



association for
the prevention
of torture

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Prevention in practice



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from our President	3	Change 3 — Strong arguments and new voices are mobilised to prevent torture	17
Promoting change through partnerships	4	Communicating for change through hope	18
Change 1 — People are treated with dignity and fairness by the criminal justice system	5	Achievements	19
Building support for the Méndez Principles	6	Key figures	20
Achievements	7	Change 4 — Effective and independent oversight protects persons deprived of liberty	21
Timeline	8	Strengthening a community of practitioners	22
Key figures	9	Achievements	23
Supporting effective implementation of safeguards	10	Supporting our NPM partners	24
Achievements	11	Key figures	25
Key figures	12	Snapshot of APT activities	26
Change 2 — Persons in situations of vulnerability are safe from torture and ill-treatment	13	Our Board	28
Women, LGBTI+ and older persons in detention	14	Our team	29
Achievements	15	Our finances	30
Key figures	16		

Design & Illustration
Vicky Tong Design

Photography
Ben Buckland

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



**MARTINE
BRUNSCHWIG GRAF**
President

This Annual Report is the last one I will preface as President of the APT. By the time it is published, my successor will have taken office. I wish Robert Roth, former Director of the Geneva Academy of Humanitarian Law and Honorary Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva, every success in his new position. I am sure that his skills and commitment will be invaluable to our association in the challenges that lie ahead.

In 2006, when I took office, the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) had been adopted by the UN General Assembly less than four years earlier. How far we have come since then. Preventive visits to places of detention are a reality at the global level, with 77 national preventive mechanisms now active in countries across all regions.

The OPCAT remains a core preventive instrument, but it cannot be the only tool to counter torture and ill-treatment. This is why the APT is committed to the adoption and implementation of the Méndez Principles, which aim to replace coercive interrogations with interviews that guarantee judicial and procedural rules. This is an important new step in the prevention of torture, and presents a new challenge for the APT's work. The APT team is well prepared to meet these challenges, as it proves every day.

To commit to change in the field of human rights is a long-term endeavour. The APT has been at the forefront for 45 years; I am proud to have been able to accompany it along the way.

PROMOTING CHANGE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



BARBARA BERNATH
Secretary General

Transparency in places of detention is at the core of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT), adopted 20 years ago. Every day, National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) enter places of detention, prevent torture and protect persons deprived of liberty. We continued to support them in this vital work thanks to resumed direct contacts and online learning.

In Brazil, a landmark Supreme Court ruling upheld the State obligation to maintain a fully resourced NPM, by declaring unconstitutional a 2019 Presidential Decree that defunded the oversight body. This was a major victory for torture prevention. It demonstrated the power of joint advocacy by national and international partners to stand up for human rights protection.

Joint international and national efforts are also needed to reduce forced confessions and coercive interrogations. These efforts contributed to growing recognition and support for the Mendez Principles on Effective Interviewing. We will continue to facilitate discussions on domestic implementation to realise their great potential.

In Thailand, the anti-torture law was adopted by the Parliament in October 2022. After years of advocacy, this is a major milestone. Together with strong national interest in the Méndez Principles, there is clear momentum for policing reforms.

There are many more activities and results in this annual report, driven by our Strategic Plan. These were possible thanks to our partnerships across the globe, and your ongoing support. Together we can build societies without torture. Thank you!



AUDREY OLIVIER MURALT
Deputy Secretary General



CHANGE 1

People are treated with dignity and fairness by the criminal justice system

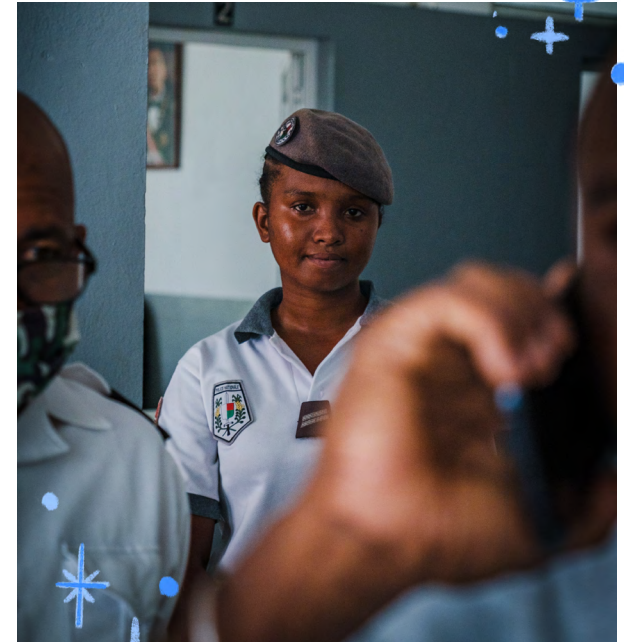


BUILDING SUPPORT FOR THE MÉNDEZ PRINCIPLES

2022 was a turning point for the new [Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering](#). The Méndez Principles, as they are known, aim to reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment by replacing coercive interrogations with rapport-based interviews and associated safeguards. They were released in May 2021.

