



association for
the prevention
of torture

- **Annual Report**
2015

- Founded in 1977 by Jean-Jacques Gautier



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Message from the President



The year 2015 was rich in activities and advances in the prevention of torture, as you will see from reading this annual report. I would, however, like to dedicate this message to those who implement APT projects rather than to the projects themselves.

As is the case in many institutions, the strength of the APT lies primarily in the quality of its operational team members. This team is actually quite small and totals no more than about twenty people at the *Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier* in Geneva and four in our Regional Office for Latin America based in Panama. However, it is not the size but rather the diverse backgrounds and skills of its staff and the strength of their commitment, responsibility and teamwork that characterise the APT Secretariat. Above all, it is the ability of the staff to work in partnership with local stakeholders and to meet their capacity-building needs that helps to advance prevention initiatives in different regions of the world. Naturally, the composition of the Secretariat team changes from time to time. In 2015, for example, Sylvia Diniz Diaz left the Office in Panama to return to Brazil, while Audrey Olivier Muralt re-joined us to run the Regional Office for Latin America. These changes are invariably positive

because APT is an excellent visiting card. The organisation can therefore count on the support of a solid network of former colleagues.

Having a team that works together towards the realisation of a common goal - moreover in a congenial atmosphere - also depends on good leadership. In this regard, Mark Thomson has been doing excellent work as the head of the APT Secretariat over the past 15 years. It is thus with great joy and pride, but also a feeling of deserved recognition, that we celebrated the Honour of Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, awarded to him by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. Much more than a medal, the Order is a mark of recognition for his commitment, optimism and unwavering faith in a better world. While the Order's motto *Auspicium Melioris ævi*, or token of a better age, is a fitting tribute to Mark, it applies just as much, or even more so, to the APT as a whole. Indeed, the motto encompasses our efforts to build a future and an environment free of the scourge of torture. This goal is ambitious, as was the vision of the founder of the APT, Jean-Jacques Gautier.

We are all proud of the APT and its staff who strive day after day towards achieving this goal. They deserve our recognition and support and we can never thank them enough. This message is an opportunity to do so and also to express my thanks to my fellow APT Board and Council colleagues, who also provide such essential support.

Martine Brunschwig Graf
President

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Protecting the vulnerable



All persons deprived of their liberty are vulnerable to possible abuse of their rights and dignity. Preventing those abuses requires a heightened understanding of the vulnerabilities that they face and experience. Discriminatory practices, social prejudices and unequal

access to remedies and justice can make certain groups in detention, such as migrants, women, LGBTI persons, disabled, the poorly educated and minorities, vulnerable to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment that can sometimes amount to torture.

In 2015 we took steps to expose some of these vulnerabilities and provide relevant information and advice for those with the potential and responsibility to better protect them and prevent abuse. We launched, in 2015, our Detention Focus Database. This provides up to date standards and advice on issues and groups in situations of vulnerability in detention, with the practical possibility of cross-checking the issue with particular groups e.g. solitary confinement and women. The online tool has already proved to be very popular, especially with persons monitoring places of detention. It is a perfect example of how a specialist organisation such as the APT can provide relevant and useful information in a globally accessible manner.

To develop our own expertise and ensure we provide quality advice we usually bring together a variety of experts to help us develop specific solutions and appropriate policies to better address the vulnerabilities of groups in detention. In 2015 we focussed on LGBT persons in detention by convening an international symposium in Geneva, followed by briefings of regional and international human rights bodies, to develop an understanding of the vulnerabilities of LGBT in detention. This has led to increased attention on the issue, along with requests to the APT for papers in human rights journals and reports from National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM) of steps they have taken to address the matter.

As National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI), whether Ombudspersons Offices or Human Rights Commissions, also have an important role in preventing torture and other ill-treatment, we have successfully completed, in 2015, multi-year training projects for NHRIs in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe, in which the focus of particular vulnerabilities in detention was highlighted. Furthermore, with NHRIs and NPMs we put a spotlight on areas of potentially high risk of ill-treatment such as the first hours of police custody and pre-trial detention, which in Africa amounts to 35% of the prison population.

Cooperation through regional bodies or networks produced positive results in 2015. For example: the OSCE appointed a Torture Prevention Advisor based in their Warsaw offices; the African network of NHRIs adopted a declaration in Yaoundé on steps they will take to prevent torture; the South East Asia Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) opened considerations on how they could contribute to protecting the rights and dignity of persons in detention; and the Latin American NPMs exchanged

information and opinions in a confidential on-line forum of dialogue, set up by the APT.

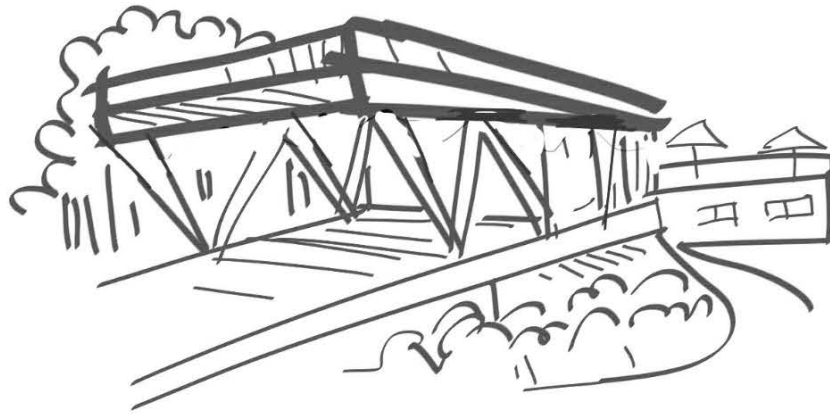
The global preventive system, as promoted by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), also required some extra protection and promotion in 2015. The APT was obliged to take public positions on some incidents that undermine the effective functioning of NPMs. However, there are also many positive stories to be told. We arranged for national partners in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Panama, Paraguay and Senegal to share their visions of a torture free world, in short video-clips, for the Special Rapporteur on Torture's 26 June initiative. The launch of a joint exhibition on torture with Amnesty International and IRCT, at the UN in New York, on Human Rights Day - 10 December, is another example of our strategy to engage more in public debate to strengthen commitments to a world free from torture.

This also requires us to maintain our advocacy on ratifications and implementation of the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol. We were pleased to produce a "Ratification Tool" for the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) and we campaigned with other NGOs to ensure that appropriately qualified experts were elected to the Committee against Torture. After years of lobby work we welcomed the OPCAT ratifications of Belize, Mongolia, and Rwanda and we were active on supporting NPM establishment in Chile, Gabon, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Rwanda and Tunisia.

Once again our annual report presents not only the work of the APT but also our partners in all regions of the world. Thank you for your interest, support and solidarity with the APT and our partners. Together we can prevent torture.

Mark C.A. Thomson CMG OBE, Secretary General

2015 in figures



Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier, Geneva

25 staff members in Geneva and in Panama.

OPCAT - the torture prevention treaty

80 States Parties

64 National Preventive Mechanisms

New States Parties in 2015: Mongolia, South Sudan, Rwanda and Belize.

Highlights of APT's work within our four strategies for prevention of torture

Monitoring places of detention

41 National Preventive Mechanisms

directly benefited from our trainings and technical and legal support.

