

# 2020

**OUR CHALLENGES  
AND OUR VICTORIES  
TOGETHER  
WITH SURVIVORS**

**Torture is back. It never went away, but the global crisis of 2020 has brought it into the spotlight.**

Some States have used the pandemic as an excuse to suppress dissent, target marginalized groups, or assert their power by postponing elections. Under the pretext of enforcing health regulations, law enforcement brutality has reached unprecedented levels. Men, women and children have been beaten and even killed just for leaving their houses during curfew.

As human rights abuses continue, those whose job it is to report them are blocked by travel restrictions, lockdowns, and other health measures. Despite these obstacles, the year 2020 was marked by successes for the OMCT and the members of its SOS-Torture Network.





## IN 2020, THANKS TO THE OMCT

**406** victims of torture received emergency assistance in **9** countries

**365** emergency interventions were organized for **723** human rights defenders and **59** NGOs in **71** countries

**47** children detained in inhumane conditions in Togo and the Philippines were released

### DEFENDING THE MOST VULNERABLE

In September, the OMCT's office in **Tunisia** and its partners succeeded in their legal efforts to release 22 arbitrarily detained migrants. It is the first time that an administrative court recognizes the illegal character of such detention.

In December, we helped 5 rape victims to reintegrate into society in **Burundi**. We are financing the opening of small businesses that will allow them to live, as well as psychosocial support. Anésie, Claire, Délia, Fidèle and Nathalie are rebuilding their lives on new foundations thanks to this support.

### RESPONDING TO CRISIS SITUATIONS

In June, as the pandemic raged, we succeeded in drawing international media attention to executions of children in the **Philippines**. The 122 cases that we documented in an unprecedented report encouraged the international community to put pressure on this country.

In **Belarus**, the OMCT and its partner Viasna documented numerous cases of torture of peaceful demonstrators. In September, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on Belarus that included information provided by OMCT.

### PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In **India** and **Peru**, human rights defenders arbitrarily detained regained their freedom in June and December, thanks to joint campaigns organised at the international level.

After almost seven years of campaign by the OMCT, Monica Esparza, victim of arbitrary arrest, rape and torture in **Mexico**, was released from prison in March.



# YOUR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL

Discover our 2020 annual report here: <https://www.omct.org/en/annual-report-2020>

Thanks to your donations, survivors of torture are rebuilding their lives, victims of arbitrary arrests are freed and laws are adopted to protect the most vulnerable. Thanks to your donations, society is becoming fairer and more aware of human rights every day. We thank you on behalf of all survivors and their families.

## ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

The OMCT ensures the efficient use of donations and keeps operating costs to a minimum.



Programmes  
87 %

Fundraising  
3 %

Administration  
5 %

Communications  
5 %

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