Patriot Act and Real ID Act Create Barriers for Refugees Seeking Safety in the U.S.

When terrorists attacked America five years ago on September 11, SURVIVORS' board and staff knew that nationalist feelings would rise in the United States. We worried that the U.S. government's arms might not be as wide open when welcoming refugees and asylees, and that new legislation might cause unintended consequences.

What couldn't predict in 2001 was how long this period would last, or how many people would be affected.

The United States has long denied refugee status to individuals who support terrorist groups, but the Patriot Act and the Real ID Act have so muddled the definitions of "material support" and "terrorist organization" that thousands of innocent people are being denied entry.

In May, Senators Norm Coleman, R-MN, and Patrick Leahy, D-VT, proposed an amendment to exempt victims of coercion or threats from the material support ban. Leahy spoke about a Liberian woman who was kidnapped by a rebel group and forced to be a sex slave.

"Because she was also forced to

(Continued on page 5)

Greeting Cards Bring Hope to Invisible Detainees

SURVIVORS is serving increasing numbers of asylum seekers who are being held in prison-like conditions while they are trying to win their cases in the immigration system. Because the detention facility is in a remote area of Otay Mesa, because the facility limits our access, and our resources are stretched, we've developed a creative way to make contact and share hope - greeting cards.

For torture survivors seeking asylum in the United States, the process is costly, lengthy, and difficult. The burden to prove their fear of persecution if they were to return to their home countries rests on the asylum seekers. Some survivors arrive as students or visitors, but a coup or civil war breaks out back home, it is their name on the death threat nailed to the door of the family home. The stranded visitors become asylum applicants. Other survivors come without passports or visas because they've led their countries covertly to save their lives. If the weary travelers cross the border at San Ysidro or Otay Mesa and report themselves to the guards, they are pulled aside, interrogated and, if allowed to enter the United States, detained and processed into a federal detention facility. They wear jumpsuits, sometimes handcuffs and leg shackles, and are kept in the maximum security-type facility for an average of nine months. Some

(Continued on page 6)
Word from the Chairperson
Jeanette Barrack, PTR

It is nail biting time for us. Our staff work very hard to ensure that our clients receive the services they need and to secure the funding it takes to support these services, most of which comes from grants, known as soft money. The majority of these grants will soon expire, and we have recently submitted new applications for grants to continue our work.

Although our track record is excellent — we always do what we say we are going to do with our funders’ money; we always keep our overhead costs considerably lower than most; and we always are true to our mission — there are no assurances that we will be funded — or refunded. What a relief it would be not to be so dependent on soft monies!

This is where you enter the equation. We have established a vehicle for regular, dependable giving called the Healing Trust. By joining this group of dedicated donors who believe in SURVIVORS’ mission, you would help create a regular source of funding upon which SURVIVORS could rely in order to continue our work in providing clients the resources they need to heal, in raising awareness in the general public about this hidden community, and in being an instrument to end the practice of torture.

Information about the Healing Trust is available on our web site www.notorture.org or by contacting Jen Varsak at (619) 278-2408 or jvar- sak@notorture.org. Every donation — regular or not, large or small — is an investment in building a safe haven for torture survivors. Thank you in advance for your support of our important work.

Fieldstone Foundation Arranges Seminars for Area Nonprofit Leaders

SURVIVORS’ Executive Director Kathi Anderson was selected to participate in an executive learning group organized by the Fieldstone Foundation. In a series of monthly one-day seminars over a period of six months, Kathi met with other nonprofit leaders in a cohesive, supportive environment.

“It’s an opportunity to learn skills while building relationships with trusting confidents,” said Janine Mason, Fieldstone’s executive director. “And when you leave the program, you still have people as advisors.”

The leaders spent most of the time discussing their challenges, experiences, resources and successes. Tom Hall, a professional nonprofit consultant, facilitated discussions on particular management models or topics requested by the group. This provided a valuable learning experience for the executive directors.

