Mission Statement
Survivors of Torture, International:

- Facilitates the healing of torture survivors and their families;
- Educates professionals and the public about torture and its consequences;
- Advocates for the abolition of torture.

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Raise Money for SURVIVORS at No Cost to You
Each time you use your Ralphs or Food 4 Less card, a percentage of your purchase can be donated to SURVIVORS. How to enroll:

1. For Ralphs: Go online to the store’s site www.ralphs.com and click on “Community Contribution.” Select “Participant” and enter NPO #84761.
2. For Food 4 Less: Go online to the store’s site www.food4less1.com and click on “Community Rewards.” Select “Participant” and enter NPO #84761.

Now when you shop with your club cards, up to 4% of your purchase will go to SURVIVORS — and it doesn’t cost you anything!

California Consortium Leaders Convene in Sacramento for June 26: the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Leaders of California’s torture treatment centers met on June 26 in Sacramento to raise awareness among legislators about the health and mental health needs of survivors of politically-motivated torture.

The advocacy day included meetings at the offices of state senators and assembly members at the state capitol, the presentation of a joint legislative resolution in support of June 26, and a closing reception at the law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.

SURVIVORS’ Executive Director Kathi Anderson and Public Affairs Manager Maren Dougherty worked with Manatt’s legislative advocates, McKay Tanner and Michael Martinez, to plan the day’s activities.

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Representatives of the California Consortium of Torture Treatment Centers accept the June 26 legislative resolution from Assembly Members Lori Saldaña and Jim Beall, Jr.

Torture Survivors and Staff Members Gather to Commemorate June 26 in San Diego

On June 26 in San Diego, SURVIVORS’ clients and staff members came together to celebrate peace, survival, and love of family. Six countries and 12 languages were represented.

The gathering began with a moment of silence for torture survivors everywhere. The group discussed the meaning of peace, wrote “peace” in many languages and spoke the words aloud together. Encircling a candle given to SURVIVORS by Sister Dianna Ortiz on her visit to San Diego, each person told of how his or her hardworking great-grandparents met and created new families, never thinking that some members would end up far from home.

Group facilitator, marriage and family therapy intern Julie Freeman, presented the group with a hand-stitched cotton “peace quilt” that she had made. It is a colorful scrap quilt with a dark blue peace sign on one side. The backing, a comforting earth
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Proclaims June 26 As A “Day in Support of Victims of Torture” in California

PROCLAMATION by the Governor of the State of California

California is proud to join in solidarity to support victims of torture across the world, as well as to emphatically call on all governments to do everything possible to stop this terrible practice.

As home to the largest number of refugees and immigrants in the United States, California is especially touched by the stories of those who have fled their countries to escape unspeakable cruelty. These survivors have displayed tremendous courage in seeking freedom for themselves and their families. While their experiences remind us of the brutality that exists in our world, their thirst for liberty and remarkable perseverance also remind us of the resiliency of the human spirit.

We as Californians express our deepest compassion for the plight of the victims of torture. I commend the noble work of all those who provide essential medical, psychological and other needed services to victims. The dedication and devotion of these groups and individuals helps the victims to recover and regain a sense of normalcy.

We must continue to draw attention to and do everything we can to stop current-day horrors that exist throughout the world, such as the genocide in Darfur. By first recognizing the victims of torture, we take one giant step forward toward the day when the dignity of every human being is respected.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim June 26, 2007, as a “Day in Support of Victims of Tor-
Torture Survivors from Across the Nation Gather in Washington, D.C.
Activities Raise Awareness and Commemorate the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

For the fourth consecutive year, San Diego residents who are torture survivors participated in Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition’s (TASSC) annual commemoration of June 26, the United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture, in Washington, D.C.

“As an Iraqi, a Middle Easterner, a woman and a survivor, I have learned to think not just about my own country. Wherever and whenever it happens, torture is wrong.”—Dilkhwaz Ahmed, TASSC Member

TASSC supports groups around the world that are called communities of healing. Dilkhwaz Ahmed, Fatuma Ali, Ekhlas Sliwa, and four of their children are some of the members of TASSC’s local group who traveled, along with others from throughout the world, to Washington, D.C., for the commemoration.

