



A Day to Protest

against torture and for the victims of torture
Asian Day Against Torture, 29 June 2008

June 26: International Day in support of Victims of Torture

On 26 June 1987 the Convention against Torture came into force. It was an important step in the much-needed process of globalising human rights and an acknowledgment that torture and all forms of inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are absolutely and universally illegal. In 1997, the United Nations General Assembly decided to mark this historic date and designated 26 June each year as International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

What is torture: torture means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person.

For What: for such purposes as obtaining from her/him or a third person information or a confession, punishing her/him for an act she/he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing her/him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind.

By whom: when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity.

What do we demand on this day

1. Torture be declared a punishable crime
2. Appropriate legislation to be passed
3. Strict enforcement of said legislation without impunity
4. A separate mechanism for reporting and investigating cases of torture.
5. Perpetrators be punished to a degree that reflects the gravity of torture
6. Provide effective protection to the victims and witnesses
7. Remedies to victims that includes compensation and rehabilitation

What we all can do

8. Get the stories of the victims of torture
9. Report such cases in detail to national human rights commissions, human rights organizations or the Asian Human Rights Commission at: <http://www.ahrchk.net/ua/>
10. Support such victims legally, financially, medically or psycho-emotionally through counseling in consultation with local or international organizations
11. Support local and regional campaigns to prevent torture and support the victims

CASES OF TORTURE

Surin Kinson was picked up on 4th April by the police attached to Gampaha police station, Sri Lanka on suspicion. He was found dead in the lock up room three days later. Wounds were found on his head, face, and hands there were wire marks around the neck. The police however, said that it was a case of suicide. This is one of the hundreds of cases of severe torture reported each year.

Then there is the dreadful case of Syamsul Hadi, a 34-year-old man who was burned alive for no apparent reason on 14th May after gasoline was poured on him by police inspector Sugeng attached to Semarang Police, Indonesia.

Several soldiers from the 16th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, who entered the house of Zosimo Mariado in Tambo-tambo Barangai, Pagsangahan, severely tortured him after forcing him to confess that he was a member of the rebel group New Peoples Army. This is one out of the hundreds of cases of intimidation, harassment and torture in the Philippines.

STOP TORTURE!

It's Criminal! It's Unjust!

It's Inhuman!

Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants • Asian Human Rights Commission • Asian Migrant Coordinating Body • Asian Students Association • Assosiasi Tenaga Kerja Indonesia Hong Kong • Hong Kong Christian Institute • Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese • United Filipinos in Hong Kong