TORTURE IS A WEAPON AGAINST DEMOCRACY: HOW THE UNITED STATES IS WORKING TO END TORTURE GLOBALLY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013
8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

GEORGETOWN LAW
GEWIRZ STUDENT CENTER, 12TH FLOOR
600 NEW JERSEY AVENUE NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

We encourage you to follow @cvt_staff on Twitter and live tweet from the symposium using hashtags #26June and #Right2Rehab.
Torture is a fundamental assault on the basic pillars on which democracy is built – including rule of law, human dignity, civic participation, and good governance. As it is defined internationally and in the United States, torture entails the deliberate infliction of severe physical or psychological pain or suffering at the instigation or acquiescence of a public official. By engaging in torture or being complicit in the practice, governments create a climate of fear that undermines rule of law and suppresses civic engagement.

Recognizing that the effects of torture can last a lifetime and even affect future generations, the United States has taken a lead role in contributing to the rehabilitation of torture victims around the world, particularly refugees. Torture survivors often suffer multiple disabling conditions, including chronic pain, extreme anxiety, sleep disorders, depression, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that interfere with even the most basic functions of daily life. Each year, specialized rehabilitation programs help tens of thousands of survivors heal from their deep wounds and rebuild their lives by providing psychological, medical and social assistance, legal aid and financial support. These programs provide critical mental and physical health interventions while furthering the U.S. foreign policy goal of promoting democracy through helping establish and reinforce a climate of respect for the rule of law, good governance, vibrant civil society and respect for human rights.

When the United States engaged in torture and degrading treatment in its counterterrorism operations post-9/11, it provided justifications for oppressive regimes and other governments to do the same against innocent civilians. Prior to these developments, the United States was seen as a global leader in combatting torture and promoting human rights. By engaging in the very practices it condemned, the United States damaged its credibility as a global human rights leader. To regain its moral authority and once again be a leader in the promotion and protection of human rights, the United States must reconcile its own history of torture.

Since 1998, the world has recognized June 26 as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, with hundreds of events taking place worldwide to commemorate torture victims. This year, there is renewed vigor to mark the day with a solemn commitment to stop the universally condemned practice. As journalists often fear reporting in Pakistan, ordinary citizens fear demonstrating in Syria, political dissidents fear speaking out in Burma, Christians fear practicing their religion in North Korea, and women fear going about many ordinary activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there is still much work to be done to eradicate torture. By promoting civil society, protecting religious freedom, guaranteeing freedom of the press, ensuring free and fair elections, and fostering the rule of law, democracies make a commitment to the protection of basic human rights. In word and action, the United States has committed itself to these basic principles at home and to promoting them abroad.
AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 A.M. – Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 9:30 A.M. – Welcome & Introductions

- William Treanor, Dean of Georgetown Law School
- Eric Schwartz, Dean of Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota
- Curt Goering, Executive Director of the Center for Victims of Torture

9:30 – 10:00 A.M. – Opening Keynote & Presentation of 2013 Eclipse Award

- Keynote: The Honorable Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

10:00 – 11:30 A.M. – Panel 1: Torture’s Assault on Fundamental Pillars of Democracy

- Daniel Baer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
- Omar Bah, Journalist from The Gambia
- Ambassador Mark P. Lagon, International Relations and Security Chair at the Master of Science in Foreign Service Program, Georgetown University
- Jennifer Windsor, Associate Dean for Programs and Studies at the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

11:30 – 11:45 A.M. – Break

11:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M. – Panel 2: Building Trust and Establishing or Restoring Democratic Institutions: Why Survivor Rehabilitation Matters

- Lorne Craner, President of the International Republican Institute
- Sarah E. Mendelson, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict & Humanitarian Assistance
- Juan E. Méndez, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Margaret Pollack, Director for Multilateral Coordination and External Relations, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees & Migration
- Paula Schriefer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs

1:15 – 2:30 P.M. – Lunch Discussion: International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

- The Honorable Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) (invited)
- Eric Schwartz, Dean of Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota
2013 ECLIPSE AWARD RECIPIENT
SENATOR PATRICK J. LEAHY

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy is the senior United States Senator from Vermont. He has been serving in the United States Senate since 1974.