This year’s events included a teach-in about the Military Commissions Act, a demonstration in front of the White House against torture, the annual 24-hour vigil at a Washington, D.C., square, visits to congressional offices, a screening of “Breaking the Silence,” a new documentary film about TASSC, and the release of 150 butterflies to symbolize the release of torture survivors from their captivity.

Dilkhwaz commented, “I saw people I knew from before. I see the improvement in their lives. They have more energy. They are more open. As an Iraqi, a Middle Easterner, a woman and a survivor, I have learned to think not just about my own country. Wherever and whenever it happens, torture is wrong. I want my kids to learn about this. They did a great job. We have to raise awareness that the Military Commissions Act helps other countries justify torture. It’s important for the United States to maintain the values of freedom and democracy.”

For Fatuma, the most memorable moment was the release of the butterflies, but she also had a positive experience with legislators. “This year they were more responsive,” she said. “We talked to officials about Guantanamo. It’s very important that there is no impunity or immunity for those responsible for torture.”

Ekhsas attended this year for the first time and returned inspired. “I came home full of energy, more open. I met many people. I feel now I have more power,” Ekhsas said.

“It’s a great group, especially Sister Dianna [Ortiz] and Orlando [Tizon], TASSC’s leaders. I felt I have another family. I’m already contacting people by e-mail.”

At the organization’s meeting, Dilkhwaz was elected to the international board of directors. As an organization founded and operated by torture survivors themselves, TASSC has a unique and powerful role in the movement to abolish torture.

Learn more at TASSC’s web site, tassc.org.

May you be peaceful.
May you be free.

Some clients hugged the wrap tightly to themselves, not yet ready to let go of the safe cocoon infused with loving wishes from their family at SURVIVORS. It was a simple gathering made extraordinary by the presence of people who were willing to stand up to injustice and to put their own lives to work on behalf of human rights everywhere.

Not everyone in that room on June 26 was a survivor of politically-motivated torture, but they all stood for survivors, and that made it a special, family celebration.
Memoir Recounts One Woman’s Fight for Truth and Justice in Guatemala

Searching for Everardo: A Story of Love, War, and the CIA in Guatemala
By Jennifer K. Harbury; Grand Central Publishing; 353 pages; $13

Review by Eliza Kane

Jennifer K. Harbury’s heart-breaking 1997 memoir certainly is, as the subtitle suggests, a book about true love. But her memoir isn’t just the story of a wife’s love for her husband; it is also the story of a man’s love for his people, and a people’s love for their country. This echo chamber of cross-cultural love, loyalty, and vigilance in the face of war makes this book so topical today, ten years after its original publication.

We first meet Everardo as a martyr before knowing him as a man. He has been tortured to death and buried like so many other anonymous Compañeros who dared fight the oppression of their country’s U.S.-backed army. This swell of Mayan resistance inspired Harbury’s second trip to Guatemala in 1990, this time to the mountain headquarters of the URNG, or Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity.

Harbury intended to apply her lifetime of privilege and her Harvard education toward writing a book that would raise awareness in the United States about the guerrillas’ war. She did much to prepare, but she had not expected to fall in love.

Harbury shares the story of meeting and marrying Efraín Bámaca “Everardo” Velásquez by recounting it to him. Her intention is surely to memorialize the connection she shared with her husband and to humanize his cause, a movement that has been persistently branded by the press as a terrorist one. In profiling the quiet and good-humored nature of Everardo and the men and women he commanded, Harbury invites readers to embrace them the way they embraced her – as part of a human family, which necessarily shares both joy and suffering. And in relating their sac-

10 Ways You Can Help SURVIVORS Provide Healing Services for Another 10 Years

1. Sign up for the e-newsletter by e-mailing mdougherty@notorture.org. If you already receive the e-newsletter, please forward it to your contacts.

2. Challenge yourself to tell a different person about SURVIVORS every week. Let them know what you are doing to help and encourage others to get involved, too.

3. Recycle for SURVIVORS. Turn your old cell phones and ink cartridges into money for SURVIVORS. To learn about donating items or starting a recycling program at your company or school, contact Jessica Jollett at (619) 278-2421 or jjollett@notorture.org.

4. Give a gift on behalf of a loved one, or in celebration of an important event. SURVIVORS can send a card notifying an individual of your gift. Please contact Marian Hart at (619) 278-2408 or mhart@notorture.org.