Over the past 12 months, we have recorded growing support for the Méndez Principles, following our targeted advocacy and awareness-raising programme. This included convening high-profile side events at UN events in New York and Geneva, facilitating two joint statements to the UN, as well as hosting briefings and dialogues with UN expert mechanisms, regional bodies, NHRIs and national-level justice actors.

This growing international support is vital for implementing the Méndez Principles at the national level. It means that States, UN experts, regional bodies and others recognise the potential of the Méndez Principles to shift mindsets, transform how investigations are conducted and prevent torture. There is also an appreciation that the Méndez Principles add value by improving the results of investigations, ensuring full respect for human rights and enhancing trust in the State.



ACHIEVEMENTS

International and regional recognition

References to the Méndez Principles were included in [two UN General Assembly resolutions](#) adopted by consensus in December 2022: the resolution on torture, and the resolution on the administration of justice. The Organization of American States and the [African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) also welcomed the Méndez Principles.

Supporting UN expert bodies

The UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, the Committee against Torture, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention have all referenced the Méndez Principles in their work.

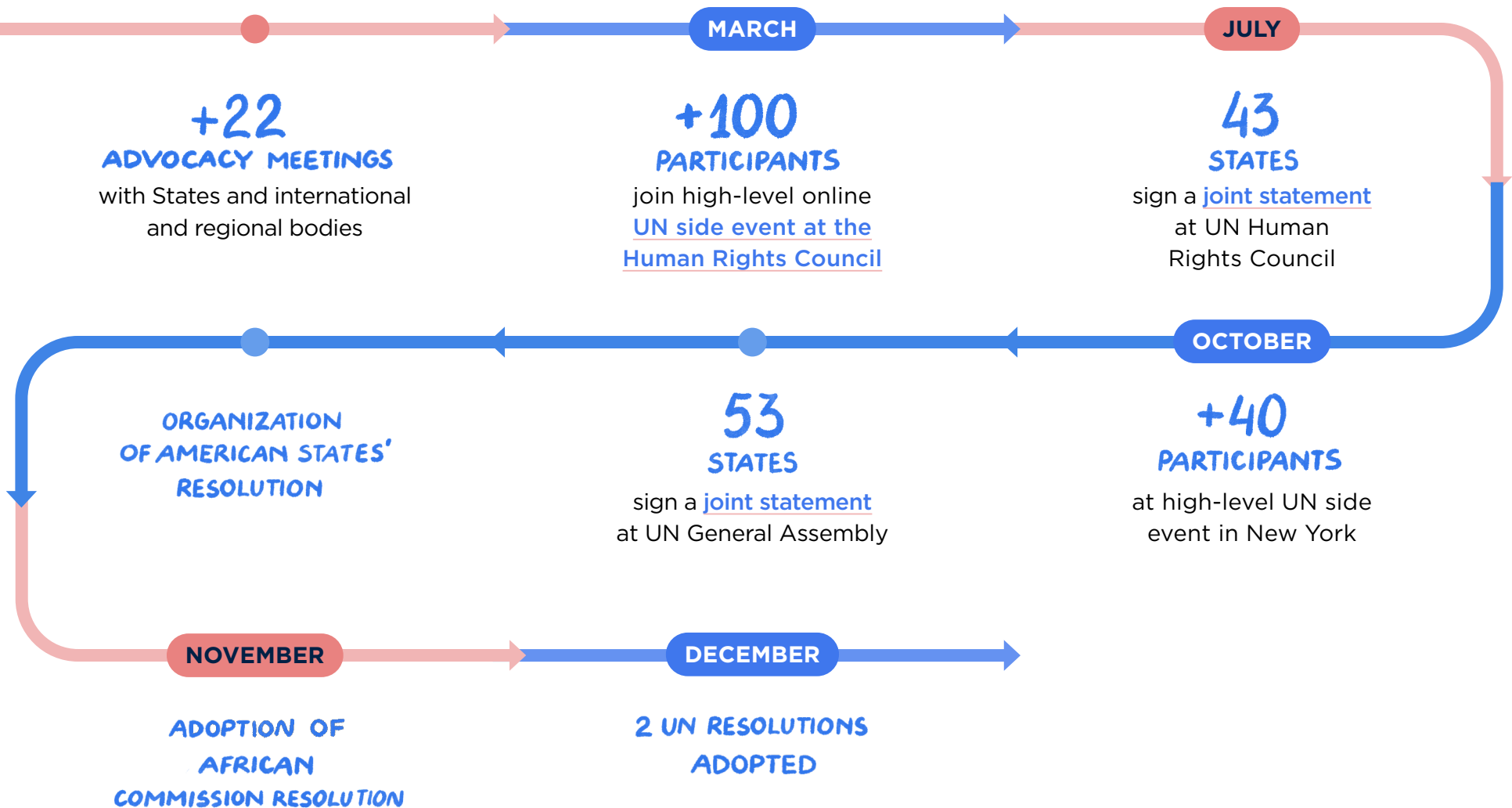
THAILAND: Working with police on the Méndez Principles

As part of the **#SafeInCustody** project, we worked with the Cross-Cultural Foundation, our local partner, to raise awareness of the Méndez Principles among Thai law enforcement officers and justice actors. Activities included: a retreat for law enforcement leaders; a seminar at the Royal Cadet Police Academy; and a dialogue on terminology to best reflect the concept of “effective interviewing”. This engagement was very timely as it coincided with the adoption of the long-awaited Anti-Torture Law in Thailand.