10 designation processes

for National and Local Preventive Mechanisms supported. Following ratification of the OPCAT, we assisted States to designate their monitoring bodies, through advocacy, advice and stakeholder consultations.

Laws and polices against torture



29 submissions and statements

to UN and regional bodies, of which 20 concerned individual countries. We provide backgrounds and briefings in relation to thematic reports, country visits, treaty bodies and to the Universal Periodic Review.

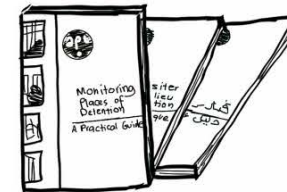
Capacity strengthening and interactions

560 persons trained

We trained NPMs, NHRIs, judges, parliamentarians, police officers and staff in international organisations from 35 different countries on detention monitoring and other key aspects of torture prevention.



Public policy debates



8'900 publications

downloaded from our website. 1'500 copies of APT publications were ordered by our partners and 900 guides, manuals and brochures distributed at trainings and events worldwide.



80 articles and blogs published on our website.

30 % increase

in website users and 44% increase in Facebook and Twitter followers.

NHRIs: Putting torture prevention in focus

The APT has long emphasised the important role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the prevention of torture. In 2015, we worked with NHRIs in **Morocco**, **Turkey**, the **Philippines**, **Mongolia**, and **Rwanda** on their designation as the National Preventive Mechanism, following ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in these countries.

In both Asia-Pacific and Africa we have implemented major projects over the past years to strengthen the torture prevention capacity of NHRIs. In 2015 we were encouraged to see that, as a result of

this engagement, these regional networks for NHRIs decided to put torture prevention in focus, demonstrating an ongoing commitment to the issue on the part of the networks and their members.

Within these ongoing, multi-year projects we worked with NHRIs in a range of thematic areas, chosen by the institutions themselves. These included a bilingual workshop in **Rwanda** on reducing the overuse of pre-trial detention for 25 African NHRIs; and, for 15 Asian NHRIs, a workshop in the **Philippines** on investigating allegations of torture, and a workshop in **Malaysia** on monitoring

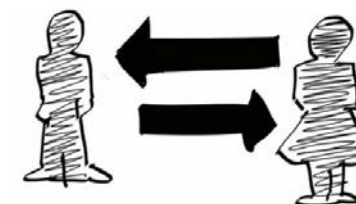
immigration detention. In 2015, we also continued the joint APT/APF **Torture Prevention Ambassadors** project, working with 9 representatives of NHRIs from around the Asia-Pacific to develop innovative torture prevention projects within their institutions. The projects will be finalised and presented in 2016.

Our longstanding partner, the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF), chose torture prevention as the central theme of its biannual meeting, organised in **Mongolia** in August. Later in the year, the Network of African NHRIs (NANHRI) did the same thing for their biannual conference, which took place in **Cameroon**. A major achievement during this conference was the adoption by the 44 member NHRIs of the ground-breaking Yaoundé Declaration on torture prevention in Africa. This 15-point declaration is a commitment to monitoring of places of detention, investigating allegations of torture, training public officials, and reducing the high numbers of pre-trial detainees.

Each NHRI committed, through the declaration, to appoint a focal point for issues of torture and to advocate for ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Torture and its Optional



Joint APT-IOI workshop on torture prevention for ombuds-institutions in Riga, Latvia, in June.



121 members and staff

from National Human Rights Institutions participated in our trainings on torture prevention. 51% of participants were women.

Protocol. The meeting participants also proposed that **25 April** each year will be recognised as **Pre-Trial Detention Day in Africa**.

The Association of French speaking Human Rights Commissions also chose a relevant theme for their 5th annual meeting, in **Senegal**. Focusing on NHRIs and monitoring places of detention, including vulnerabilities in detention, the meeting was an opportunity for APT and francophone NHRIs to share good practices and discuss challenges in this area.

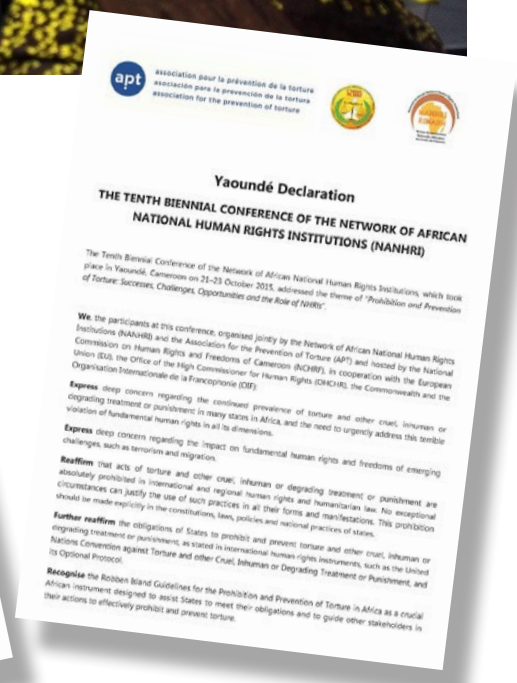
In addition to our work with the African and Asian networks, 2015 also saw us deepen our cooperation with the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI). Together with the IOI we convened a workshop, in **Latvia**, on "Implementing a preventive mandate". For the first time, the workshop exclusively involved representatives of 21 ombuds-institutions, mainly European, that have been designated as NPMs. It enabled participants to share their specific challenges and opportunities and proposed the introduction of a new change perspective in their preventive work.

“National Human Rights Institutions have played an essential role in the prevention and fight against torture on the African continent.”

S.E. Ms Françoise Collet,
Head of EU delegation, Cameroon



Participants at the NANHRI Biennial Conference in Cameroon in October.



Americas: Supporting effective NPMs

In 2015, we saw important developments regarding the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) in Latin America. The first Caribbean country, Belize, ratified the treaty and became the 15th State party in the Americas.

Many challenges remain, however, to ensure that National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) are fully independent, adequately resourced and equipped to fulfil effectively their monitoring mandate to all types of places of deprivation of liberty.



Participants in a workshop which took place in Brasilia in February.

Thanks to sustained joint advocacy by international and national actors, including APT, the Congress in **Peru designated** the Ombudsperson's Office as **NPM** in December. The new law broadens the powers of the institution to undertake its NPM mandate. A real commitment from the Government is still needed to ensure adequate financial and human resources to the mechanism.

In **Panama**, the Government and non-governmental actors involved in the drafting of the **NPM legislation**

reached an agreement to create a new institution as NPM. The bill was discussed throughout the year and is now pending introduction before Congress. APT has offered regular technical advice to ensure that the text complies with all requirements under the OPCAT.

In **Chile**, during an APT advocacy mission in August, the Government, including the President of the Republic herself, committed to take steps to **establish an NPM** ahead of the planned visit by the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture in 2016. We trust that this visit will contribute to raising further awareness on the need for independent



136 participants

benefited from our trainings in the Americas region, including National and Local Preventive Mechanisms, judges and penitentiary staff.

regular monitoring of detention in the country and, therefore, result in concrete action to establish the NPM and grant it with the necessary legal basis and adequate resources.