5. Register your Ralphs or Food 4 Less club cards and a percentage will go directly to SURVIVORS. (See page one of this newsletter for details.)

6. Contact your employer to see if they have a matching donation program. If they do, please sign up to have your donations to SURVIVORS matched. If they don’t, express your interest in such a program.

7. Sign up to support SURVIVORS on iGive.com. Up to 26% of the money you spend could support SURVIVORS’ programs.

8. Sign up for the Healing Trust. By providing monthly or quarterly donations, you can help SURVIVORS be sustainable. Please download the form at www.notorture.org/donate.


10. Work with your school or church to plan an alternative giving holiday fair. SURVIVORS will be a participating organization in the Alternative Giving Christmas Fair at Torrey Pines Christian Church on Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the fair, people can donate to SURVIVORS as a Christmas gift to someone else. Then that person will receive a personalized gift card from SURVIVORS to show that a donation was made in his or her name.

SURVIVORS Partners with KPBS in The Campaign for Love & Forgiveness

SURVIVORS is joining with KPBS and The Fetzer Institute for the second year of The Campaign for Love & Forgiveness.

The campaign features television programs, online discussions, and community events to encourage contemplation and conversation about how love and forgiveness can effect meaningful change.

SURVIVORS plans to host group conversations with clients about love and forgiveness.

Previously SURVIVORS has offered expressive arts therapy sessions. The clinical staff found the small group sessions to be an excellent way to assemble an intimate group of clients in which conversations can arise. To learn more about the Campaign for Love & Forgiveness, visit loveandforgive.org.
Program Spotlight

Massage Therapy Helps Relieve Survivors’ Pain

SURVIVORS helps individuals recover from their traumas through a holistic program including medical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, legal and social services. Starting with this issue, SURVIVORS will spotlight one or more specialized services in each newsletter.

Torture survivors frequently suffer both acute and chronic physical pain and disability as a result of their traumas. These injuries contribute to emotional distress, sleep disturbances and difficulty managing the many challenges of establishing new lives in the United States.

Clients need to receive treatment for chronic pain, musculoskeletal injury, impaired function and other physical manifestations of trauma in a setting that is safe and familiar. In response to this need, SURVIVORS offers therapeutic massage to our clients. Three licensed massage therapists currently contract with SURVIVORS: Greta Goforth, Deborah Spivak, and Rob Walshe.

Deborah said that providing massage therapy services at SURVIVORS is extremely different from the work she does at a spa or with private clients.

“It’s hard for me to wrap my head around the idea of torture. The enormity of it and the lasting effects, both physical and otherwise, continue to startle me,” she said. “However, what I find inspiring is the ability of these survivors to get on with their lives.”

Rob provides non-touch energy work to SURVIVORS’ clients. He reports it is relaxing and effective on physical, mental, and spiritual levels; and he said he has seen dramatic changes in the SURVIVORS that he sees regularly.

“My work with SURVIVORS is some of the most rewarding of any in my life,” Rob said. “I am sad that torture goes on around the world and I am grateful for the opportunity to help the survivors.”

Board and Staff Updates

SURVIVORS’ Board of Directors Welcomes New Member

Earlier this year, Gigi Srajer joined the board of directors of SURVIVORS. Gigi is the director of development for Access Inc., a non-profit organization that promotes economic independence among vulnerable groups in the community through education, training, and the development of community resources. She previously worked for the Mutual Assistance Network in Sacramento. As a member of the board of directors for SURVIVORS, Gigi hopes to focus on fund development and overall agency development.

Gigi was born and raised in Kansas and obtained her bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas. She then earned her master’s degree in social work from Columbia University.

In the 1990s, Gigi was a Peace Corps volunteer in Mali, a small country in West Africa. She has traveled to Japan, Australia and parts of Europe. She says her longtime interest in international affairs led her to become involved with SURVIVORS.

“The international community has always been important to me,” Gigi said.

“I felt that the mission and the organization’s history would provide me the opportunity to learn about a new area and engage in my community.”

New AmeriCorps*VISTA Members Begin Working at SURVIVORS

In August, three new AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers began working at SURVIVORS.

Blake Tye graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she focused on international studies and Spanish. Blake’s experiences working with human rights in Latin America led her to apply for the organizational development position at SURVIVORS. Outside of school and work, Blake enjoys yoga, traveling and spending time outdoors.