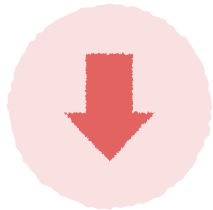


TIMELINE





KEY FIGURES



+10,000 DOWNLOADS

of the Méndez Principles in 10 languages since their launch



+12,000 VIEWS

of videos on the Méndez Principles with police and experts



+400 ACTORS

from law enforcement, judiciary, oversight bodies and civil society briefed worldwide



We have a collective responsibility to move forward in the progressive development of all issues, and the Méndez Principles are a progressive development of human rights that is necessary in interrogation techniques and in the fight against torture. Argentina supports them as such.

H.E. FEDERICO VILLEGAS

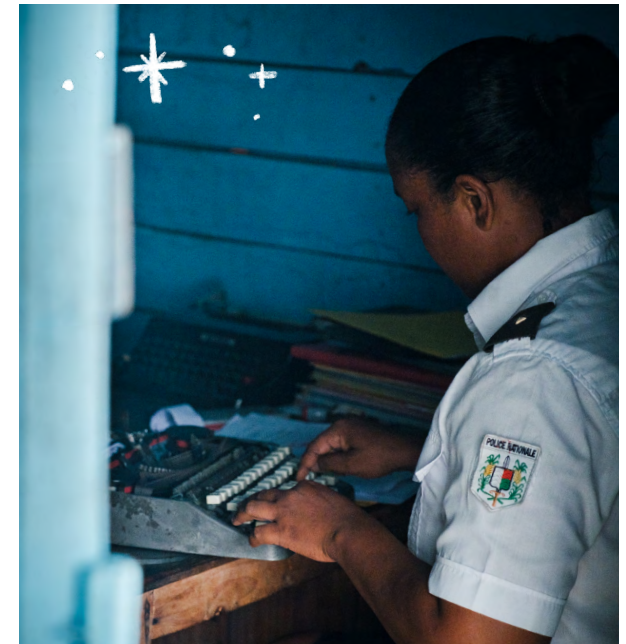
Ambassador to UN, Argentina and President, Human Rights Council, 2022

SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFEGUARDS

In 2022, we continued to promote transparency in criminal justice systems. This included monitoring custody hearings in Brazil – held within 24 hours of arrest – to verify whether legal and procedural safeguards were implemented in practice. Our goal is to protect the rights of detainees at times of heightened risk and ensure there are safe and effective measures to respond to allegations of torture.

Collecting and publishing data is also fundamental to our strategy. In moving hearings online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, judicial processes have become opaque. Collecting data on virtual custody hearings, and making that information public, contributes to promoting good practices across Brazilian States.

During the year – in Brazil, Timor-Leste and Togo – we held discussions and provided training for judges, public defenders and prison guards on identifying torture and ill-treatment and implementing the necessary safeguards to uphold rights in detention.



ACHIEVEMENTS



BRAZIL: Innovative online database on custody hearings

In 2022, we published [Observa Custódia](#), an online public platform on custody hearings. It presents data from an unprecedented national mapping project to document how legal and procedural safeguards are implemented by courts. We use this information to mobilise and advocate for necessary reforms in the justice system. The platform was developed in collaboration with the National Collegiate of Presidents of Public Defense Offices and leading civil society organisations.



TIMOR-LESTE: Training prison guards to prevent torture

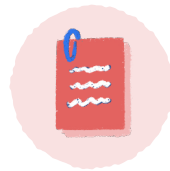
In partnership with the Provedor for Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice, we published [Torture Prevention Modules for Prison Guards](#) in Timor-Leste. Based on extensive consultation, the story-based modules challenge perceptions of torture and ill-treatment and set out the standards that prison guards should apply. We worked with a group of 19 Timorese trainers who then conducted pilot training with prison guards from three prisons in the country. This approach guarantees a sustainable transfer of knowledge, as well as local ownership of the training and tools.



KEY FIGURES



+1,500 DOWNLOADS
of our guide on
[Monitoring Police Custody](#)



27 STATE PUBLIC DEFENDERS
gather data on custody
hearings across Brazil



+160 DOWNLOADS
of our Torture Prevention
Modules for Prison Guards
in Timor-Leste



+1,000 VISITS
to the Observa
Custódia platform
(Brazil, Nov–Dec 2022)



110 VIRTUAL CUSTODY HEARINGS
monitored by APT
in two states in Brazil



+430 BRAZILIAN LEGAL ACTORS
reached in capacity
building activities



The presence of public defenders in police stations is a practical way to ensure the right of the detained person to have prompt access to a lawyer, regardless of whether they are subsequently presented for a detention control hearing. It also helps safeguard several other fundamental rights, including the prevention of torture and ill-treatment.