After years of continuous advocacy, the **NPM of Brazil** was **established** and started its work in April. The mechanism consists of a multidisciplinary team of independent experts with professional backgrounds in law, social sciences, psychology, medical forensics and philosophy. The APT conducted a first training on monitoring methodology – including a visit to a place of detention – as a basis for the institution to define its working methods and guidelines. Since then, the federal NPM has visited prisons, mental health institutions, juvenile detention centres, military prisons and drug addiction rehabilitation clinics in six Brazilian states and made public its recommendations to the authorities. However, for torture prevention to be effective in the country, each state now needs to establish its Local Preventive Mechanism (LPM).

The states of **Rio** and **Pernambuco** already have operational mechanisms and, in fourteen other

states, significant steps have been taken towards establishing such local mechanisms. Although those numbers show the increased engagement on OPCAT nationwide, many challenges persist to secure the political will of local governments to prioritise and apply resources on torture prevention. As part of its advocacy, APT convened a national meeting with key stakeholders from 13 states, to coordinate advocacy strategies and discuss guidelines for the creation of OPCAT compliant torture prevention mechanisms. The APT also contributed, with expert advice, to the visits to Brazil by UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Méndez and by the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.

“*The prevention of torture is a shared responsibility between the state and civil society, as the main tool for strengthening democracy and respect for human rights.*”

Carlos Portillo Esquivel,
President of the NPM of Paraguay

In Central America, APT continued to support the capacities of the **Honduran** NPM, including through training on detention monitoring with a specific focus on women deprived of liberty. We also participated in the public launch of the local prevention committees in the municipality of El Progreso, an innovative initiative developed by the NPM to extend its coverage to other regions in the country.

In Honduras, we also contributed in April to the second part of an exchange between the French



Photo: Ximena Navarro

In August, the APT delegation met with the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet.

and Honduran NPMs. Similarly, we participated in a Central America NPM exchange and led the preparation of a joint prison visit, which included NPM members from **Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua**.

Following our OPCAT Regional Forum in 2014, which gathered for the first time NPMs and LPMs from all of Latin America, the APT launched in 2015 an **online**

exchange platform for them, to share practices and consult each other on issues of relevance to their mandate. During these first months, discussions included how to address certain groups in situation of vulnerability (LGBTI persons and elderly persons) and the role of NPMs in handling individual complaints.

Africa: Giving priority to national implementation

With the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) by Rwanda and South Sudan, there are now 15 States Parties in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite the progress made in the region, the implementation is still facing many challenges. Indeed, only seven States have designated their National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), of which very few are operational. Discussions on OPCAT implementation was therefore given priority at the regional level, in the context of the annual meetings of the networks of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) and of French speaking National Human Rights Commissions.

“*There is real progress in the fight against torture in Senegal. ... The problem is not eradicated, but we can see the impact of awareness raising activities.*”

Diène Ndiaye, Président
of Amnesty International Senegal

To effectively prevent torture, NPMs need strong detention monitoring skills, particularly in the methodology of preparing, conducting and following up on visits. We therefore continue to support one of the few operational NPMs in Africa - the National Observer of Places of Deprivation of Liberty of **Senegal** - to strengthen its detention monitoring capacity. In February, we assisted the NPM with a training on **monitoring police and gendarmerie detention facilities**, with a specific

focus on protection of persons in situations of vulnerability. This training aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills to analyse the situation in these particular places of detention, identifying possible risks of torture and ill-treatment and making relevant recommendations for improvement of conditions of detention. The training was also a response to the recommendations given by the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, following its visit to Senegal in December 2012. The Senegalese Observer also participated in the APT Jean-Jacques Gautier Symposium on LGBT in detention, which contributed to raise awareness about an issue that is still considered a “taboo” in Senegal.

Following up to a seminar on the implementation of the OPCAT in francophone African countries which took place in Paris in June 2014, Gabonese authorities asked the APT for technical **support in the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism**, a requirement under the OPCAT, which



15 African States

in Sub-Saharan Africa were parties to the torture prevention treaty OPCAT, and 7 had designated their National Preventive Mechanism. New ratifications in 2015: Rwanda and South Sudan.

Gabon ratified in 2010. Together with the Ministry of Human Rights we therefore organised a national seminar on the establishment of an effective NPM, on 23-24 June 2015, in Libreville. The meeting brought together some 40 participants, including representatives of the police, relevant ministries, prison services, psychiatric hospitals, the Parliament, the judiciary and civil society. Participants discussed a draft text of legislation to create the NPM, and adopted a roadmap for the next steps in this process. A multidisciplinary follow-up committee was appointed, with the mission to support the Ministry to advocate and raise awareness among relevant authorities and facilitate the NPM



Boubou Diouf Tall, National observer of places of deprivation of liberty in Senegal (right) and Nadja Künzle from the Swiss National Commission for the Prevention of Torture (left), participating in the APT Jean-Jacques Gautier Symposium on vulnerabilities in June.

establishment process. The committee will also work on the finalisation of the law. The Gabonese authorities have given themselves a deadline until June 2016 to have an operational NPM.

Similarly, **Rwanda**, which ratified the OPCAT in June 2015, started its NPM establishment process. At the end of the year, the APT was invited to a national OPCAT workshop, to facilitate the discussions and share experiences from other countries in regard to NPM models and options.



Middle East and North Africa: Assisting emerging NPMs

The OPCAT ratification by **Morocco** in November 2014 increased to four the number of State Parties in the Middle East and North Africa region. APT's work in 2015 therefore focused on National Preventive Mechanism designation and establishment processes in **Mauritania**, Morocco and **Tunisia**.

Tunisia is still in the process of transition to democracy and was the target of three terrorist attacks in 2015. This may explain the delay in implementing the law creating a new institution as NPM, adopted in October 2013. The issue of implementation of the law and the role of the different national actors was therefore the theme of a one-day conference in Tunis, co-organised with international partners and with the support of the Parliament. The Parliament relaunched the call for application for candidates to the new NPM. 143 applications were received in October 2015, covering the different professional categories required by the law. At the end of 2015, the selection process of NPM members was in the hands of the Parliament. In 2015, the APT also conducted a mapping of the different actors involved in torture prevention and a study on the coherence of the monitoring system in Tunisia, in view of enabling emerging bodies, including the future NPM, to be as effective and well coordinated as possible.

In **Morocco**, a national debate on NPM establishment was co-organised with the National Human Rights Council (CNDH) in Rabat in May gathering different actors, including civil society and NPMs from other regions. A consensus seemed to have emerged around the designation of the CNDH as NPM.



Workshop on NPM designation in Morocco in May.

Discussions raised the concrete modalities of the integration of this new mandate within the CNDH, in terms of legal basis, resources and the conduct of monitoring. Discussions on the implementation of the NPM mandate continued during the year with the CNDH, in Geneva and Morocco.

The debates around the NPM options in **Mauritania** took a new route in spring 2015, when the Government eventually proposed the creation of a new body composed of 11 members. The law was officially promulgated in November 2015 and the selection process should start early 2016. The APT provided expert advice during this process. During the Universal Periodic Review, Mauritania efforts on OPCAT implementation were recognised and the importance of the NPM establishment reaffirmed.

Europe and Central Asia: Cooperating for change

In 2015, the APT primarily focused on **strengthening the capacity and effectiveness** of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) throughout the Europe and Central Asia region. We also increased our efforts on preventing torture and ill-treatment in particularly risky environments, moments and circumstances, such as police custody.