Senator Leahy has long been a leader in support of the protection of refugees, promotion of human rights, prevention of torture, and efforts to ensure survivors of torture have access to rehabilitative care, including through U.S. State Department and USAID programs and through U.S. contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

Among his many notable achievements, Senator Leahy has been the author and/or lead sponsor of several important pieces of anti-torture and human rights legislation. In 1997, Senator Leahy authored an amendment to the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act (known as the Leahy Law), which prohibits U.S. assistance to foreign security forces when there is credible evidence that units or individuals have engaged in gross human rights violations, including torture. He authored the Refugee Protection Act in 2001 and introduced amended versions of the bill in 2010, 2011, and 2013. He was the lead Democrat sponsor of the Torture Victim Protection Act of 1991, providing a civil cause of action for isolated incidents of torture or extrajudicial killing committed by individuals acting in an official capacity for any foreign nation, and a co-sponsor of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 2007, authorizing federal funding for torture rehabilitation programs. In 2009, Senator Leahy called for the creation of a bipartisan congressional commission to examine flawed national security policies that led to the torture and mistreatment of detainees at the hand of United States personnel post-9/11.

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Senator Leahy ranks first in seniority in the Senate and is the President Pro Tempore. He is the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Chair of the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee.

A graduate of Saint Michael's College in Colchester (1961), he received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center (1964). Senator Leahy is married to Marcelle Pomerleau Leahy. They have a daughter, two sons, and five grandchildren. The Leahys live on a tree farm in Middlesex, Vermont.
**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

**Daniel B. Baer** is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, serving in this position since November 23, 2009. His portfolio for the Bureau includes the Office of East Asian Pacific Affairs, the Office of African Affairs, the Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs and the Internet Freedom Office.

Prior to joining the Department of State, Dr. Baer was an Assistant Professor of Strategy, Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business, where he taught business ethics to MBA and undergraduate students. In 2007-2008, he was a Faculty Fellow at the Edmond J. Safra Foundation Center for Ethics at Harvard University. From 2004-2007, Dr. Baer worked at The Boston Consulting Group where he was a Project Leader and provided strategic advice to leaders in the corporate, government, and non-profit sectors. A Colorado native, Daniel Baer holds doctoral and masters degrees in international relations from the University of Oxford, where he was a Marshall Scholar. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in social studies and African American studies.

**Omar Bah** is a journalist from The Gambia who resettled in the U.S. as a refugee in May 2007. Mr. Bah was arrested several times and tortured by the dictatorial regime in The Gambia as a result of his writings. He eventually fled when the regime declared him ‘WANTED’ leaving behind his wife of just two months. He has now re-united with his wife and the two live in Providence, Rhode Island. They now have two sons. Mr. Bah represents the state of Rhode Island at the UNHCR Refugee Congress that meets annually in Washington, D.C. Mr. Bah works as the community outreach coordinator of West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation. Since his resettlement in the United States, he has been a strong advocate for the cause of refugees and people in deprived communities. He has spearheaded the campaign for fair housing for refugees, better refugee resettlement practices, and against the bullying of refugee children in schools.

Together with some fellow refugees, Omar founded the Center for Refugee Advocacy and Support (CenRAS), a Rhode Island based organization through which former refugees support and serve newly arriving refugees. CenRAS runs a successful afterschool/youth mentoring program, including organizing refugee community meetings geared towards addressing challenges confronting refugees in the state of Rhode Island. Omar holds a BA in Communication Studies with a minor in Political Science from the University of Rhode Island. He has a certificate in community economic development from Roger Williams University where he is expected to graduate with an MA in Public Administration in December this year. In May 2013, he graduated from Harvard University (through the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma) with a certificate in Global Mental Health: Trauma & Recovery. Omar is the author of the upcoming book, Africa’s Hell on Earth, a memoir chronicling his experiences and escape journey.