TOMÁS PASCUAL RICKE

Director of Human Rights,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile

Extract from [a blog](#) written
for APT's website



CHANGE 2

Persons in situations of vulnerability are safe from torture and ill-treatment

WOMEN, LGBTI+ AND OLDER PERSONS IN DETENTION

While every person deprived of liberty is in a situation of vulnerability, some people face heightened risks when they are detained.

In 2022, we launched a three-year project to improve the treatment of women and LGBTI+ persons within the criminal justice system and promote the use of gender-responsive alternatives to detention. While the project has a global perspective, we are focusing on eight countries across different regions: Brazil, the Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Panama, Rwanda, South Africa and Togo.

A key goal is to strengthen independent oversight bodies in those countries. They play a crucial role in protecting the rights of women and LGBTI+ persons deprived of liberty by monitoring places of detention, giving visibility to their situations, and working with authorities to improve policies and practices.

We also engaged with civil society organisations, justice sector actors and international human rights bodies to draw attention to the specific risks and protection needs of women, LGBTI+ and older persons deprived of liberty.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Gender-sensitive monitoring training for oversight bodies

We developed in-depth online courses for NPMs that explored risk analysis, monitoring methodology and report writing, all with a gender-sensitive perspective. We prepared specific courses for the oversight bodies of the Maldives (including in-country training and prison visits), South Africa and Togo NPMs (facilitating peer exchange and learning), and state commissions on human rights in Mexico.

Highlighting LGBTI+ persons deprived of liberty

A webinar on protecting the rights of LGBTI+ persons deprived of liberty, which included the UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, gathered 75 participants. We also launched an open [online course](#) on monitoring for LGBTI+ persons deprived of liberty, available in English, Spanish and French.

Older persons in detention: Engaging with UN experts

In her 2022 thematic report, the UN Independent Expert on older persons focused on the situation of older persons in detention, referring to the APT's submission on numerous occasions.



KEY FIGURES



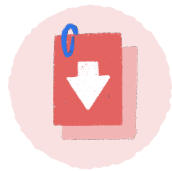
+75 PARTICIPANTS

from oversight bodies exchange insights on monitoring for LGBTI+ persons in detention during APT webinar



+30 PARTICIPANTS

from Panama's judiciary join APT seminar on people with disabilities and detention



+330 DOWNLOADS

of our [briefing paper](#) on women in detention and body searches



+2,200 PEOPLE

reached during our 16 Days of Activism campaign to mobilise support for gender-sensitive criminal justice systems



+1,900 PEOPLE

accessed our resources on indigenous women and detention



80%

of people completing our [course on LGBTI+ persons in detention](#) plan to apply this knowledge in their monitoring practice



Women family members often “normalise” abusive body searches during visits. We just want to get through all the procedures and hug our sons, see if they are alive. At ACIFAD, we are [working to change this](#).

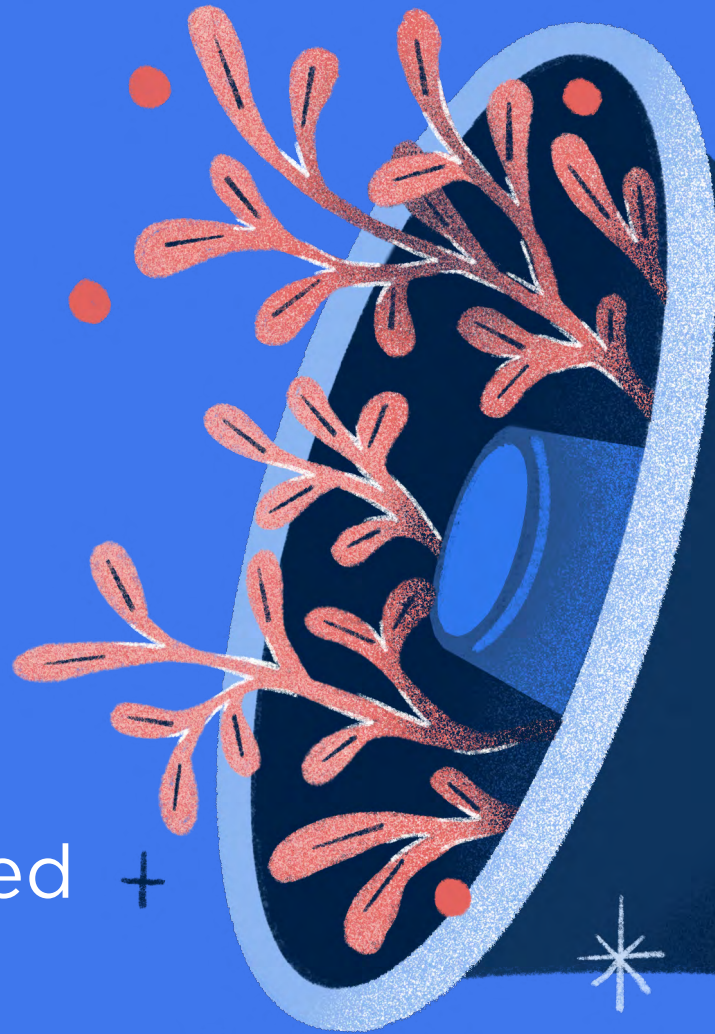
ANDREA CASAMENTO

President, Asociación Civil de Familiares de Detenidos (ACIFAD, Civil Association of Relatives of Detainees), and UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture Member

Extract from [an interview with Andrea Casamento](#)

CHANGE 3

Strong arguments and new voices are mobilised to prevent torture



COMMUNICATING FOR CHANGE THROUGH HOPE

We believe that by engaging, mobilising and equipping people across the community, we can prevent torture and ill-treatment. Key to our vision is communicating the vital importance of societies without torture – and that such societies are possible when we work together.