Following their designation, the APT facilitated discussions on the implementation of the NPM mandate of the Ombuds institutions in **Finland** and **Greece** and we met with the **Turkish** National Human Rights Institution. We also contributed to training of new monitors of the **Austrian** NPM.

“*They have been into thousands of prisons, police cells, psychiatric wards, immigration detention centres, now even onto removal flights, places where people can so easily be forgotten, but where the CPT says: no matter who you are, no matter what you did or didn't do, you have a basic right to live free from torture...***”**

Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni,
Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General

An OSCE seminar in June further allowed us to discuss the need and means for effective cooperation between National Human Rights Institutions as NPMs and civil society and other key stakeholders in their torture prevention work. In the Europe and Central Asia region 30 of the 39 NPMs are part of Ombuds institutions. We therefore organised a specific high level meeting for Ombuds institutions designated as NPMs **in the OSCE region** to discuss the implementation of their mandate through strategic planning and cooperation for change.

Furthermore, we actively cooperated with international and local NGOs, including with the Civic Solidarity Platform in the OSCE region, to jointly advocate with States and regional institutions for enhanced support to achieve effective NPMs.



Detention monitoring training for police officers in Tajikistan in December.

24 States in the EU



had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture by December 2015.

The APT also participated in dialogue and exchange of experiences with the pilot detention monitoring group in **Tajikistan**, composed of representatives from the Ombuds-institution and civil society. In December 2015 we held a training on safeguards in detention and the need for effective monitoring for members of the police and the Tajik pilot detention monitoring group, to address the high risk of torture and ill-treatment in the first hours of police custody.

In May 1990, the **European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT)** conducted its first monitoring visit, to Austria. The creation of the CPT was the first step of the APT and its founder Jean-Jacques Gautier in achieving the vision of a system for independent monitoring of places of detention. **25 years** later, in March 2015, the Council of Europe organised a conference to review the CPT's work and standards on issues such as health care in prison, solitary confinement or juveniles, and to discuss with other stakeholders, including several NPMs.

Asia-Pacific: Seizing opportunities for advocacy

In 2015, **Mongolia** ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and became the sixth OPCAT State Party in the region. APT's focus remained on designation of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs).

In the **Philippines**, the efforts to designate the NPM continued. The consultative process started in 2012. In conjunction with the first visit of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) to the Philippines, we supported national partners to take advantage of the presence of the international experts in their country to accelerate the **NPM designation process**. In collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and the United against Torture Coalition we organised a programme to sensitise national stakeholders on the SPT visit. The NPM Bill, proposing the creation of a new body attached to the Human Rights Commission, was filed in the Senate at the end of 2015.



76 police officers

participated in a pilot training on the Convention against Torture, for law enforcement officers in Indonesia.

The APT has engaged with stakeholders in Mongolia to raise awareness on the importance of preventing torture and ill-treatment since 2005. In cooperation with the National Human Rights Commission and civil society we have advocated for the OPCAT as a way to strengthen oversight of places of detention. In February 2015, **Mongolia ratified the treaty** and we therefore intensified our efforts when the country was up for its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May to advocate for the designation of the National Preventive Mechanism. The biannual

conference of the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs, held in Mongolia, represented another opportunity for advocacy on OPCAT implementation.

At the UPR of the **Maldives**, several States raised **concerns** about attacks on the National Human Rights Commission, which is also the NPM. In 2014, all five Commissioners were accused of high treason for the submission of a report to the UN Human Rights Council. Although they were eventually acquitted of the accusations, a Supreme Court's ruling in 2015 includes guidelines for communicating with international organisations – which undermine the independence of the Commission.



Agar-Erdene Gankhuyag from the Mongolian National Human Rights Commission during a workshop in Mongolia in August.

Advocating for strong frameworks against torture

In 2015, 39 States had yet to ratify the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT). Many are small island States in the Caribbean and Pacific, who have made a commitment to the international community to consider ratification as part of their Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the UN Human Rights Council.

The APT continued to advocate for ratification of the Convention in a number of States, by conducting research and preparing briefing materials to help State actors answer questions on ratification and

to overcome domestic challenges. We met with delegations from multiple States, including [Fiji](#), [Jamaica](#) and [Myanmar](#), on issues relevant to UNCAT ratification. The APT also authored an [UNCAT Ratification Tool](#), published by the Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI), an inter-State initiative working towards universal ratification and more effective implementation of Convention obligations by 2024. We continue to offer technical expertise to the CTI Secretariat and to friends of the Initiative, to assist with shared objectives.

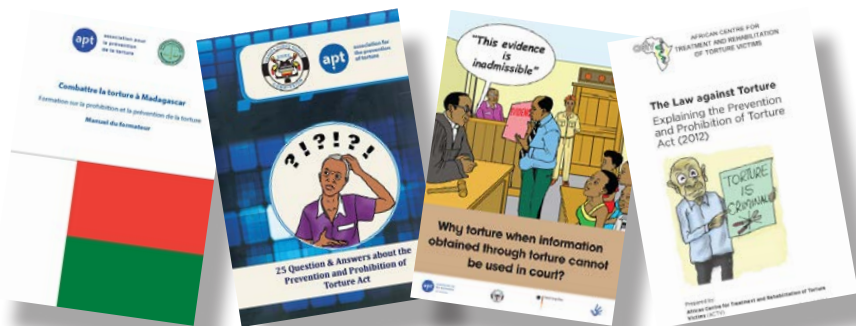
In 2015, the APT also continued to provide advice on how the UNCAT may be transposed into national law, by drawing lessons from other States. In [Morocco](#), an APT-commissioned study about the jurisprudence on torture – a crime in the penal code since 2006 – was conducted by a research partner and discussed at a study day in February. During the year, we also provided comments on the draft law to the government of [Mexico](#) and legal advice to partners in [Chile](#), [Lebanon](#) and [Paraguay](#).

The APT continues to engage multiple UN bodies and mechanisms on questions relevant to the prevention of torture. In 2015, the APT offered advice and information to the UN Committee against Torture on priority countries and thematic issues, such as the use of torture-tainted confessions, and the risk of ill-treatment for vulnerable groups. We sent briefing notes with suggested recommendations to permanent missions in Geneva on a number of priority countries under review at the UPR. In New York, we provided information on international law and standards in preparation of the biennial resolution on torture, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 2015. Finally, the APT provided briefings to the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture before his visits to [Brazil](#) and [Georgia](#) and contributed to his consultation on gender and torture.

In [Madagascar](#) and [Uganda](#), we have worked for several years to support the adoption and implementation of national anti-torture legislation. In 2015 we published a five-module [training-of-trainers manual on the prohibition and prevention of torture](#) in Madagascar. We also supported the Uganda Human Rights Commission to produce a series of publications and posters on the anti-torture law.



In January we participated in the World Congress of Juvenile Justice, contributing to a session on prevention of institutional violence.



Obtaining confessions remains one of the principle causes for torture. In **Nepal**, since 2013, the APT together with Advocacy Forum is implementing a project with police, prosecutors, judges and lawyers to promote more effective policies on the **exclusion of information obtained through torture from the criminal justice process**. In 2015 we completed a multi-year data collection exercise on the use of confession evidence, which will be used to demonstrate where national policies in Nepal must demand a more effective rejection of evidence obtained by torture and accountability for abuse.

