Mission Statement
SURVIVORS of Torture, International exists to:
- be a healing resource for survivors of torture and their families;
- raise awareness among the general public and educate the professional communities about torture; and
- be an instrument to end torture.

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Songs of Healing and Hope
June 26, 2005
United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice

Bill Radatz (center) and (L-R) Cameron Druckel of Governor Schwarzenegger’s Office, Deannika Goodwin of Congresswoman Davis’ Office, Yelena Feldman of Senator Feinstein’s Office, and Assembly Woman Lori Saldana.

Abba Koma

Peter Sprague and Deborah Liv Johnson

State Assembly Member Lori Saldana presents Joint Proclamation to Executive Director Kathi Anderson
Words from the Co-Chairs
and the Executive Director

On June 26, the community of Survivors of Torture, International commemorated the United Nations Day in Support of Victims of Torture at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Approximately 200 rehabilitation centers and programs throughout the world honored this day. Together we campaigned for the right of survivors to obtain rehabilitation and redress.

This right is important for survivors and for future generations to get on with their lives, as well as for society as a whole. The commemoration of June 26 is a reminder that hundreds of thousands of survivors around the world need healing. It is a reminder that torture is a crime and that freedom from torture is a basic human right. The work against torture requires the active support and contribution by all. We called on all states, civil societies and partners to join us in commemorating June 26.

We would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended our special event as well as those who sent in donations even though they were not able to attend. The theme of our event this year was “Songs of Healing and Hope.” Abaa Koma, an African dance and drumming troupe, and Deborah Liv Johnson with Peter Sprague, two guitarists and singers, gave heartfelt live musical performances and left the audience wanting more. Afterwards, our guests enjoyed an elegant reception of chocolates, wine and coffee, with background music performed by Stage 4.

Next year on June 26, Survivors of Torture, International will focus on advocacy efforts in Sacramento. We will hold our annual fundraiser, not in the summer, but in February when university students are in town and most of us are not on vacation. We look forward to seeing all of you in February.

Free from torture but not its effects

By Elizabeth Michel and Marc Shaffer — Special to The Sacramento Bee

The American people abhor torture. ... By acting to heal the survivors of torture and protect their families, the United States can help to heal the effects of torture and prevent its use around the world. - Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998

Today is the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. In California and around the world people are gathering, as U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has put it, to "pay our respects to those who have endured the unimaginable" and to "speak up against the unspeakable."

For most of us, paying respects to those who’ve endured the unimaginable conjures images of distant peoples and far-off lands.

In fact, the legacy of torture is all around us. There are an estimated 500,000 torture survivors from more than 90 nations living in the United States, many of them in California. They are children, adults and the elderly who have escaped the killing fields of Cambodia, the civil wars of Central America and genocide in the Sudan and Bosnia. They are democratic activists who have been tortured for daring to confront dictators, and women who have fled from the threat of genital mutilation.

These are brave, resilient and talented people with much to offer, but they have been deeply scarred. They suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, nightmares, unremitting anxiety, loss of trust in others, social withdrawal, suicidal thoughts, memory gaps, concentration difficulties, headaches, musculoskeletal injuries, disfiguring scars, brain and nerve injuries and bodily injuries from rape.

Out of shame or fear or simply not knowing where to turn, most survivors of torture suffer in silence. They need our help.

Across California, under the umbrella of the California Consortium of Torture Treatment Centers, seven organizations provide that help. In 1980, the Program for Torture Vic-

(Continued on page 5)
Elected Officials
Publicly Support SURVIVORS on June 26

Senator Dianne Feinstein honored the United Nations International Day in Support of Torture Victims and recognized the contributions and commitment of Survivors of Torture, International in her Certificate of Commendation. She stated, “Through your dedicated efforts, you have enabled thousands of brave torture survivors to live full and prosperous lives. On this day when we remember the victims of torture in the world, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Survivors of Torture, International for your dedicated efforts toward addressing global inhumanity. Through your service, you have earned the reputation as a compassionate and admirable organization. As a United States Senator from the State of California, I commend and thank you for all your many years of service.”

Senator Barbara Boxer sent her best wishes and commended Survivors of Torture, International “for your ongoing efforts to bring attention to the issue of political torture, and to support those individuals who have suffered from such violence in the past. Victims of torture often suffer permanent physical and mental consequences requiring long-term care. Torture is thus an ongoing human rights problem of the utmost importance, and deserves renewed international attention. Your organization has played a crucial role in this regard, and is worthy of the utmost praise. Thank you for your tireless efforts, and I encourage you to continue your valuable work.”