“The members of the executive learning group challenged and supported each other,” Kathi said. “I am honored to have been chosen as one of the participants.”
One of the qualities that I believe sets SURVIVORS apart is the caliber of individuals we have on staff. All of them are exceptional in their professionalism and dedication to the mission of SURVIVORS. The following is a brief description of our staff and some of the excellent work they do on a daily basis:

David Gangsei, hired in 2000, is our clinical director. A licensed psychologist with a Ph.D., he is bilingual in Spanish and English. He came to SURVIVORS with many years experience working with torture survivors in Los Angeles. David recruits and trains our contract therapists, oversees the clinical program, coordinates the vicarious resiliency and traumatization program, and supervises psychologists earning hours toward licensure. David presents in public forums and spearheaded the torture treatment project in Mexico. David's understanding of the clients and what is needed for them to become healthy, productive members of our society is impressive.

Crystal Green started as an independent contractor with SURVIVORS in 1999 and was hired as our associate clinical director in October of 2000. Crystal is a licensed marriage and family therapist and has a Ph.D. in education. She is responsible for all the clients' intakes, supervises the marriage and family therapist trainees, recruits and trains our interpreters, and coordinates the mental health referrals. Crystal has a natural ability to make the clients and their families feel comfortable and to help them open up enough to tell their difficult stories.

Beatriz Ledeza, our case manager, who started with us in 2001, is bilingual in Spanish and English and conversant in Arabic. She coordinates services to provide for clients' basic needs, organizes the Healing Club and teaches cooking classes. She participated in the torture treatment project in Mexico with David. As our case manager, Beatriz has a remarkable ability to maximize even the most limited resources to meet our clients' needs.

Sarak Suon, our medical case manager, started with us in 2000. Sarak is bilingual in Khmer and English, he is certified as a primary care physician assistant. He screens the clients regarding medical issues and coordinates medical appointments, transportation, and referrals. He also assists the psychiatrist in acquiring medications. Without Sarak's constant attention to details and his ingenuity, our program would be less efficient.

Alexey Kirillov joined us in 2003 as our finance director. A native of Kazakhstan, he is bilingual in Russian and English. He develops budgets, compiles financial reports, coordinates the annual audit, and is responsible for accounts payable and receivable, payroll and our insurances. In addition, he has become SURVIVORS' accidental techie. His calm demeanor, flexibility and ability to adjust to our constantly changing financial environment has been very much appreciated.

Jennifer Varsak joined us in July. For more about Jen, please see the article at the right — titled:

"SURVIVORS Welcomes New Development Manager".

SURVIVORS Welcomes New Development Manager

In July SURVIVORS welcomed a new development manager: Jennifer Varsak. Jen has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of San Diego and a broad range of work experience related to international affairs and communications. She taught ESL in the Peace Corps in Romania, spent three years developing international exchange programs for the U.S. State Department-sponsored visitors to San Diego, and worked in television production at C-SPAN. Most recently, she raised funds for San Diego Tribune's Newspaper in Education program. "My main passion in life is international issues," Jen says. "I wanted to return to an environment where I was promoting international understanding and human rights through my work."

Jen is replacing David Moseley, who left SURVIVORS in June to become a teacher in the religious studies department at The Bishop's School in La Jolla. Although David will be busy with his new position and his ongoing job as a lecturer in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies at the University of San Diego, he says that he hopes to stay connected to SURVIVORS by joining the Friendship Circle or by participating in side projects to raise awareness about torture.

"The work is so essential, especially at this moment when public attitudes toward torture in America are so equivocal," David says. "My colleagues at SURVIVORS were so inspirational and fun to work with. I have endless admiration for their dedication and compassion, and the immense courage and resilience of our clients."

DONATE YOUR CAR TO SURVIVORS

The donation of your old car can support hope and healing for torture survivors in our area. To learn more about this program, please call Jennifer Varsak at (619) 278-2408, or e-mail jvarsak@notorture.org.
Program Evaluation Confirms Benefits of Treatment Services

Jim Jaranson, M.D., an independent medical consultant, designed a study to evaluate our California Endowment-funded Health Care Access Project. He analyzed the raw data and reported his findings to us and to our funder. We think you may find the results interesting.