In **Indonesia**, we have collaborated with the Directorate General of Human Rights, at the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, to develop a **training-of-trainers manual on the Convention against Torture for law enforcement officials**. This project went into its final phase in 2015. A group of 16 trainers were identified and trained in Jakarta, before conducting their pilot trainings for law enforcement officers in the provinces of Balikpapan and Lombok. These provinces were selected based on an assessment of needs of support in addressing the issue of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention. This initiative is

one of the first examples of APT’s collaboration with law enforcement and governmental agencies in the region, demonstrating a national endeavour that is fully sustained by local stakeholders, combined with our technical facilitation.

“When implementing the Convention against Torture and its Protocol, the journey is as important as the destination.”

Malcolm Evans, chair of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture



10 draft laws

We provided comments and advice on anti-torture and NPM laws in ten countries.



Training on the Convention against Torture for law enforcement officers in Indonesia in November.

Engaging regionally against torture

After our extensive involvement with the **Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)** in 2014, we were encouraged to see that torture prevention was given priority by several key OSCE institutions in 2015. It was the topic of one of the meetings of the OSCE Human Dimension Committee and the APT was invited to contribute to the discussions on ways ahead for the organisation. As a result of the continued and joint efforts, the OSCE created a new position of Adviser on Torture Prevention, within its Office

for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. The adviser took up the position in October, with the mission to coordinate and enhance the OSCE's torture prevention work in the coming years.

The OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit put, for the first time, the prevention of torture on the agenda of its annual meeting. This provided an opportunity for the APT to discuss the **need for mainstreaming torture prevention** into all police-related activities with OSCE's field representatives.

We continued our engagement with the Civic Solidarity Platform, a network of civil society organisations in the region, and participated in a conference on torture and enforced disappearances, in the drafting of recommendations to the OSCE on the issue and the following discussions at the December 2015 Parallel OSCE Civil Society Conference.

“OSCE participating States have unequivocally committed themselves to preventing and eradicating the use of torture under all circumstances.”

Michael Georg Link,
Director of the OSCE Office for
Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

In July, the **European Union** adopted its new Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. This guidance for the EU's external action for the years 2015-2019 makes **combatting torture**, ill-treatment and the death penalty **one of its seven priority human rights challenges** - following active advocacy of the APT and its NGO partners in Brussels. The EU also held, for the very first time, a training course on combatting torture for the human rights focal points of its delegations abroad, where the APT participated as trainer on prevention.

In South-East Asia, the APT's on-going engagement with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** Intergovernmental Human Rights Commission (AICHR) was further strengthened in



Workshop on prevention of torture in the ASEAN region, which took place in Bali in August.

2015. In August 2015, a regional workshop in Bali gathered 50 high-level participants to discuss further interest and commitment to prevent torture and ill-treatment. This meeting also marked the APT's fruitful cooperation with the Indonesian Representative to AICHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia and the Convention against Torture Initiative. At the end of the workshop, participants agreed that AICHR, as the regional human rights mechanism, should take the lead in further regional endeavours on preventing torture, through stronger cooperation and joint, innovative strategies inspired by good practices from other regions.



60 meetings and conferences

We contributed with our expertise to a variety of national, regional and international meetings and conferences on human rights around the world. 11 of these events were organised by the APT.

New ideas after APT fellowship

Gatot Goei first came in contact with the APT in 2008, when he participated in a UN-event in Geneva. Inspired by APT's work and methods to prevent torture, he went back to Indonesia and founded his own organisation, the **Center for Detention Studies**. The CDS is today a well-established think-tank on detention issues, and has been given access to monitor all prison facilities in **Indonesia**.

In 2015, Gatot returned to Geneva as APT's second Asia-Pacific Fellow, for a period of four months.

"It has been extremely useful to spend this time with APT in Geneva. I now have some clear ideas about what my organisation needs to do next. I want to continue to develop our detention monitoring programme and to build cooperation with the parliament. This will be important for a future ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and for the anti-torture law.

The APT really has a unique way of thinking globally and long-term about the prevention of torture. It has changed my perspectives. I realise how important it is to have ideas and be creative and to build broad international cooperation. The APT has also opened my eyes for the perspectives of working regionally. I think we should definitively involve ASEAN more in human rights work."



Gatot Goei at the Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier during his fellowship at the APT in Geneva.

Addressing vulnerabilities in detention

Lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons in detention are particularly exposed to discrimination, abuse and even torture. Throughout the year, we therefore endeavoured to keep their situation high on the agenda of key stakeholders and to give greater visibility to their fate.

To this end, in June we organised the second **Jean-Jacques Gautier Symposium** addressing vulnerabilities in detention – dedicated to the issue of LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty. This international meeting gathered 13 National Preventive Mechanisms from different parts of the world, as well as other experts from civil society,

State officials and regional and international bodies monitoring places of detention.

We also addressed the dire situation of LGBTI detainees in Latin America in the first ever hearing on the topic before the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** (IACHR) in Washington in October. This was done together with *Almas Cautivas*, a Mexican NGO which defends the human rights of trans women in prison, the Ombudsman's Office for Federal Prisons of Argentina and the LGBTI focal point of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT). The IACHR expressed its serious concerns about how LGBTI persons are treated in detention centres of the region and urged the American States to adopt appropriate public policies to address their specific needs.

Together with the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) we were invited to brief both the SPT and the UN Committee against Torture during a closed session in Geneva in November on the **situation of LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty**. The two treaty bodies are already working to address this issue, but the APT encouraged them to be more systematic and collaborative in their approach. Also in November, we presented our work on LGBTI issues to the "Rainbow Cities Network" – a



were represented among the participants in our training courses on detention monitoring and other aspects of torture prevention.

network of mostly European cities concerned with LGBTI policies – during an event hosted by the city council of Geneva.

Raising awareness about **other groups in situation of vulnerability** remained a strong priority throughout 2015, notably regarding women deprived of liberty. Together with Penal Reform International and Bristol University, we held a Summer School on 'Preventing torture and ill-treatment of female detainees through **gender-sensitive monitoring**', for representatives of NPMs. In **Honduras**, we organised a public event to raise awareness on international standards on women in detention, highlighting the so called Bangkok Rules and their importance to prevent torture.

In **Panama**, an agreement between the Ministry of Interior and the APT in 2013 led to the development and implementation of a **module on torture prevention for the Penitentiary Academy**. The module will be integrated into the Academy's permanent curricula and it is expected to benefit



Ari Vera Morales from the NGO *Almas Cautivas*, during the IACHR Hearing on LGBTI detainees in Latin America, which took place in Washington in October and in which the APT participated.



Article published in the Swiss newspaper *Le Temps* on the occasion of the APT's Jean-Jacques Gautier Symposium on addressing vulnerabilities of LGBT persons in detention (5 June 2015).

teachers, new prison staff and those deprived of their liberty. The module has been designed by the APT, in consultation with the academy's teachers, and included a focus on the vulnerabilities of women and LGBTI persons. The work with the Academy, which concluded in December, has involved a training of trainers approach with theoretical classes to teachers and the production of methodological tools. Based on the work done in Panama, APT will publish a **teacher's guide on torture prevention** that we expect to be used by other penitentiary academies in the region.