We worked with civil society partners and NHRIs in Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines to engage youth and the broader community through creative ways. In Malaysia, more than 800 students attended an inter-university debate on whether “confessions are necessary in police investigations”.

Through our blogs and podcast, and on our digital platforms, we featured new voices and perspectives. Family members of detainees shared the impact detention has on their lives and highlighted their role as actors for torture prevention.

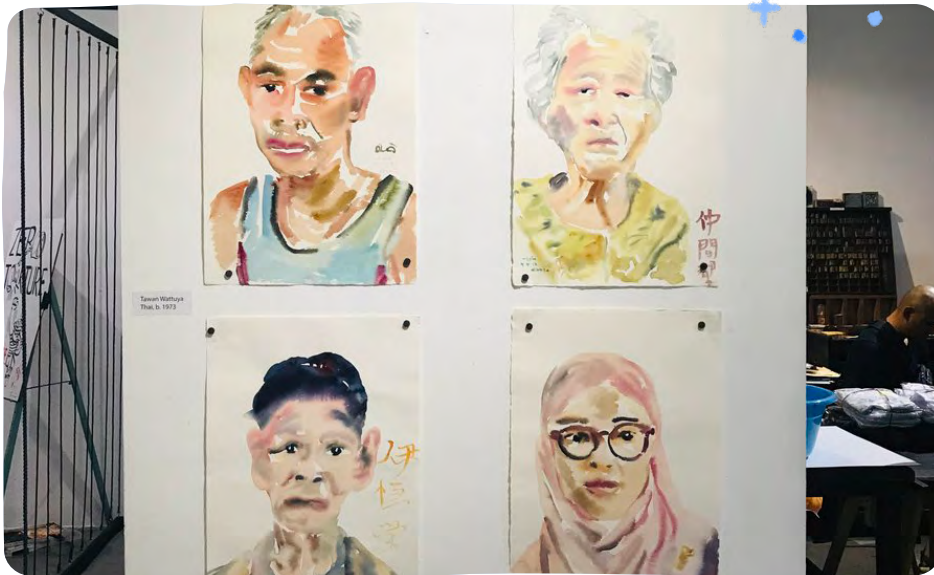
We also contributed to an academic workshop on body searches at Leuven University, with an article on the importance of monitoring. A book will be published in 2023.

We continued to use photographs by our colleague Ben Buckland, from Togo and Niger, to connect with the public and present torture prevention through a different lens.





ACHIEVEMENTS



Hope-based communication

We convened a three-day workshop on hope-based communication for [#SafeInCustody](#) project partners, which included artists, cartoonists, photographers and communicators from across South-East Asia. The ideas shared were used by our partners throughout the year to reframe their outreach initiatives in Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, with a focus on promoting respect for the rights of arrested persons.

Artists against Torture

Renowned Chilean artist Alfredo Jaar helped relaunch the association [Artists against Torture](#) at the 2022 ArtGenève exhibition.



KEY FIGURES



13% INCREASE

increase in social media followers



50% INCREASE

increase in social media engagement



+30 HIGH SCHOOL & UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

participate in poster contest in the Philippines



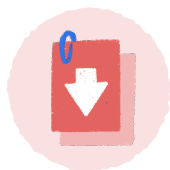
+170,000 VISITS

to our Detention Focus Database



+2,440 VIEWS

of 15 blogs amplifying voices of family members of detainees, detention monitors, practitioners and civil society



+20,000 DOWNLOADS

of APT publications

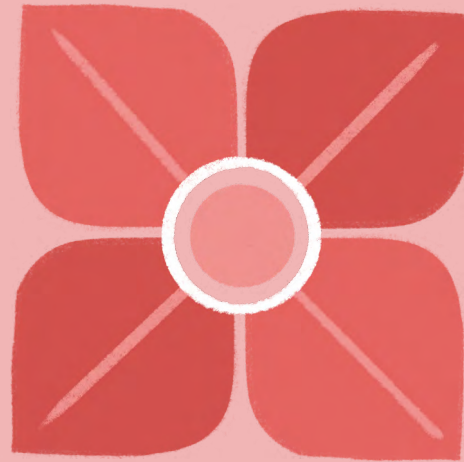


In a world where torture is still shown as entertainment, it is absolutely critical to shift the mindset. To do that, we need to focus on the link between the science and the pursuit of justice. We need to get the public calling for truth seeking, rather than just the simple pursuit of confessions or convictions.