Congresswoman Susan A. Davis in her proclamation resolved, “That on this day, June 26, 2005, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, Survivors of Torture International is commended for its contributions to raising community awareness, fostering coordination between treatment centers, and serving those in need.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, on behalf of all Californians, offered greetings to all those who observed the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. He wrote: “It is estimated that of all refugees arriving in the United States from countries systematically practicing torture, more than one third were brutalized in their homeland. California is home to the largest number of refugees and immigrants in the United States who influence and enrich our state economically, socially and intellectually and share a dedication to human rights. Today, freedom-loving people everywhere recommit themselves to honoring torture victims and to raising awareness of the abuses that are still practiced in many countries.”

State Assembly members Lori Saldana and Juan Vargas, and Senators Christine Kehoe and Denise Moreno Ducheny resolved, “That the California State Legislature bring public attention to the pain and suffering of torture victims around the world and honor all those who work on their behalf and do hereby proclaim June 26, 2005, as Support of Victims of Torture Day.”

San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy proclaimed June 26, 2005, “to be United Nations International Day to commemorate a day of healing and peace for the torture survivors living in our city and to raise awareness and communication among the general public.”

Torture Victims Relief Act – Call to Action

Time is running out. Congressmen Hunter and Issa need to hear from you. Please call, e-mail or fax them to state that you want them to support H.R. 2017, the Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act (TVRA).

Torture treatment centers in the United States and worldwide depend on this funding in order to provide essential services to torture survivors. The TVRA needs to be reauthorized and appropriated.

Thank you again to Congresspersons Cunningham, Davis and Filner for already co-sponsoring the TVRA. If you need more information about H.R. 2017, please contact SURVIVORS’ executive director, Kathi Anderson, at 619-278-2407.
SURVIVORS Works with Freedom House in Mexico

SURVIVORS' clinical director David Gangsci and case manager Beatriz Ledezma participated as members of a six-person international training team at a four-day workshop organized by Freedom House and held in Cooyoyoc Morelos, just outside of Mexico City, in June 2005. The workshop focused on training participants in the principles of treatment for torture survivors and the documentation of torture for legal proceedings. The meeting was a result of more than 18 months of work by the staff of Freedom House's Torture Treatment and Prevention Project in Mexico in hopes of strengthening its work against torture and building a network of support and collaboration among those doing this work. Freedom House brought together 22 psychologists, lawyers, and medical doctors working with 15 different non-governmental organizations and state human rights commissions, and one law enforcement agency.

David contributed to a session on the documentation of psychological effects of torture, providing guidelines for gathering the necessary clinical information sensitively and effectively, even under challenging conditions. David and Beatriz together presented Survivors of Torture International's clinical model of offering holistic and client-centered services and how those services have been created through intentional collaborative partnerships with community providers. Beatriz demonstrated the record keeping system SURVIVORS uses to maintain accurate client records, and she provided a template of our clinical chart to each participant organization. David and Beatriz also participated in round table discussions and informal consultations on many topics, including the significance of recognizing and managing vicarious traumatization.

This meeting was the first of its kind in Mexico. Noting its significance, Beatriz, who comes from Mexico, emphasized, "The work with torture survivors cannot be done by just one organization. The true effectiveness of this work rests on collaboration and the sharing of responsibility. Our model at SURVIVORS honors this principle and is the most important tool we can share with our colleagues in Mexico." The work also continues Survivors of Torture International's collaboration with Freedom House, which began when SURVIVORS hosted a delegation from Mexico for a two-day training event in March 2004 and continued with visiting fellow Marta Vazquez's placement for one month at SURVIVORS in spring 2005.

Technical Projects Protect Clients

For three years, SURVIVORS has used the clinical data management program developed by Amos Clifford of Griot Evaluation Systems, Inc. Taking a program originally developed for Head Start, Amos has customized it to meet SURVIVORS' needs. This program stores our specialized intake data, records details of client service contacts and staff educational presentations; provides a wide variety of customized reports for grant applications, reports to funders, agency management, and program evaluations. Amos has generously donated regular upgrades of the Griot Program and his tech support services, for which we are most appreciative.