**Lorne W. Craner** has served as the President of the International Republican Institute (IRI) since 2004, a position he previously held from 1995-2001, working to
strenthen IRI’s democracy assistance programs in Burma, China, Colombia, Kenya, and Tunisia, among other countries. He previously served as Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor under Secretary of State Colin Powell. Mr. Craner initiated the first U.S. government programs to advance democracy in China, helped construct the Millennium Challenge Corporation’s (MCC) “good governance” criteria, sharpened the administration’s focus on human rights in Central Asia, and contributed to the conception and implementation of the administration’s approach to democratization in the Middle East. Upon his departure, Mr. Craner received the Distinguished Service Award, the State Department’s highest honor, from Secretary Powell.

Mr. Craner joined IRI as Vice President for Programs in 1993. From 1992-93 he served at the National Security Council as a Director of Asian Affairs under General Brent Scowcroft, and from 1989-92 was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs under James Baker. Mr. Craner was Senator John McCain’s legislative assistant for foreign policy from 1986-89; he began his career as then-Congressman Jim Kolbe’s foreign policy legislative assistant. In 2013, the U.S. Senate confirmed Mr. Craner to MCC’s Board of Directors, where he had previously served from 2007-2010. He also serves on the board of Internex and the policy board of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor’s Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, he has testified more than two dozen times before House and Senate committees. Mr. Craner graduated from Georgetown University (MA), Reed College (BA) and Phillips Exeter Academy.

**Curt Goering** is the Executive Director of the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), overseeing an international staff with offices in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Washington D.C., and healing projects in Africa and the Middle East. CVT provides comprehensive care for survivors of torture and war trauma, conducts research and training, and undertakes policy efforts to commit the U.S. and other institutions to work against torture and aid torture survivors. Mr. Goering began at CVT in May 2012. Prior to that, he was the Chief Operating Officer at Amnesty International USA, where he had worked for nearly 30 years. As COO, he managed the largest branch of the organization, and his tenure saw significant expansion in revenues, advocacy programs and membership. In addition to directing the day-to-day operations, he was involved in strategy development, public policy and planning, financial oversight, and external relations. He chaired a global policy team based on five continents, leading to new research and advocacy policies. His experience gave him deep knowledge of international human rights and humanitarian issues.

Over his professional career, Goering led a dozen Amnesty International missions including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Mongolia, Taiwan, Turkey, and Tanzania. In addition to his positions with Amnesty as a researcher, advocacy director for Europe and the Middle East, Senior Deputy Executive Director and COO, he served as an interim Head of the Gaza office for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2009 and 2010. As CVT’s Executive Director, Mr. Goering is currently overseeing its expansion both as a provider of psychotherapy to torture survivors as well as in its human rights advocacy in the United States and around the world.
THE HONORABLE SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR

(invited) is the senior United States Senator from Minnesota and the first female Senator from the state. Since her election to the Senate in 2006, Senator Klobuchar has been a champion on human rights issues, in particular by sponsoring the Torture Victims Relief Act in 2010. Before being elected to public office, she was the leading advocate for successful passage of one of the first laws in the country guaranteeing 48-hour hospital stays for new moms and their babies. In 1998, Senator Klobuchar was elected to serve as the prosecutor for Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis and 45 suburbs. During her eight years as County Attorney, Senator Klobuchar made the prosecution of violent and career criminals her top priority. She was a leading advocate for successful passage of Minnesota's first felony DWI law, for which she received a leadership award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Her safe schools initiative, community prosecution efforts, and criminal justice reforms earned national awards, including from the U.S. Department of Justice under both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

She was elected by her colleagues to serve as president of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association. Her work has gained national recognition. Working Mother Magazine named her as a 2008 "Best in Congress" for her efforts on behalf of working families.