ALKA PRADHAN

Human Rights Attorney, Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania and member of the Méndez Principles Drafting Group

Extract from [an interview with Alka Pradhan](#) for the APT's podcast



CHANGE 4

Effective and independent oversight protects persons deprived of liberty



STRENGTHENING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTITIONERS



Anyone deprived of liberty, held out of sight in a closed facility, can be at risk of torture and ill-treatment. Independent monitoring of all places of detention is essential to ensure transparency, accountability and respect for fundamental rights.

20 years after its adoption, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) continues to revolutionise the fight against torture. Today, there are 77 National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) worldwide regularly visiting places of detention.

In 2022, the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture resumed its country visits and we successfully advocated for visits to support NPMs, in particular in Brazil and in Tunisia.

We continued to advise States Parties to designate effective NPMs, including this year in Niger, Benin and Gabon. We also supported the establishment of local preventive mechanisms in Brazil through a dedicated page on our website.

We also continued to support NPMs through capacity building, face-to-face training and our online learning platform. We conducted in-country training with NPMs from Chile, Maldives, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Togo and South Africa. We also facilitated regional peer exchanges between European NPMs on preventing abuses from inappropriate use of force and equipment in custodial settings.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Monitoring public assemblies

Together with OSCE/ODHIR, we organised a webinar on preventing torture in the context of public assemblies. The UN Special Rapporteur on public assemblies, practitioners, experts and NPMs shared their experiences and highlighted the importance of training law enforcement officials, promoting accountability and ensuring independent oversight of public assemblies.

Understanding the OPCAT

To mark the 20th anniversary, we launched an introductory [online course](#) to showcase the unique characteristics of the OPCAT and provide guidance on its implementation at the national level.





SUPPORTING OUR NPM PARTNERS

Niger



Maldives



Europe



Panama



Chile



Togo



Mauritania





KEY FIGURES

+7,000
DOWNLOADS

of publications on
detention monitoring

+ 500
NEW REGISTRANTS

to our [Torture
Prevention Village](#)

+500
VISITS

to our new page on [OPCAT
implementation in Brazil](#)
(since December 2022)

24
NPMs

requested APT's support
on monitoring methodology
and detention issues

550
INDIVIDUALS

from +70 countries receive
our dedicated newsletter
for oversight institutions



The creation of the OPCAT itself is an achievement. It offers a framework for States to willingly engage in dialogue on torture prevention. With an increasing number of countries joining the OPCAT, we continue to strengthen the system of prevention. The APT is our strategic partner in this endeavour.

SUZANNE JABBOUR

Chairperson, UN Subcommittee
on Prevention of Torture

SNAPSHOT OF APT ACTIVITIES

In 2022, we conducted hundreds of activities across all regions. Here are just a few, with others highlighted elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Latin America

+30 PARTICIPANTS

join webinar co-hosted with RIMUF about family members in detention

Europe

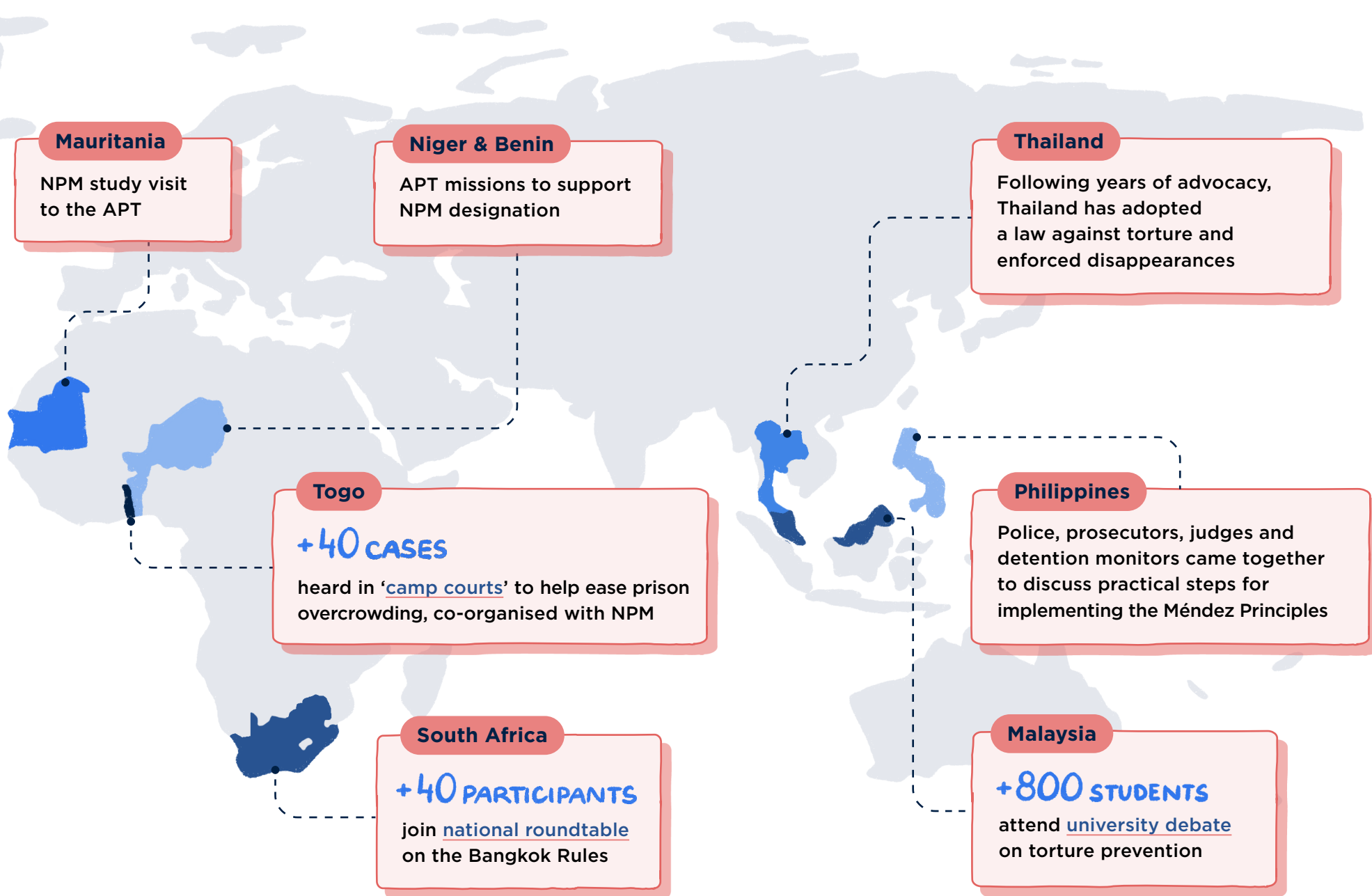
Participants from 22 NPMs and 14 NGOs join [regional workshop](#) on use of force in custodial settings, co-organised with OSCE