Twenty-six asylum-seekers who were newly-admitted clients to SURVIVORS were studied. There were 12 women and 14 men, with an average age of 32 years (range 18-68 years). These clients were asked to identify the number and severity of psychological and physical health problems that they were experiencing at the time of intake to the program. Then they rated the difficulties that these symptoms or conditions caused them with regard to their work, regular daily activities, outside activities, and relationships with others. Participants in this sample study received an average of 16 different services. After receiving our services, clients again rated themselves on the same scales and were also asked to complete a satisfaction survey. They indicated notable improvement in their own assessment of their psychological and physical functioning as well as reduction in their perceived level of disability. In addition, participants’ overall satisfaction scores were extremely high, averaging 3.8 out of a possible 4.0.

This study confirmed that the physical, emotional, social and legal circumstances of our clients are intimately connected. Safety, the most fundamental of needs, is the foundation of recovery and well-being. By chance, half the subjects in the study were granted asylum during their treatment period while the other half had no change in their asylum status. While all improved, change in their asylum status made a considerable difference in their pre- and post-test scores.

Those who were granted asylum had started with higher disability scores and with more medical problems. However, those granted asylum showed far greater post-test improvement in every disability area, and a far greater decrease in their medical problems. In fact, the only downward score in this study from pre to post-test was the self-rated psychological disability for those whose asylum status had not changed during the treatment period. This is understandable given the strain of living under the constant threat of deportation—to a place where they might be tortured again. The medical status, on the other hand, had improved even for that group, but less so than for those who had received asylum.

This study demonstrated the intrinsic value of asylum-seekers’ receiving medical services. It also confirmed the wisdom and utility of the holistic service approach SURVIVORS practices.

Featured Spouse: Ann Durham
(Continued from page 1)

Ann became involved with Survivors of Torture in 1999 when she heard Kathi Anderson, a founder of the program, speak at Ann’s church in La Mesa, Calif. The organization provides medical, psychiatric, psychological, legal and social services to survivors of politically motivated torture and their families in the San Diego area.

They come from all over the world—the Middle East, Africa, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe. More than half a million of these resourceful, resilient individuals, who have been tortured under cruel political regimes are in the U.S. There are 11,000 in the San Diego area alone, according to Kathi.

Ann helped get the word out about Survivors of Torture by arranging talks at the law school where she worked. She had her sons’ Boy Scout troops work as volunteers with mailings and newsletters. She donated to cooking classes and the library for survivors who were learning English.

“Whatever Ann has, she brings to the organization, whether it’s time, connections, passion, donors or goods,” Kathi said.

Ann, along with Kathi and Ann’s pastor, met with the [now deceased] chief of staff for Congressman Duncan Hunter of California to promote passage of the Torture Victim’s Relief Act, legislation that would benefit survivors of torture.

“Ann has been very creative in responding to identified needs,” Kathi said.

That creativity will serve her well once again as she takes another career stride in her new position as director of a nursing education partnership with the goal of increasing the ranks of nursing degree graduates. Besides utilizing her previous medical, legal and military life experiences, Ann said that “one of the many wonderful things about this job is that it is part time, too,” leaving time for her children, her husband, her fellow military spouses and her work with Survivors of Torture, International.

Shop and Support SURVIVORS!
Macy’s Ootay Ranch
Preview Charity Shopping Day
Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Macy’s is opening a new store in Ootay Ranch, and they’re celebrating with a Preview Charity Shopping Day on Tuesday, October 24th. With a $10 donation to SURVIVORS, you’ll get a sneak preview of the store featuring special events, product samplings and entertainment.

You’ll also receive a coupon with the following benefits:
- 20% off women’s, men’s and kids’ apparel and accessories
- 15% off fine, bridge & fashion jewelry, bed & bath items, house-wares, frames, luggage, china, crystal & silver
- The chance to win a $5,000 shopping spree

All proceeds of tickets sold through Survivors of Torture, International will go directly toward SURVIVORS’ client services. Contact Jennifer Varas at (619) 278-2408 or jvaras@notorture.org to attend the event. For a map and directions, visit our web site at www.notorture.org.
SURVIVORS Honors Torture Awareness Month

In June, Survivors of Torture, International partnered with local human rights groups to commemorate Torture Awareness Month. During the first week of June, a tall ship from Chile docked at San Diego’s Embarcadero. The ship, known as the Esmeralda or the White Lady, had been used as a floating prison and torture site in Chile after the 1973 coup d’etat. Thirty years later, as the military authorities continue to deny what happened, impunity reigns.