Senator Klobuchar graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School. Her senior essay in college, published as the book "Uncovering the Dome," chronicles the 10-year-history behind the building of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome and is still used at colleges and universities across the country.

AMBASSADOR MARK P. LAGON is International Relations and Security Chair at the Master of Science in Foreign Service Program at Georgetown University. He is also Adjunct Senior Fellow for Human Rights at the Council on Foreign Relations. Ambassador Lagon is currently on the Board of Directors of the Council for a Community of Democracies, as well as the Advisory Board of ECPAT-USA. Ambassador Lagon previously served as Executive Director and CEO of the Polaris Project, a leading anti-human trafficking nonprofit, which operates the U.S. Government's national anti-trafficking hotline. Until January 2009, he directed the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) at the U.S. Department of State. In that capacity, he chaired the Senior Policy Operating Group coordinating all U.S. agencies' efforts to combat human trafficking domestically and internationally.

From 2004 to 2007, Ambassador Lagon served in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the U.S. Department of State as Deputy Assistant Secretary. In this capacity, he had lead responsibility for United Nations-related human rights and humanitarian issues, UN reform, and outreach. Ambassador Lagon previously served as a member of the Secretary of State Colin Powell's Policy Planning Staff, where he focused on UN, democracy, and human rights (2002-2004). From 1999 to 2002, he was on the senior staff of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, with responsibility including the United Nations and human rights. Previously he won a Council on Foreign Relations Fellowship, where he specialized in U.S. policymaking towards China (1998-1999); served on the House Republican Policy Committee (1997-1998); worked for Georgetown Leavey Professor Jeane J. Kirkpatrick as her principal aide at the American Enterprise Institute. He has taught previously in the Government Department (as Visiting
Assistant Professor and Adjunct) and the Security Studies Programs of Georgetown University and at the Institute of World Politics. He also is Senior Adviser to the Business Coalition Against Human Trafficking (BCAT), which includes as members Manpower, Coca Cola, Ford, Delta Airlines, J.P. Morgan Chase, ExxonMobil, and Body Shop.

**Sarah E. Mendelson** serves as Deputy Assistant Administrator in the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance. Prior to joining USAID in May 2010, she was the director of the Human Rights and Security Initiative at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). At CSIS, she conducted over a dozen public opinion surveys in Russia, tracking views on Chechnya, HIV/AIDS, military and police abuse, religious identity in the North Caucasus, and human trafficking. She researched the links between human trafficking and peacekeeping operations in the Balkans, and her work helped shape U.S. legislation and policies at NATO on this issue. In 2007 and 2008, she led a working group on closing the Guantánamo Bay detention center, the recommendations from which were reflected in the Executive Orders signed January 22, 2009. In 2009, she helped convene the Parallel Civil Society Summit in Moscow during President Barack Obama’s trip to Russia.

Ms. Mendelson has worked for nearly two decades on a wide variety of issues related to human rights and democracy including as a program officer in Moscow with the National Democratic Institute in 1994 and 1995. Before her stint at CSIS, she was a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She has also worked with International Security, the Europe and Central Asia Division of Human Rights Watch, and the Council on Foreign Relations. A frequent contributor to the media, Ms. Mendelson has authored numerous public policy articles and books, including Changing Course: Ideas, Politics and the Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan (Princeton University Press, 1998); The Power and Limits of NGOs: Transnational Networks and Post-Communist Societies (Columbia University Press, 2002); Barracks and Brothels: Peacekeepers and Human Trafficking in the Balkans (CSIS Press, 2005); and From Assistance to Engagement: A Model for a New Era in U.S.-Russian Civil Society Relations (CSIS Press, 2009). She received her Bachelor's degree in history from Yale University and her Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University. She has held fellowships at Stanford University and Princeton University.