Another significant administrative accomplishment, now well underway, is bringing the agency into compliance with the privacy and security provisions of the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA), the federal law which protects consumers' healthcare information, and with the Security Breach Information Act (SB 1386), the California counterpart. Through a grant from The California Endowment, SURVIVORS has been able to contract with expert consultants to prepare the required policies and procedures documents, bring agency practices into compliance with regulations, and establish the required training programs for board, staff, and contractors. In the near future, this project will be completed and all clients will have access to documents informing them of their rights under the law and procedures by which they can protect those rights.

Both of these areas of work reflect SURVIVORS' commitment to providing high quality and responsible services to our clientele and accountability to our donors.
Free from torture but not its effects

(Continued from page 2)

tims in Los Angeles was the first center in the nation to provide specialized medical, mental health and support services to survivors of torture. In the Bay Area, Survivors International, the Institute for the Study of Psychosocial Trauma, the Center for Justice and Accountability, and the Center for Survivors of Torture followed. In San Diego, survivors are supported by Survivors of Torture, International, and Doctors of the World.

Together, these groups provide relief to hundreds of survivors each year, people such as "Ali."

When Ali opened his wounds to us as his caregivers, he trusted us to protect his privacy, and so we have changed his name, but not the facts in his case.

In 1997, Ali escaped to California from Iraq, where he had been taken by Saddam Hussein's regime, shackled to a wall in a windowless dungeon and tortured. He was forced to watch as others were beaten, some to death. By the time he arrived in California, he was a broken man. He wandered the streets, fearful and anxious, with no job, no home and dependent on the charity of Middle Eastern shop owners for food.

Ali ultimately found mental health counseling and other services through a California Consortium treatment center.

His story does more than testify to the legacy of torture - it reminds us that to be American means to embrace those fleeing persecution. It was this bedrock American value that led Congress in 1998 to pass the Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA), a law that for the first time set aside federal dollars to treat torture survivors.

But just as torture has emerged into public view, our nation's commitment to survivors of torture is being put to the test. A broad bipartisan effort to increase the budget of the severely underfunded TVRA faces an uphill battle. Without this support, California's treatment programs have little hope of caring for the many survivors who need our help.

On U.N. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we re dedicate ourselves to serving survivors of torture, and we challenge our leaders to do the same. In Washington, we urge all of our elected representatives to join with those California senators and representatives who are working to adequately fund the TVRA.

In Sacramento, our legislators and administrators can make an enormous impact, first by educating themselves to the needs of torture survivors, and then by removing the obstacles that bar survivors from accessing critical health programs that other states have made available to them. At the county level, mental health officials have an extraordinary opportunity to support torture treatment programs through the new Mental Health Services Expansion Funding Act.

Each of us has something to give to those who have endured the unimaginable, whether it be our time, money or advocacy. By supporting healing services for these courageous Californians, we do more than help rebuild individual lives - we affirm who we are as a people.

About the writers: Marc Shaffer and Elizabeth Michel, M.D., serve on the boards of directors, respectively, of Survivors International and Survivors of Torture, International.

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

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AmeriCorps*VISTAS
Contribute their Services to SURVIVORS

Over the summer, SURVIVORS bid farewell to Drew Lewis and Maggie Lynamgh, two AmeriCorps*VISTAS who had chosen to do their one year service at Survivors of Torture, International. Drew Lewis worked closely with the clinical team while Maggie worked in the area of communications. The accomplishment they feel most proud about was the upgrading of our outdated website. We wish them both the very best of luck in their chosen career paths. Drew is now working at Pacific College of Medicine and Maggie is enrolled at Harvard Law School.

On August 22, SURVIVORS welcomed three new AmeriCorps*VISTAS. Maren Dougherty came to us after graduating from Northwestern University with a major in journalism. Her focus is in our communications projects. Amu Venkateswaran graduated with a degree in anthropology from UCSD. Amu had been volunteering with SURVIVORS since last October and is now working in the critical area of fund development. Kelly Reid recently graduated with a master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Kelly works with the clinical team on numerous projects including evaluating project outcomes.

Survivors of Torture, International is very fortunate to attract such dedicated and talented individuals who are interested in devoting a year of their lives to the field of torture rehabilitation. Thank you, Drew and Maggie. Welcome, Maren, Amu and Kelly.
In-kind Goods & Professional Services Support

SURVIVORS is grateful to the following individuals and companies who have provided generous contributions of products and services during the period from April 1, 2005, through June 30, 2005. Thank you for your support.