To educate the public about the ship’s past, SURVIVORS joined with Amnesty International (AI) and the International Museum of Human Rights (IMHR), San Diego to screen the documentary The Dark Side of the White Lady at San Diego’s central library. In the film, writer and director Patricio Henriquez unravels the lies told for “reasons of state” and presents a picture of how such horrors could emerge from a thing of such beauty. The film was followed by a discussion with Chileans who were detained and imprisoned by the Chilean Navy in 1973.

On June 4, the day after the screening, SURVIVORS, AI, and IMHR held three large banners near the Esmeralda to attract attention, distributed pamphlets that included information about the ship’s tainted legacy, and encouraged people to protest the ship on the pier where it was docked. This demonstration raised awareness because so many tourists and San Diegans visit the bay on weekend afternoons.

A few weeks later, SURVIVORS joined with the Ocean Beach chapter of Amnesty International to commemorate June 26, the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. We attended a screening of Down Came a Blackbird, a movie about a journalist struggling to regain control of her life a year after she was abducted and tortured in Central America. Following the movie, SURVIVORS’ Executive Director Kathi Anderson and Clinical Director David Gansel answered questions from the audience about the movie and how it related to the actual experiences of torture survivors.

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic</th>
<th>Ages</th>
<th>Origins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0 - 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21 - 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>31 - 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>41 - 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>51 - 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Europe</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>61 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Patriot Act and Real ID Act . . . .

(Continued from page 1)

cook and do laundry for the rebels, under current law she provided material support,” he said. “That makes absolutely no sense. We are punishing her for being a victim when what she needs is asylum.”

The Senate did not pass the proposal.

To protect refugees from the material support provision, there must be exceptions for people who provide involuntary support. The U.S. government should also certify a group as “terrorist” before an individual is barred for providing material support to that group. As defined by the Patriot Act, a terrorist activity can include almost any kind of violence, including fighting that is in protest of unjust regimes.

Unless the law changes, the United States will continue to bar thousands of innocent civilians who need protection. To learn more, go to www.irc.org or www.lirs.org.

Refugees: By the Numbers

30% – Approximate percentage of SURVIVORS’ clients who are refugees

70,000 – Targeted refugees to be admitted to the U.S. in 2005

53,000 – Actual refugees admitted to the U.S. in 2005

40,000 - 45,000 – Estimated refugees to be admitted to the U.S. in 2006

7,505 – Refugees resettled in California in 2005 (more than any other state)

Sources: Refugee Council USA, Refugees International, The International Rescue Committee

Beautiful Book. Powerful Stories.

Speak Truth to Power — Hardcover, $50.00.

Writer Kerry Kennedy Cuomo and Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Eddie Adams collaborated to profile brave activists from around the world. Inspire your loved ones with the powerful testimonies of human rights defenders who are changing lives.

Buy the book from SURVIVORS and half of the proceeds will directly benefit client programs.

Visit SURVIVORS’ website, www.notorture.org, or contact Jen Varsak at (619) 278-2408 or jvarsak@notorture.org for more information.
Thank You to All of Our Community Supporters
April 1 through June 30, 2006

We are grateful to the following individuals and companies for your generous support. Your donations of time and in-kind goods and services help SURVIVORS’ programs run smoothly.

