

## Anti-Torture Initiative

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For Immediate Release

### **Working Together for a #TortureFreeWorld: A new platform for uniting stakeholders in the fight against torture**

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Washington, DC – Today, the American University Washington College of Law Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law’s Anti-Torture Initiative (ATI) launched a new website ([www.torturefreeworld.org](http://www.torturefreeworld.org)) and social media campaign on the theme of “Working Together for a #TortureFreeWorld.” The website and campaign will be a platform for survivors of torture, anti-torture advocates, and human rights experts and practitioners from around the world to share stories, videos, and work together towards a #TortureFreeWorld. As United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture (SRT) Juan E. Méndez has stated, a #TortureFreeWorld “is not just something we imagine, but something we work towards every day. As a survivor of torture I know how important it is to work in solidarity, support survivors, and change laws and policies to truly realize a #TortureFreeWorld.”

This year’s campaign brings together six organizations working for a #TortureFreeWorld in over 100 countries: the [Association for the Prevention of Torture](#) (APT), [Center for Victims of Torture](#) (CVT), [International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims](#) (IRCT), [National Religious Campaign Against Torture](#) (NRCAT), [World Organization Against Torture](#) (OMCT), and [REDRESS](#). Throughout June, Torture Awareness Month, the #TortureFreeWorld website and campaign will feature a variety of videos that NGOs, activists, educators, journalists, and others can use as a tool to better understand our collaborative work for a #TortureFreeWorld. Guests are encouraged to submit their own stories and media for use on the campaign website and our partners’ social media, using the hashtag #TortureFreeWorld via our website ([www.torturefreeworld.org](http://www.torturefreeworld.org)).

On **June 26 at 10 am EST**, SRT Méndez will join leading figures from the anti-torture world to host a one-hour global webinar to mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. The event entitled “Working Together for a #TortureFreeWorld” will provide viewers with a unique opportunity to hear experts discuss their work for a #TortureFreeWorld and to submit their questions and comments. Viewers are requested to register in advance using [this link](#).

Last year’s Torture Awareness Month and June 26 #TortureFreeWorld campaign reached over two million people and its message was adopted by organizations around the world, including the United Nations and international NGOs.

To learn more about this campaign and stay up-to-date on the latest developments, please visit the new campaign website ([www.torturefreeworld.org](http://www.torturefreeworld.org)) and follow us on Twitter @antitorture\_SRT and on Facebook (Anti-Torture Initiative). A dedicated page of the Anti-Torture Initiative website (hyperlink) will feature activities related to the #TortureFreeWorld campaign.

The Anti-Torture Initiative is a project of the Center for Human Rights & Humanitarian Law at American University Washington College of Law. The project seeks to expand the practical implementation of the work of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, Professor Juan E. Méndez (SRT). The ATI employs diverse methodologies to develop comprehensive thematic and country-specific follow up initiatives, with the aim of facilitating the domestic implementation of the SRT’s recommendations, and helping to promote the complete elimination of torture worldwide.