Companies
Amore Cheesecakes
European Cake Gallery
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Just Fabulous Desserts
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Michael's Printing Company
Miguel's Restaurant, San Diego
Presbyterian Crisis Center
South Bay YMCA
Stage 4 Entertainment
Starbucks Coffee Company, Store #511
Sweet Nicole's
Sweet Things in Life
The California Endowment

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Steve Alper
Joyce Anderson
Kathi Anderson & Jesse Rivera
Dorothy Berger
Amos Clifford
Maryann Dean
David Engstrom
Lynn Francis
Andrea Guerrero
Melissa Lundquist
Jemilyn Malana
Suzanne Popp
Melody Rudolph
Cheryl Walczak

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

Donate Frequent Flyer Miles to SURVIVORS
Occasionally SURVIVORS needs to purchase an airline ticket for one of our employees or a visiting guest. You can help SURVIVORS cover travel expenses by donating frequent flyer miles. For more information please call (619) 278-2400.

Check out our updated website:
www.notorture.org
It went live on June 24.
Special thanks to Maggie Lynaugh, Drew Lewis, John Pastori, Lee Goyette, and CECO.

THANK YOU TO OUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

SURVIVORS would like to thank all the volunteers who helped prepare the May newsletter and the June 26th event invitations for mailing. Special thanks to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and the AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteers for their continued support.

Pastor Rich Ajer
Amelia Francis
Denise Francis
Katie Francis
Denise Gottia
John Hambleton
Carol Holler
Alice Howard
Yulia Kirillova
Lindy Laub
Drew Lewis
Sandy Lim
Maggie Lynaugh
Amanda Maggio
Brad Monroe
Gerry Overly
JoAnn Pastori
Homer Paulson
Zachary Rivera
Donna Sass
Nadia Shihab
Rachel Steele
Janet Stevens
Emily Suon
Kenneth Suon
Laura Taylor
SURVIVORS' Financial Supporters

APRIL 1, 2005 – JUNE 30, 2005

Healing broken hearts and restoring the spirits of torture survivors in San Diego County is the work of our financial supporters. Without you, the men, women and children who are survivors would not be able to rebuild their lives. We are grateful.

Foundations, Corporations, and Organizations

American Association of University Women – San Diego Branch
Amnesty International Group #597
Grossmont Healthcare District
Las Patronas
Pioneers of San Diego Lion’s Club & Lion’s Optometric Vision Center
Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church - Oceanside
Rehabilitation Strategies, Inc.
Rhea Investments, Inc.
San Diego County Employees Charitable Organization (CECO)
Starbucks Coffee Company, Store #511
The California Endowment
The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Diego
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Torrey Pines Christian Church – La Jolla
University of the Pacific School of International Studies
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA)

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

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Dee L. Aker & Bill Smith
Kathi Anderson & Jesse Rivera
Paul E. & Joyce Anderson
Cheri L. Attk & Steve Rivera
Donna Ballard-Brandt
Keith & JoAnna Bangor
Jeanette Barrack
Ruth Beauchamp
Dorothy Berger
Mark Berger & Jacquelyn Tolley
Lowell & April Blankfort
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Gordon & Arleen Shifrin
Amelia Simpson & Lawrence Rockwood
Marilyn H. Slater
Deborah Smailer
Sarah A. Spero

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

SURVIVORS gratefully acknowledges the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement – (Grant # 90ZT0040) – for its generous support.
SAVE the DATE

Sunday, October 23
5:30 p.m.
Amnesty International's
Human Rights Candlelight Walk
Denounce the Torture Initiative
Oceanside Pier
Free and Open to the Public
For more information, contact Margaret Wernett
at 760-731-9174

SURVIVORS of Torture . . .
. . . was incorporated in February 1997 in response to a need in
our community to bring assistance to that segment of the popula-
tion which struggles with the wounds of politically motivated tort-
ure.

Since then, SURVIVORS has engaged a caring network of pro-
fessionals — board members, attorneys, therapists, physicians —
and all of YOU in the community who give faithful support and en-
couragement 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 information about SURVIVORS, or to participate in our
mission — please visit our website: www.not torture.org — or
contact us by e-mail at: survivors@not torture.org.