Companies and Organizations
Chipotle La Jolla
Golden Care Workforce Institute
Manatt, Phelps, Phillips, LLP
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church–San Diego
Umbrage Books

++ + +++ Individuals ++ + ++ +

Anonymous
Joyce Anderson
Paul Anderson
Angela Aguilar
Mario Barnabe
Mark Berger
Susan Bernstein
Jeff Bolster
Tim Botso
Jorge Cabrera
Liz Conflonone
Ginny Dunn
Christie Edwards
Jessica Enriquez
Maricar Enriquez
Joseph Fernandez
Maria Fernandez
Ashraf Farraj
Jamie Gates
Oscar Guerrero
MaryAnn Hautman
Ryan Hedge
Nichole Kabriti
Reba Mims
Sarah Morris
Dana Naughton
Michael O’Donnell
Joyce Ochoa
Pat Olafson
Jose Ornelas
Carrie Pagnucco
Susan Pollock
Gregory Ramirez
Zachary Rivera
Nasdiva Romero
Annalise Romoser
Andrea Salazar
Joe Santa-Cruz
Maria Santa-Cruz
Alisa Shorgo
Duncan Smith
Ellen Speert
Dawn Stary
Carol Teasley
Sonja Thompson
Mahina Tuteur
Becca Van Donk
Jennifer Varsak
Elvita Vazquez
Tiffany Vazquez
Savannah
Westergaard
Barry Wohrle
Anne-Marie Wohrle
Savana Yanez

Thank you!

We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude for support that may not have been recognized

Greeting Cards Bring Hope To Invisible Detainees

(Continued from page 1)
detainees are held for years.

Proving a “well-founded fear” is a challenge. Birth certificates, news clippings, and/or photo identifications with verifiable numbers are the types of proof judges want. In many countries, documents like these are scarce, and obtaining these documents while running for one’s life is even more difficult. So locked up, and in English or through an interpreter, detained torture survivors must prove their cases to immigration judges. The detention environment is highly stressful; and it is within those concrete walls that survivors must battle nightmares, homesickness, anxiety, frustration at being helpless once again, and the daily fatigue of imprisonment. SURVIVORS has learned that these long months can be disastrous to a survivor’s mental health.

Contact brings hope. SURVIVORS developed a project to reach detained clients by writing cards with messages of support. Our energetic counseling interns write notes and try to connect with clients whom they’ve never met in person. Detainees are not allowed mail other than simple letters or cards, and we have learned that the cards we send brighten the lives of detainees considerably. One client from Africa kindly wrote to our office in response to a card we’d sent him:

“I ended up in captivity in the USA in the hope of finding a place where a man can live without the fear of losing his life. Upon reading your card the gloom began to depart from my mood. I realized that I was not alone in my suffering. Thank you and God bless you.”

YOU CAN HELP. The cards are a meaningful way to reach detained clients and offer support. In this small way, SURVIVORS provides a ray of hope at the end of a long tunnel of months and months of darkness. To donate blank greeting cards, contact Crystal Green at (619) 278-2404 or cgreen@notorture.org.
SURVIVORS' Financial Supporters
April 1, 2006 - June 30, 2006
Healing broken hearts and restoring the spirits of torture survivors in San Diego County is accomplished with the help of our financial supporters. With you, the survivors are able to rebuild their lives. We are grateful. We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude to donors who may not have been recognized.

Foundations, Corporations, and Organizations
Change a Life Foundation
The First Congregational Church of Ramona
Freedom House
Grossmont Healthcare District
Intuit Foundation Donation Matching Program
Las Patronas
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

++ + + + + + + Individual Contributors + + + + + + + + + +

Anonymous
Robert Aitken
Dee L. Aker & Bill Smith
Joyce & Paul Anderson
Jeanette Barrack
Alan & Janet Beyea
Susan K. Burnett
Francine Rushby
Nicolle Capretz
Thomas M. Davies
Michelle Dexter
David W. Engstrom
George & Ethel Falk
Denise & James Francis
Edwin & Wita Gardiner
Lee & Susan Goyette
Mariann H. Grasela
Andrea Guerrero &
Beston Barnett
Laura Jean Hageman &
Thomas Bond
Shelly Hahnne
Ginger & Jim Halerberg
Elizabeth Hardy
Marian Hart &
Wayne Liebold
Margaret R. Hollenbeck
Maryam Irvanian
Logan Langenuizen
Bailey Mannisto-Iches
Miguel Martin
Melissa McKendrick
Srirat McLenan
Robert Morgan
Joshua Morrill
Susan L. Quillman
Alby Quinian
Yvonne &
Steve Rodriguez
Alisa Shorago
Marisa Soderholm
Lucille Spichal
Tia & Erick Touissant
Dolores Welty
Stewart & Nancy Witt

Thank you!!!

