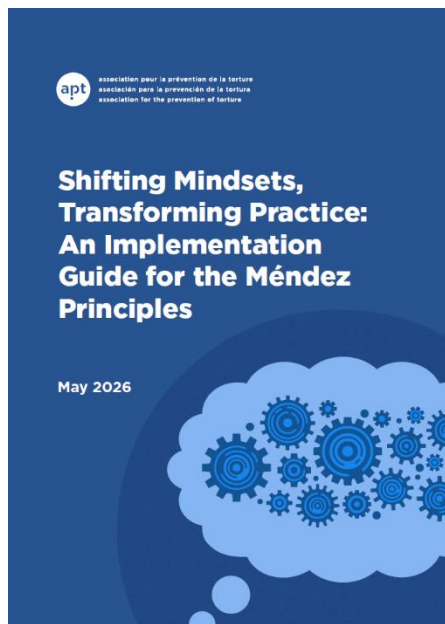
[Download the updated Guide](#)

Briefing to EU Candidate States on Torture Free Trade

New research exploring States in the process of joining the EU and their relationship to the trade in tools used for torture. Omega and partners continue to call for strict controls on the trade and use of law enforcement equipment that can be used for torture and other ill-treatment.

[Read the briefing](#)





Méndez Principles Implementation Guide

APT has published a concise guide supporting States and other relevant stakeholders in the effective implementation of the Méndez Principles

[Download the Guide](#)

This newsletter was written in collaboration with the United Against Torture Consortium (UATC) and our network members. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the UATC and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



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the prevention
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