As a side event to an **OSCE** meeting in Warsaw, the APT facilitated a panel discussion between detention monitoring and anti-discrimination experts. The discussion highlighted the need to improve existing practices of detention monitors, detaining authorities and other stakeholders in the

region to provide effective protection to all, and examined how to encourage synergies between **anti-discrimination and torture prevention** actors in the region, and how the OSCE could assist in this regard.

Effectively **monitoring immigration detention** provided particular challenges for detention monitors in Western and Eastern Europe in 2015. We provided expert support to NPMs from the South-East European NPM Network, at a conference dedicated to the topic in Tirana in October. We also continued our support to members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in their initiatives to monitor immigration detention at a national level, as allowed by their mandates as parliamentarians.



Training on torture prevention at the Penitentiary Academy in Panama.

“The LGBT population is especially vulnerable in prison because they form a minority... That makes their needs and the violation of their human rights even more invisible. Outside, this population already suffers from stigma and transphobia and [this is] enhanced inside the prisons with the complication that such abuses are not subject to public scrutiny.”

Maria Santos, Ombudsperson for Federal Prisons (NPM), Argentina

Detention Focus: New database on prison issues

In 2015 we launched a new online resource. Detention Focus is a **database of key issues related to prison**. It provides users with in-depth analysis, relevant international and regional standards, useful tips for monitors, as well as a targeted bibliography on each subject matter.

The database includes issues such as solitary confinement, inter-detainee violence, food and water, health care, body searches and staff recruitment. Developed from a **monitoring and human rights perspective**, its purpose is to cover the whole spectrum of problematics that exist or may exist in all prisons across the globe.

It was essential for the APT that Detention Focus gives a **prominent place to groups in situations of vulnerability in detention**: women, children, persons living with a disability, LGBTI persons, minorities and indigenous people, and foreigners, due to the specific risks of abuse, ill-treatment or discrimination that they face. The database filters

allow refinement of the search, with the possibility for users to combine a specific issue with a group in situation of vulnerability.

Although Detention Focus is primarily intended for specialists, such as members of monitoring bodies, officials working in the penitentiary system or training schools and experts from civil society, it is also a resource for judges, parliamentarians, the academia as well as relatives of detainees. The **variety of users since the launch** has proved that it is of a broader interest.

Detention Focus is a living tool and was regularly updated throughout the year.



The English version of the Detention Focus database was first presented in February, while the French version was launched in September 2015. Since its launch in February until the end of the year, the database had more than 6000 visits from 153 countries.

“ Thank you again for creating this tremendous resource! I’ve shared with my ACLU colleagues and they are all very excited about it! You have given us a very powerful tool.”

Amy Fettig, ACLU, National Prison Project

“ ACAT Togo would like to congratulate the APT for the creation of this database. We are planning to use it as a check-list during our monitoring.”

Bruno Germain Haden, Secretary General ACAT Togo

“ Congratulations on the new 'Detention Focus' database: very nicely put together and potentially a very useful tool.”

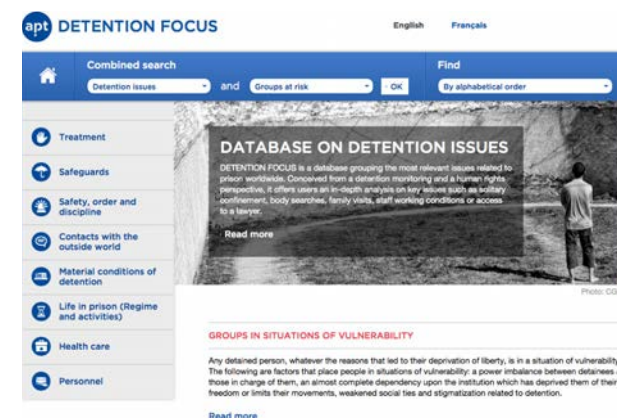
Sharon Shalev, Research Associate, University of Oxford

“ We visited the APT’s new database on prison issues and find it very well organised and very useful for our future work. We already found some good argumentation on [certain issues], which we could use for making recommendations for prisons.”

Jelena Unijat & Jelena Jelić, Serbian NPM

“ I would like to share with you the deep interest we found in the database which you developed. It is very easily accessible, in user-friendly language and will be a daily tool for our work, which we will share with all our visitors.”

Bernard Bolze, Prison Insider



Contributing to public debates against torture

Over the past few years, the APT has strengthened its efforts to make meaningful contributions to public debates on torture, both at national and international levels. We believe that we have a role to play in speaking out against and countering arguments that seek to justify the use of torture. This seemed more important than ever in a year marked by significant set-backs in the respect for human rights and dignity. We particularly focused on strengthening reporting and social media outreach at national levels, in close collaboration with local partners and in connection with our events.

While the global torture prevention system gains ground, there is also an increasing need for vigilance against any attempts to undermine it. One such serious development was a Supreme Court ruling against the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, which impedes the right of the National Preventive Mechanism to communicate freely with international bodies, including the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. This has serious implications for the OPCAT mandate. In Brazil and Argentina we issued statements after worrying personal attacks against members of monitoring bodies, demanding prompt investigation by authorities.

In 2015, we also participated in a number of events to discuss the wider role and impact of torture prevention. Such as the Glion Human Rights Dialogue, to discuss ways to strengthen the impact of the UN Human Rights Council. APT's Secretary General was also invited as an expert to Wilton Park, a UK-based think tank, to further the reflection on the role of prevention in combating torture.



Financial situation and institutional development in 2015

In 2015, for the second consecutive year, the APT completed its fiscal year with **balanced accounts**, reflecting the vigilance exercised by the organisation to ensure sound financial management.

To achieve this, in a year during which the Swiss franc soared, the APT Secretariat and Bureau strengthened **internal controls** and **budget monitoring** by conducting regular situation reviews throughout the year.

In an international context marked by the intensification of conflicts that have led to the exodus of entire populations, the international community has tended to bolster its support to address the migration crisis through emergency aid while reducing its contributions to human rights issues. Despite the reaffirmed support of its major donors, the APT regards this trend as a threat and anticipates more or less long term difficulties linked to this situation.