**Juan E. Méndez** was appointed UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment on October 6, 2010, and started his three-year mandate on November 1, 2010. He is a Visiting Professor of Law at the American University Washington College of Law and the author of several publications, including the recent book written with Marjory Wentworth, Taking a Stand: the Evolution of Human Rights, (2011). In 2009 and 2010 he was the Special Advisor on Prevention to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. He is also Co-Chair of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association. Until May 2009 he was the President of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) and is currently its President Emeritus. In the summer of 2009 he was a Scholar-in-Residence at the Ford Foundation in New York. Concurrent with his duties at the ICTJ, the Honorable Kofi Annan named Mr. Méndez his Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, a task he performed from 2004 to 2007.
As a young lawyer defending political prisoners in Argentina, Mr. Méndez was arrested, detained, and tortured for 18 months during the rule of the military junta in his native Argentina in the 1970s and was eventually adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. After moving to the United States and receiving asylum, he worked with Americas Watch (now the America’s division of Human Rights Watch) for 15 years, concentrating his efforts on human rights issues in the western hemisphere. Between 2000 and 2003 he was a member of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, and served as its President in 2002. Mr. Méndez has taught international human rights law at Oxford University in the United Kingdom, Georgetown Law School, and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Between 1999 and 2004 he served as a Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil and Human Rights at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Mr. Méndez is a member of the bar associations of Mar del Plata and Buenos Aires Argentina as well as the District of Columbia in the United States. As UN Special Rapporteur, Mr. Méndez has taken a “victim-centered approach” to his mandate, making torture victims the focus of his work.

**Margaret Pollack** is the Director for Multilateral Coordination and External Relations in the U.S. State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration. In that capacity, Ms. Pollack provides senior-level policy leadership and inter-agency coordination on all matters related to planning, formulating and implementing U.S. Government (USG) policy positions and strategies addressing refugee, migration and other humanitarian issues in the UN system, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). She is responsible for the USG relationship with these organizations on issues of institutional policy, management, and governance. Ms. Pollack also directs the external relations work of the Bureau including public affairs and public diplomacy, liaison with non-governmental organizations and other USG agencies, and coordination with other donor governments and institutions on refugee and other humanitarian policy and program issues. Ms. Pollack previously served as the Division Chief for Economic Development Assistance in the State Department’s Bureau of International Organization Affairs, where she was responsible for UN development and humanitarian issues, including the UN Development Program (UNDP) and UNICEF. She received a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree from Pomona College in Claremont, CA and a Master of Arts (MA) degree in international affairs from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.

**Paula Schriefer** joined the Bureau of International Organization Affairs as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State on May 7, 2012. Prior to assuming this position, Ms. Schriefer was vice president for global programs at Freedom House, where she oversaw Freedom House’s global activities on freedom of expression, internet freedom, religious freedom, and advocacy efforts at the United Nations. From 2006-2011, Ms. Schriefer was Director of Advocacy for Freedom House, overseeing all of its outreach and communications activities, including foreign policy advocacy, press relations, and coordination with international organizations. From 2001 to 2006 she served as its Director of Programs, overseeing nearly two dozen major program initiatives and thirteen overseas offices established to support independent media, open and transparent governance,
civil society development, justice sector reform, and the defense of human rights.

In addition to Freedom House, Ms. Schriefer has worked at the National Forum Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. degree in Russian Area Studies from the University of Denver and completed coursework for an MA in Russian and Eastern European Studies at George Washington University. In her current position at the Department of State, Ms. Schriefer serves as the U.S. Government’s interlocutor with the United Nations and a host of other international organizations.

ERIC P. SCHWARTZ became dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs in October 2011 after a 26-year career in public service. Mr. Schwartz was most recently Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration at the U.S. Department of State. He also has worked with the National Security Council, the United Nations, and the U.S. Congress, as well as the non-governmental and philanthropic communities.