“The work SURVIVORS does aligns with my own experiences in migrant and human rights issues,” Blake said.

Charlene Peña comes to SURVIVORS after two years of teaching English in Kazakhstan with the Peace Corps. A graduate of the University of California at San Diego (UCSD), Char-
Thank You to All of Our Community Supporters

May 1, 2007, through July 31, 2007

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.

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Big City Bagels — San Diego
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We apologize for errors or omissions and extend our gratitude for support that may not have been recognized.

SURVIVORS Bids Farewell to the 2006-2007 AmeriCorps*VISTA Members

In August, Kate Bolus, Molly Meehan, and Jess Jollett completed their one-year term of service as AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers. Kate is now attending law school at UCLA, and Molly is working at a sustainable living center in Costa Rica. Jess decided to serve a second AmeriCorps*VISTA year at SURVIVORS; she is now working on media and communications projects.

SURVIVORS is fortunate to attract such dedicated and talented individuals who are interested in devoting a year of their lives to the field of torture rehabilitation.

A note from the VISTA Members:

We are all incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to spend our year of service at SURVIVORS. This experience has provided us with invaluable knowledge about the workings of a nonprofit human rights agency and with personal insight concerning the next steps in our own journeys. We couldn’t have imagined working with a more caring and effective staff or serving more deserving clients.

Our time at SURVIVORS has created a foundation for relationships we know will last long after our year here ends. We hope that the impact we leave at SURVIVORS will prove to be half as meaningful as the one that has been left on us.

Gratefully,
Kate Bolus (left), Jess Jollett (center), and Molly Meehan (right).
SURVIVORS’ Financial Supporters
May 1, 2007, through July 31, 2007

Healing broken hearts and restoring the spirits of torture survivors in San Diego County is accomplished with the help of our financial supporters. Because of you, the survivors are able to rebuild their lives. We are grateful.

Foundations, Corporations, and Organizations

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United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
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Thank you!

We apologize for any errors or omissions and extend our gratitude to donors who may not have been recognized.

CAPITOL │ From Page 1
University of the Pacific researcher, Cheri Kramer, attended the meetings with Kathi and Maren.

Participating organizations from the California Consortium of Torture Treatment Centers included the Center for Justice & Accountability, San Francisco; the Center for Survivors of Torture at Asian Americans for Community Involvement, San Jose; Program for Torture Victims, Los Angeles; Survivors International, San Francisco; and Survivors of Torture, International, San Diego.

To date, the centers have served individuals from more than 100 countries. It is the goal of the consortium to provide services to survivors to become healthier and more self-sufficient through well-supported treatment programs.

VISTA │ From Page 5
gain work experience that can be useful in any future job,” said Charlene, adding that she also looks forward to taking daily showers as an AmeriCorps*VISTA — a luxury not always available in the Peace Corps.

Julie Wall, the VISTA member working with the clinical team, is also a graduate of UCSD. She recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Julie said she plans to continue her study of psychology at the graduate level, but chose to spend a year working at SURVIVORS before going back to school.

“I wanted to get hands-on experience in a field that helps underserved individuals and communities,” Julie said.
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EVERARDO | From Page 4

rifeces, their losses, and yes, even their torture, she begs corrupt Guatemalan leaders, their oppressive military, their enablers within the CIA, and the public itself to abandon their interests and join in this family.

Searching for Everardo’s impact, bolstered by the juxtaposition of newlywed tenderness with graphic human rights violations, culminates when Everardo goes missing. Harbury can no more easily tolerate the thought of his enduring military abuse than of his dying outright. And so, despite being unable to reveal herself as his wife, she searches for a body or a grave that might assist her with some closure while revealing the crime of his murder to the world.

SURVIVORS of Torture, International

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.

Since then, SURVIVORS has engaged a caring network of professionals — board members, attorneys, interpreters, therapists, physicians, dentists — and all of YOU in the community who give faithful support and encouragement in many ways.

We serve survivors who reside in the greater San Diego and Southern California area, but are prepared to assist the legitimate needs of all survivors of politically-motivated torture.

For more information about SURVIVORS, or to participate in our mission, please visit our website at: www.notorture.org — or contact us by e-mail at: survivors@notorture.org.