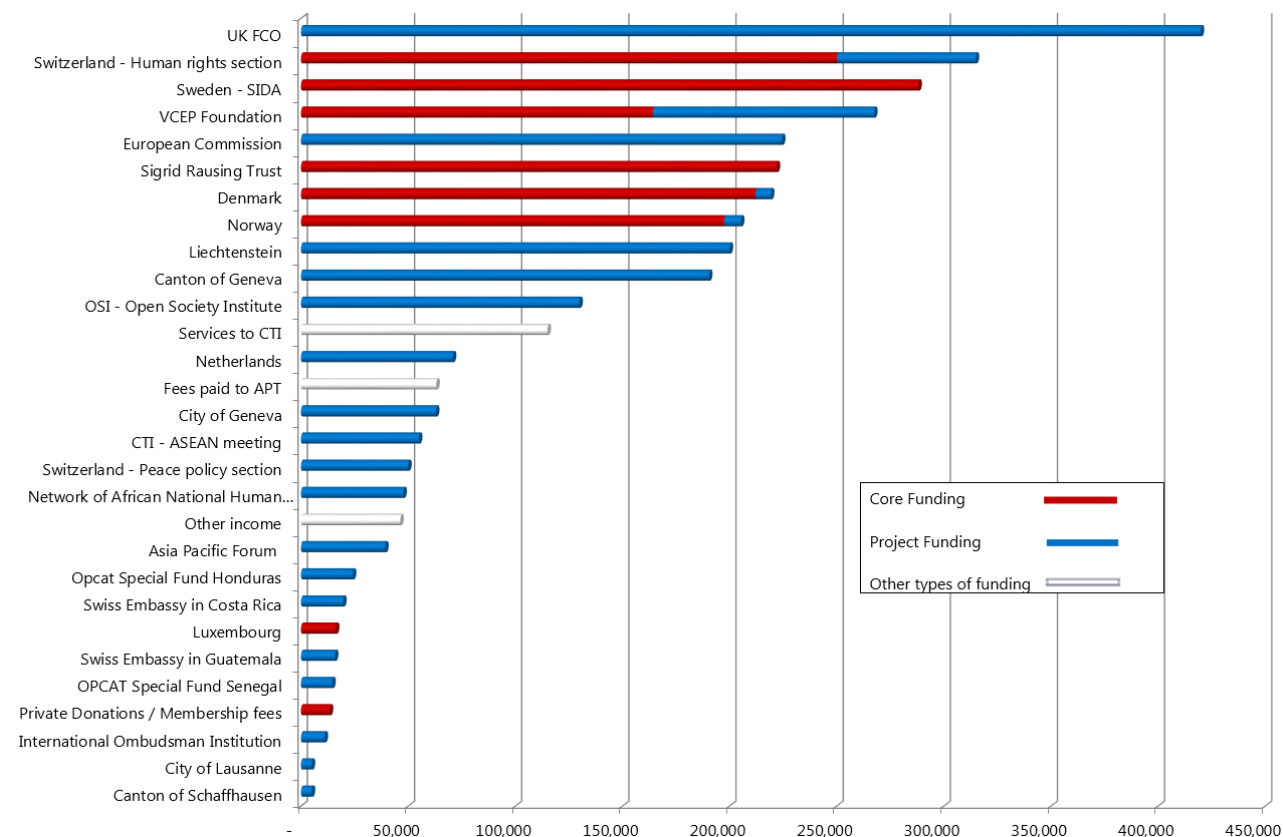
It is for this reason that APT continued work in 2015 aimed at **diversifying its sources of income**. This means not only increasing the number of donors but also the types of contributions made as more and more partners support the APT by funding certain operational costs or by providing both allocated and unallocated financing. Two concrete examples of this type of support were recorded in **Brazil** and **Thailand**. The first, without granting subsidies to the APT, nevertheless supported the updating of its practical guide on "Monitoring places of detention" for Brazil and financed most of the movements of APT's national delegate based in Rio de Janeiro. **Thailand**, for its part, covered the cost of holding an APT seminar at the end of the year, including accommodation expenses.

The year 2015 coincided with the end of APT's Strategic Plan 2013-2015. Implementation of the plan enabled the APT to conduct a systemic analysis of the status of preventive action against torture in order to identify the changes needed to reduce the risks of its occurrence and to define the position of the organisation so as to make it as influential as possible. This work has resulted in a **new four-year**

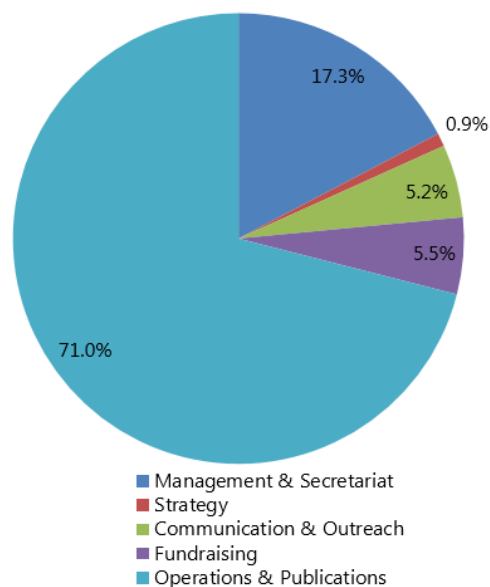
strategic plan presented in the form of an "Agenda for Change".

For this agenda to be implemented effectively over the long term, the APT needs the commitment of all of its partners. This is why the organisation also relies on donors to support this new strategy, in both a financial and a strategic manner.

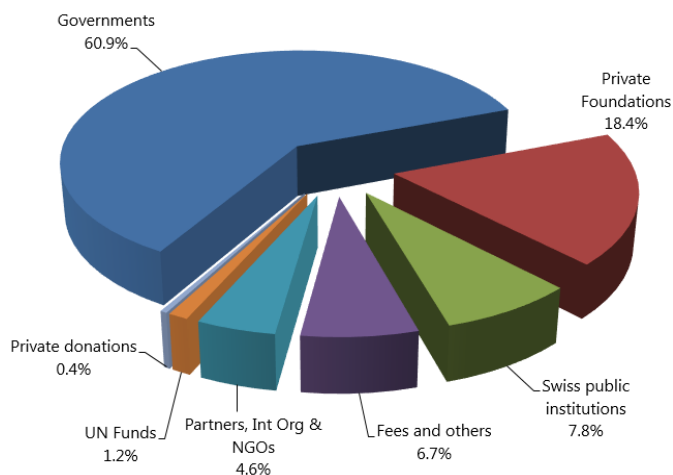
Income in 2015



Expenses in 2015



Who are our donors?



Operating Accounts and Balance Sheet 2015*

Income 2015	CHF
Restricted	
Foreign governments	713'481
Swiss government	408'569
Private foundations	233'185
Other subsidies	405'139
Total restricted income	1'760'374
Unrestricted	
Foreign governments	713'800
Swiss government	250'000
Private foundations	386'015
Other subsidies	11'710
Other income	72'553
Services to CTI	164'615
Total unrestricted income	1'598'693
Total Income	3'359'067

Expenditure 2015	CHF
Operations	(1'973'449)
Communication and Outreach	(518'609)
Management and Secretariat	(586'399)
Policy and Strategy	(31'874)
Research Project	(236'535)
Depreciation of fixed assets	(133'960)
Total Operating Expenditure	(3'480'826)
Operating Result	(121'759)
Banking fees and exchange rate difference	(8'578)
Result before change in funds	(130'337)
Allocation to restricted funds	(1'760'374)
Use of restricted funds	1'915'734
Net decrease in restricted funds	155'360
Result 2015	25'023

Assets	CHF
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	775'754
Accounts receivable	118'114
Accruals and other current assets	19'587
Total current Assets	913'455
Fixed assets	
Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	2'994'456
Office material	28'090
Furniture and fixture	96'591
IT hard and software	2'651
Total fixed Assets	3'121'788
Total Assets	4'035'243

Liabilities and Wealth	CHF
Short term Liabilities	
Income received in advance	311'661
Liabilities Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	5'835
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf loan, short term part	144'000
Other liabilities	86'047
CTI current account	223'435
Total short term liabilities	770'978
Long term Liabilities	
Fondation Pro Victimis	200'000
Fondation Hans Wilsdorf loan, long term part	72'000
Total long term liabilities	272'000
Restricted Funds	
Restricted funds on ongoing projects	190'834
Restricted funds Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	2'660'915
Total restricted funds	2'851'749
Wealth	
Reserve Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	261'967
Other reserves	90'000
Balance brought forward	(236'474)
Result of the year	25'023
Total Wealth	140'516
Total Liabilities and Wealth	4'035'243