This project publication was sponsored by Grant Number 90ZT0040 from the Office of Refugee Resettlement.
Points of view are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

SURVIVORS Welcomes Americorps*VISTA Volunteers

In August, three new Americorps*VISTA volunteers began working at SURVIVORS.
Kate Bolus graduated from the University of California San Diego, where she majored in political science and became interested in human rights law. She recently interned for Congresswoman Roybal-Allard in Washington, D.C., and she plans to attend law school next year. “The fact that SURVIVORS does so much to aid victims of human rights violations was not only inspiring, but a huge draw as well,” Kate said.

Jess Jollett also said that her interest in human rights drew her to the position at SURVIVORS. Jess studied media communications at Point Loma Nazarene University and spent some time in Honduras. “The position at SURVIVORS fulfills my ultimate career goal: to partner my skills with my passion,” she said.

Molly Meehan majored in international studies at the University of Dayton and spent five months of her junior year in Costa Rica. “During my search through various programs on the Americorps web site, I kept coming back to SURVIVORS as my top choice,” Molly said. “Having studied human rights in college as well as having volunteered with several nonprofits working on social justice issues, I am excited to take this knowledge and experience and come to SURVIVORS.”

Kate, Molly and Jess (pictured, left to right)
SURVIVORS of Torture, International
Phone: 619-278-2400
Fax: 619-294-9405
e-mail: survivors@notorture.org
website: www.notorture.org

Kathi Anderson, M.A., N.C.C., Executive Director
Phone: 619-278-2407
Fax: 619-294-9429
e-mail: kanderson@notorture.org

David Gangsei, Ph.D., Clinical Director
Phone: 619-278-2403
e-mail: dgangsei@notorture.org

Crystal Green, Ph.D., Associate Clinical Director
Phone: 619-278-2404
e-mail: cgreen@notorture.org

Alexey Kirillov, Finance Coordinator
Phone: 619-278-2406
e-mail: akirillov@notorture.org

Beatriz Ledezma, Case Manager
Phone: 619-278-2402
e-mail: bledezma@notorture.org

Sarak Suon, P.A., Medical Services Coordinator
Phone: 619-278-2412
e-mail: ssuon@notorture.org

Jennifer Varsak, Development Manager
Phone: 619-278-2408
e-mail: jvarsak@notorture.org

Maren Dougherty, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member
Phone: 619-278-2422
e-mail: mdougherty@notorture.org

Kathleen Bolus, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member
Phone: 619-278-2409
e-mail: kbulus@notorture.org

Jess Jollett, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member
Phone: 619-278-2421
e-mail: jjollett@notorture.org

Molly Meehan, AmeriCorps*VISTA Member
Phone: 619-278-2411
e-mail: mmeehan@notorture.org

A Note from the 2005-2006
Americorps*VISTA Volunteers
Kelly Reid & Anu Venkateswaran recently completed their term as AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers for SURVIVORS. They wrote this farewell note:

We were impressed by this organization starting on our first day last August when SURVIVORS' staff welcomed us with bright smiles. Our VISTA positions allowed us to learn about all the diverse communities in San Diego, and to connect with other area nonprofits. We are proud of the effort we put into SURVIVORS' Friendship Circle, events like the Celebration of Hope and Healing, development projects and staff potlucks. As we say good-bye, we hope our impact is lasting and that SURVIVORS' community of healing continues to grow. Thank you SURVIVORS' board of directors, staff, supporters, and clients for your support and encouragement.

Sincerely, Kelly and Anu (pictured at left and at right)

SURVIVORS of Torture . . .

. . . was incorporated in February 1997 in response to a need in our community to bring assistance to that segment of the population which struggles with the wounds of politically motivated torture.