Mr. Schwartz served for many years as a visiting lecturer of public and international affairs at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School. His other roles include serving as a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the U.S. Institute of Peace and as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C., and the Washington Director of Asia Watch (now known as Human Rights Watch/Asia). He holds a JD from New York University School of Law, where he was a Root-Tilden-Snow Scholar, and a Master of Public and International Affairs from Princeton University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree (with honors) at Binghamton University of the State University of New York.

WILLIAM M. TREANOR joined Georgetown Law in 2010 from Fordham Law School, where he had been dean since 2002 and Paul Fuller Professor. He had been on the Fordham faculty since 1991. He has also been a visiting professor at the Sorbonne.

From 1998-2001, Dean Treanor served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice. From 1987-1990, he was associate counsel, Office of Independent Counsel, during the Iran/Contra investigation, and in 1990 he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney, Misdemeanor Trial Unit, Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. Dean Treanor was law clerk to the Honorable James L. Oakes, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Brattleboro, Vermont. He has published widely, with a focus on constitutional law and legal history.

JENNIFER WINDSOR is the Associate Dean of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown. She previously served as Executive Director of Freedom House, an independent group dedicated to the advancement of freedom. Ms. Windsor worked in various positions from 1991-2000 at USAID, including as the Deputy Assistant Administrator and Director of the Center for Democracy and Governance.

Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Windsor worked on Capitol Hill on foreign policy issues with Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Congressman Ted Weiss. She is a graduate of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University (MPA 1991) and received her undergraduate degree (BA 1986) from Harvard University.
ABOUT THE SPONSORS

THE CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE (CVT) is an international nonprofit dedicated to healing the wounds of torture on individuals, their families and their communities, and to stopping torture worldwide. Since its founding in 1985, CVT has provided rehabilitation services to almost 24,000 survivors of torture and war trauma through its healing center in St. Paul, MN and programs around the world. CVT has engaged in post-conflict community building after some of the world’s deadliest wars, working in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jordan and Kenya, and pioneered research in torture survivor rehabilitation to better understand the effects of torture and how best to heal survivors. CVT is currently providing direct care to Iraqi and Syrian refugees in Jordan, to Eritrean refugees in Ethiopia, to Somali refugees at the world’s largest camp in Dadaab, Kenya and to urban refugees in Nairobi. CVT also advocates for the rights of torture survivors by encouraging U.S. federal funding be directed toward survivor rehabilitation programs domestically and internationally. Additionally, CVT continues to speak out against the use of torture by our own government post-September 11, 2001 and is calling for the United States to regain its global leadership against torture and cruel treatment.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE AT GEORGETOWN LAW serves as the focal point for human rights activities at Georgetown Law and promotes Georgetown Law’s role as a key actor in the human rights community. The Human Rights Institute aims to support the vibrant human rights community on campus and develop opportunities for law students working to become human rights practitioners. Through several different programs and projects such as the Associates Program and the Fact-Finding Practicum, students are given an opportunity to become directly involved in the human rights field. The Institute also hosts year-round events on cutting-edge human rights issues, providing students the chance to meet with experts involved in human rights work. The Human Rights Institute aims to serve as a resource to Washington, D.C.-based organizations and government bodies engaged in human rights work by hosting high-level conferences, panel discussions, expert roundtables and other events that promote discussion, debate and collaboration. It also supports these groups by matching them with top quality Georgetown Law interns and externs.

THE HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA’S mission is to inspire, educate, and support innovative leaders to advance the common good in a diverse world. Humphrey graduates work throughout the world on issues from humanitarian assistance to health policy and business development. Through various programs, such as the interdisciplinary Perspectives in International Development and the International Fellowship, Humphrey students participate in critical debates with peers from around the world. The Humphrey School recently received the inaugural Diversity Award by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration for a program that “exemplifies the highest standards of promoting and supporting diversity in research, teaching, and/or service.” This year, for the fourth consecutive year, the Humphrey School won a University-wide award for being a leader in buying goods and services from businesses owned by women and minorities. Humphrey School faculty, staff, and students produce high quality research focused on issues of diversity, equity, and social justice.