* as in annual audited accounts accessible on our website

APT Staff in 2015

Mr Mark Thomson, Secretary General
 Ms Barbara Bernath, Chief of Operations
 Ms Sylvia Diniz Dias, Director, Regional Office for Latin America, Panama *(until May)*
 Ms Audrey Olivier Muralt, Director, Regional Office for Latin America, Panama *(from June)*

Mr Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Detention Advisor
 Mr Benjamin Buckland, NHRI Advisor
 Ms Eva Csergö, Europe & Central Asia Programme
 Ms Rosita Ericsson, Communications
 Ms Catherine Felder, Administration
 Ms Veronica Filippeschi, OPCAT Programme
 Ms Mireille Gheryani, Administration
 Ms Paola González, Administrative Assistant, Regional Office for Latin America
 Ms Anja Härtwig, Publications
 Ms Isabelle Heyer Frigo, Americas Programme
 Ms Anne Lardy, Legal and Advocacy Advisor
 Mr Adrian Moore, Web and IT Manager
 Ms Claire Nevache, Project Officer, Regional Office for Latin America
 Mr Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Africa Programme
 Ms Sylvie Pittet, Administration
 Ms Anna Rottenecker, Fundraising
 Mr Matthew Sands, Legal and Advocacy Advisor
 Ms Esther Schaufelberger, Middle East & North Africa Programme *(until July)*
 Ms Yasmine Shams, Middle East & North Africa Programme *(from November)*



APT staff and Board during the Board meeting of November 2015 in Geneva (from left to right): Krassimir Kanev, Mark Thomson, Anna Rottenecker, Susan McCrory, Yasmine Shams, Jean-Sébastien Blanc, Anja Härtwig, Mike Kellet, Erika Schläppi, Catherine Felder, Martine Brunschwig Graf, Klaus Belzer, Barbara Bernath, Jean-Baptiste Niyizurugero, Manfred Nowak, Suzanne Soukoudé, Gatot Goei, Romain Zappella, Isabelle Heyer Frigo, Adrian Moore, Eva Csergö, Anne Lardy, Rosita Ericsson, Jehaan Mahmood. *(absent from the picture: Benjamin Buckland, Sylvia Diniz Dias, Veronica Filippeschi, Mireille Gheryani, Paola González, Audrey Olivier Muralt, Claire Nevache, Sylvie Pittet, Matthew Sands, Esther Schaufelberger, Maria-José Urgel, Shazeera Zawawi)*

Ms Maria-José Urgel, Deputy Director, Regional Office for Latin America
 Mr Romain Zappella, Fundraising
 Ms Shazeera Zawawi, Asia-Pacific Programme

Delegates

Sylvia Diniz Dias, APT National Delegate in Brazil *(from June)*

Asia Pacific Fellowship

Gatot Goei, Indonesia

Interns & Temporary Staff

Maud Correnti, Eline Goovaert, Anna Sanchis Ferrer, Vaishali Sharma



The outgoing and incoming Directors of the APT's Regional Office for Latin America: Sylvia Diniz Dias (left) and Audrey Olivier Muralt (right).

APT Board and Advisory Council in 2015

President

Ms Martine Brunschwig Graf, Switzerland

Vice-President and Treasurer

Mr Renaud Gautier, Switzerland (*until October*)

Treasurer

Mr Klaus Belzer, Switzerland (*from November*)

Board members

Mr José de Jesus Filho, Brazil

Mr Krassimir Kanev, Bulgaria

Mr Michael Kellet, UK

Mr Jacques Lederrey, Switzerland

Ms Jehaan Mahmood, Maldives

Ms Ottavia Maurice, Switzerland / Italy

Ms Susan McCrory, UK

Mr Manfred Nowak, Austria

Ms Monica Pinto, Argentina

Ms Mervat Rishmavi, Palestine

Ms Erika Schläppi, Switzerland

Ms Suzanne Soukoudé, Togo

Mr Walter Suntinger, Austria

The APT Board is elected for 3-year periods by the General Assembly.

Honorary members

Ms Catherine Gautier, Switzerland

Mr Marco Mona, Switzerland

Advisory Council

Ms Maggie Beirne, Ireland / UK

Ms Silvia Casale, UK

Mr Malcolm Evans, UK

Mr Nejib Hosni, Tunisia

Mr Marco Mona, Switzerland

Mr Bacre Waly N'Diaye, Senegal

Ms Maggie Nicholson, UK

Mr Jean-Pierre Restellini, Switzerland

Ms Paz Rojas, Chile



Mark Thomson, Secretary General of the APT, with Monica Pinto, APT Board member, who was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and prosecutors in 2015.

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Exhibition on the fight against torture

On Human Rights Day, 10 December 2015, we were very pleased to open the exhibition "Torture – the International Outlaw", in the Visitor's Lobby at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

This exhibition, a joint project between Amnesty International, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and APT, shows the history of the fight against torture. Through a powerful narrative, the exhibition illustrates the concrete steps that strive to make the global ban on torture a reality — by establishing measures for prevention, ensuring that there is justice, redress and rehabilitation for victims, as well as the fight against impunity.



Photos: UN/Michael Kandell

Who we are

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) is an independent non-governmental organisation based in Geneva, working globally to prevent torture and other ill-treatment.

The APT was founded in 1977 by the Swiss banker and lawyer, Jean-Jacques Gautier.

Since then the APT has become a leading organisation in its field. Its expertise and advice is sought by international organisations, governments, human rights institutions and other actors. The APT has played a key role in establishing international and regional standards and mechanisms to prevent torture, among them the **Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture**.

Vision and Mission

The APT's vision is a world free from torture where the rights and dignity of all persons deprived of liberty are respected. Its mission is to enable actors worldwide to effectively prevent torture and ill-treatment.

To achieve this, the organisation works within four coherent strategies, that we believe are both necessary and effective in the prevention of torture and ill-treatment:

- **Promote transparency and monitoring of places of detention** to reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.
- **Advocate for legal and policy frameworks** so that torture and other forms of ill-treatment are criminalised and prevented in law and in practice.

- **Strengthen capacities of torture prevention actors and facilitate interaction** to foster the identification and replication of good practices in detention issues.
- **Contribute to informed public policy debates** so that torture can be universally rejected.

Status

The APT is recognised by the Swiss authorities as a non-profit association. The work of the International Secretariat in Geneva is supervised by an international Board, elected by the Annual General Assembly.

The APT has consultative status with the United Nations, the African Union, the Organisation of American States and the Council of Europe.

APT's Regional Office for Latin America was granted the status of "International Organisation" by the Panamanian government in 2013.

Funding

The APT is funded by individual donations, charitable foundations, governments and inter-governmental agencies (which are listed on page 20 of this report). However, the APT insists on its independence with regard to policy, strategy and priorities.

Awards

The APT is a recipient of the following awards:

- President of Tunisia Solidarity Award, 2012
- Chico Mendes Prize, Brazil, 2007
- Human Rights Prize of the French Republic, 2004
- Prize of the Foundation for Geneva, 2004





association for
the prevention
of torture

APT International Secretariat

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