Africa

+100 PARTICIPANTS

from African NPMs and NHRIs join a regional workshop on the Méndez Principles





OUR BOARD



MARTINE BRUNSCHWIG GRAF
President (Switzerland)

MICHAEL KELLETT
Vice-President (United Kingdom)

ERIKA SCHLÄPPI
Vice-President until April (Switzerland)

CHRISTOPHE BROGGI
Treasurer (Switzerland)

ABDELWAHAB HANI
(Tunisia)

CECILIA JIMENEZ-DAMARY
(Philippines)

KRASSIMIR KANEV
(Bulgaria)

JACQUES LEDERREY
(Switzerland; until April 2022)

JUAN E. MÉNDEZ
(Argentina)

MERVAT RISHMAWI
(Palestine, United Kingdom)

SUZANNE SOUKOUDÉ FIAWONOU
(Togo; until April 2022)

MANUEL SAGER
(Switzerland)

CAIO CESAR KLEIN
(Brazil; from April 2022)

FLORENCE SIMBIRI-JAOKO
(Kenya; from April 2022)

ANH THU DUONG
(Switzerland; from April 2022)

OLGA ESPINOZA
(Peru; from April 2022)

Honorary Member

MARCO MONA
(Switzerland)

Advisory Board

MALCOLM EVANS
(UK)

JEEHAN MAHMOOD
(Maldives)

BACRE WALY N'DIAYE
(Senegal)

MANFRED NOWAK
(Austria)

PAZ ROJAS
(Chile)

SUZANNE SOUKOUDÉ FIAWONOU
(Togo; from April 2022)

OUR TEAM



LUCE AHOANGNIMON

Senior Adviser,
Detention & Mobilisation

SANDRA ANDENMATTEN

Finance Manager
(until May 2022)

LINDA ASAMOAH

Team Support and Office
Administrator (from April 2022)

JUVÉNAL BABONA

Fellow for Africa
(from May 2022)

BARBARA BERNATH

Secretary General

BEN BUCKLAND

Senior Adviser, Oversight

PEGGY BÜNZLI

Finance Manager
(from September 2022)

VALENTINA CADELO

Senior Adviser,
Law & Advocacy

SYLVIA DIAS

National Representative in Brazil
& Senior Legal Adviser

CATHERINE FELDER

Office and Support
Manager (until June 2022)

VERONICA FILLIPPESCHI

Senior Adviser,
Vulnerabilities & Policy

ALMUDENA GARCÍA ESPAÑA

Digital Communication Adviser

IZABELLA MAJCHER

Legal Adviser (Maternity
cover from August 2022)

SARA VERA LÓPEZ

Senior Adviser,
Latin America & Oversight

AUDREY OLIVIER MURALT

Deputy Secretary General

Consultants

FABIO CASCARDO

Project Adviser Brazil

JAMES ILIFFE

Senior Adviser,
Strategic Communication

TOMÁS PASCUAL RICKE

Criminal Justice System, Fellow

JULIE PERVANGHER

Finances

CÉCILE TROCHU GRASSO

Fundraising Manager

MANACHAYA YANKITTIKUL

Project Officer

SHAZEERA ZAWAWI

Senior Adviser,
Research & Innovation

JASMINE ZIK-IKEORHA

Senior Adviser, Learning
Development & Outreach
(from February 2022)

OUR FINANCES

In 2022, we increased both our expenses – with resumed in-country activities and a consolidated team – and our income. We ended the year with a positive financial result, consolidating the financial stability built over the last years. Our successful fundraising strategies, expanding our institutional donor base, generating income through means such as renting out our conference room, and individual donations have contributed to this positive outcome. We are particularly grateful for the generous, loyal and renewed support of Laurent and Denise Gautier.

We thank all our donors for their trust in our work towards societies without torture or ill-treatment.

Core: Switzerland, Denmark, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Luxembourg.

Projects: European Union, Canada, Canton of Geneva, Swiss private foundation, United Kingdom (including embassies in Mexico and Panama), City of Geneva, UN Development Programme (Brazil), Tinker Foundation, UN OPCAT Special Fund, Loterie Romande, Switzerland (embassy in Indonesia), Plan-les-Ouates, Chêne-Bougeries.

Assets 2022		CHF
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	908 661	
Accounts receivable	542 543	
Accruals and other current assets	49 592	
Total Current Assets	1 500 796	
FIXED ASSETS		
Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	2 548 557	
IT hard and software	66 225	
e-learning Platform	67 301	
Total Fixed Assets	2 682 083	
TOTAL ASSETS	4 182 879	

Liabilities and Wealth 2022	CHF
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payables	39 238
Income received in advance	134 063
Other current liabilities	65 424
CTI current account	480 380
Total current liabilities	719 105
RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Restricted funds - ongoing projects	271 004
Restricted funds - investment	280 925
Restricted funds - Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	2 264 608
Total Restricted Funds	2 816 537
WEALTH	
Tied capital	500 000
Reserve Centre Jean-Jacques Gautier	289 967
Balance brought forward	(197 184)
Result of the year	54 454
Total Wealth	647 237
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND WEALTH	4 182 879

Income 2022	CHF
RESTRICTED	
Foreign governments	364 707
Swiss authorities and public institutions	304 661
Private foundations	300 000
Intergovernmental organizations	478 481
Total restricted income	1 447 849
UNRESTRICTED	
Foreign governments	272 484
Swiss authorities and public institutions	350 000
Private foundations	159 156
Membership and private donations	44 796
Other income	62 201
Services to CTI	43 750
Total unrestricted income	932 387
TOTAL INCOME	2 380 236

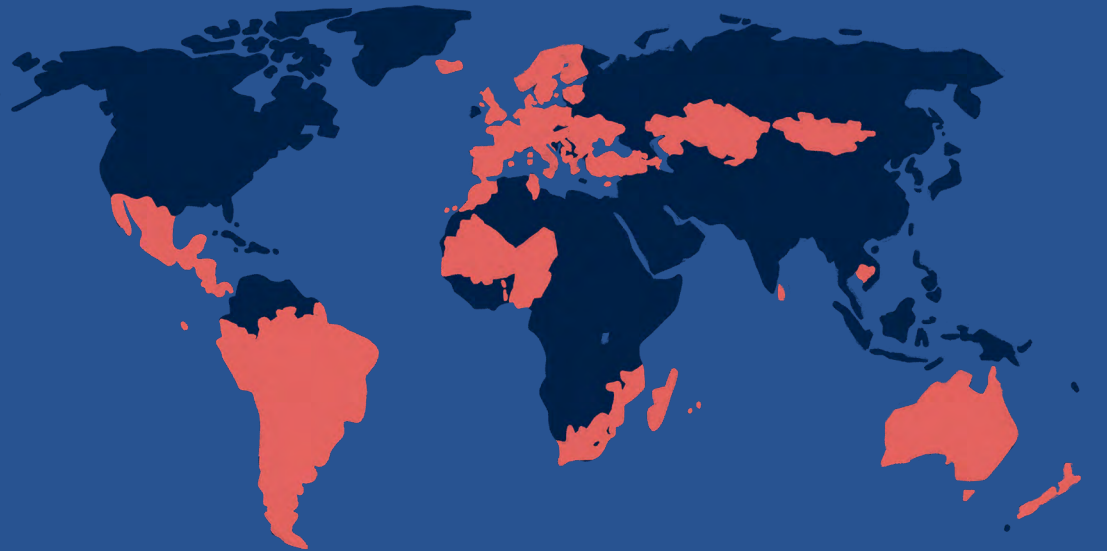
Expenditures 2022	CHF
Staff salaries	(1 181 125)
Consultants	(247 489)
Activities-related direct costs	(384 470)
Operating costs	(131 114)
Rent and maintenance costs	(23 189)
Governance bodies' meetings costs	(18 402)
Other costs	(18 953)
Depreciation of fixed assets	(125 594)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2 130 336
Operating Result	249 900
Interest banking fees	(8 527)
Exchange rate difference	2 462
Result before change in restricted funds	243 835
Allocation to restricted funds	(1 447 850)
Use of restricted funds	1 258 469
Net change in restricted funds	(189 381)
RESULT 2022	54 454

20 YEARS ADVOCATING FOR OPCAT RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

NPMs in 2012



NPMs in 2022



**Association for the
Prevention of Torture**

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www.apt.ch

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