

# MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR TORTURE VICTIMS



## ACTIVITY REPORT 2010

Chisinau  
Republic of Moldova



**The Rehabilitation Center of Torture Victims “Memoria” (RCTV “Memoria”)** is a private non-profit institution, the first and only Center for the rehabilitation of torture and inhuman and/or degrading treatment in Moldova. RCTV “Memoria” was founded on 12 November 1999 and registered at the Ministry of Justice, on December 7, 1999.

The Center soon became internationally recognized as a professional team and an active member:

- The European Network of Rehabilitation Centers for Survivors of Torture;
- International Network of Centres and torture rehabilitation programs, managed by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT).

At local level RCTV "Memoria" has a representative in National Council for Participation (NCP), which ensures the participation of civil society in the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and revision of various policies. The representative of RCTV "Memoria" is a member of two working groups of this Council:

- Justice and Human Rights
- Social, Educational and Youth Policy.

The Center started its activity in April 2000 with the pilot-project **“Medical Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims “Memoria”, part of a “Regionalization Program” through the project “Strengthening of rehabilitation Services for Torture Victims at the regional level”**. The project was financed by Commission of the European Union and implemented by International Rehabilitation Council of Torture Victims (IRCT).

Being one of the Rehabilitation Centers accredited at the international level in 2002, RCTV “Memoria” became the member of the General Assembly of IRCT. A representative from the RCTV “Memoria” team was elected as member of IRCT Council from European region, during 2002-2006 years.

Thanks to successfully implementation of the annual projects, our activity was highly appreciated by our beneficiary and donors, from the opening of the Center till present.

**VISION:** A prosperous society in which respect of the Human Rights is guaranteed, especially the right not to be tortured, a society in which every person will benefit from the qualitative services (including the medical one), will feel him/herself a useful member of society and able to contribute to the social progress. As a representative of civil society, RCTV “Memoria” will be an active and important actor in the development and prosperity of society.

**MISSION:** Rehabilitation through a comprehensive medico-social and legal assistance Program for victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment; as well as the promotion of a society free of torture.

**VALUES:**

- Dedication to target group and providing of qualitative service
- Professional ethic and morality
- High individual and group responsibility
- Transparency of the performed activities
- Team spirits, a good cooperation and mutual support

**BENEFICIARIES:**

- Torture Victims among former political prisoners and their families
- Torture victims among refugees and asylum seekers and their families
- Recent victims of torture and their families from Moldova, including Transnistria region.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Providing medico-social and legal support to torture victims and their families;
- Improving the health status and quality of life of the assisted persons, facilitating their social reintegration by re-establishing their integrity;
- Strengthening of the rehabilitation services model created for victims of torture in Moldova and replication for other categories of persons with special needs arising from injuries suffered;
- Prevention of torture and promotion of a society free of torture.



## I. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE 2010

**SOCIO POLITICAL CONTEXT:** The political situation in the country during 2010 continued to be precarious because of the imminence of new early parliamentary elections. The new parliamentary elections were held in Moldova on 28 November 2010 after repeated failing of the election of country's president, in late 2009. The outcome of elections was again the inability to form a parliamentary majority able to elect the country's president. Therefore, in the course of 2010, Moldova experienced the initiation of several reforms, highly appreciated by international and European structures.

Regarding torture victims, unfortunately, the Moldovan authorities still remain not sufficiently aware of the responsibility they have towards this group and have not taken adequate measures to support them, except some compensations paid to a part of victims of April 2009. The impunity of police officers continued, encouraged by the low rate of prosecutions for acts of torture and other ill-treatment, by the failure to conduct prompt, thorough and impartial investigations and the lack of adequate punishment for violations. At the same time, one of the most significant achievements in Human Rights of Republic of Moldova represents **the ratification on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court**. Therefore our actions are oriented also to the implementation of Rome Statute in Moldova. In the actual context, our Center is still "uncomfortable" for many State institutions which are working according to old standards and rules, as: Prosecutor offices, Center for Forensic Medicine, Courts, etc.

**MEDIA CONTEXT:** during 2010 our Center benefited from more attention from various media bodies as in the previous years and our team members and beneficiaries were invited for interviews, or to participate in TV talk shows. The phenomenon of torture was approached many times at TV, by news papers, etc., however, in some of the cases the journalists demonstrated limited or lack of knowledge in the adequate approach of torture causing in some of the cases misunderstandings and intensive debates.

**ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT:** In 2010, RCTV "Memoria" remained "uncomfortable" for many State institutions, as: Prosecutor offices, Center for Forensic Medicine, Courts, etc., which are working according to old standards and rules. Being the only rehabilitation Center of its kind in Moldova, we didn't benefit from the needed support from state authorities, in spite of our several requests, which have been taken into consideration only 7 months later, after direct involvement of the representative of the EU Delegation to Moldova. As result, we were informed that since January 2011, some premises of about 140 sq. m., will be offered from State Chancellery for a monthly rental payment of about 400 EUR, without utilities. The proposed premises are in a very old and even damaged building, but unfortunately, we have no choice. However, due to our unique experience in the field of torture at local level, our Center was invited by various institutions to participate in the drafting of important local documents.

E.g., one our team member was involved in the working group for elaboration of the "Guide for the Local Commissions for monitoring of places of detention", within a project implemented by IDOM, NGO. Also, our Center is represented in a working group of UNDP in the elaboration and performing of trainings for prosecutors, collaborators of penitentiaries and of Ministry of Interior (police) within a project "Prevention of torture in Moldova". Also, in 2010 we contributed very much to the promotion and distribution of the Romanian version of the Istanbul Protocol in Moldova.

**REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES:** The best news for us was the approval of our application and decision of EU Delegation in Moldova to support financially the rehabilitation of torture victims, since 23 of March 2010. So, our organization continued to provide a complex and comprehensive assistance to torture victims from Moldova, maintaining of an adequate approach of their needs and developing of the individual rehabilitation programs.



## II. REHABILITATION AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DURING 2010

During 2010, our organization continued to provide a complex and comprehensive assistance to torture victims from Moldova, maintaining of an adequate approach of their needs and developing of the individual rehabilitation programs.

This year, RCTV “Memoria” was able to assure the co-financing through the matching Funds to the grant received from **Delegation of European Commission to Moldova**, thanks to financial support of **IRCT CSG**, added to other donors as: **UNVFVT, Amnesty International/ Suisse section, UNDP Moldova**, and other small contributions. In this way, 2010 was the first time, after a difficult period of financial crisis faced the last years, when was possible to re-build our staff and to assist our beneficiaries at decent level.

During the reported period, the **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE** was successfully provided by 2 General Practitioners (one FT and one PT) and 1 GP/cardiologist (PT), ensuring qualitative consultations, monitoring, screening of the health status and prescribing of adequate treatments.

Thanks to EU financial support within the **Project “Rehabilitation of Torture Victims from Moldova, 2010-2012”**, which started on 23 of March 2010, was possible to re-build the medical team and to revise the treatment methodology, with prescribing in a greater extent the medicines, even was not possible to cover all the needs of our beneficiaries, who are facing serious difficulties related to suffered traumas.

Unfortunately, the costs of medicines continuously increased, because of the lack of adequate State policies in the pharmaceutical market. Even so, the medical services provided in 2010 were performed at higher level as in previous years and very appreciated by our beneficiaries.

The *system of external referrals* has been continuously and successfully used, for diagnostic investigations, additional examinations and consultations of other medical professionals, for physiotherapy, special treatment, dental care, etc.

**PSYCHIATRIC AND PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSISTANCE** included: diagnose of mental disorders, prescribing of an appropriate medical treatment, using the appropriate psychotherapy in dependence of beneficiaries' needs.

During the period of assistance, were identified a number of key characteristics of torture survivors, especially recent victims, who experienced difficulties in adjusting to their sufferings. These included, but not limited at:

- Feelings of anger and revenge;
- Denial (not taking into consideration the injuries and traumas consequences);
- Obsession with the question of when their legal problems will be solved or refugee status obtained;
- Fatalistic thinking (“*whatever I do, things are not going to improve*”);
- Rapid mood swings and emotional disturbances;
- Withdrawal from others, etc.

However, the most common problems of our beneficiaries are: *depression* and *anxiety*. For *depressive disorders*, medications were often indicated, especially in the first period of treatment. More frequently used types of interventions were:

- *Cognitive-behavioral psychotherapies*: rational-emotive, behavioral, cognitive;
- *Humanistic-experiential psychotherapies*: client-centered psychotherapy, psycho-drama, transactional analysis.

*Family therapy* was also frequently used, because the torture victims are in permanent interaction with their relatives, who were also traumatized or affected by the late consequences of the suffered traumas.



The **PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE** was focused on:

- Identification of problems and needs related to suffered traumas, to changed life after torture, or to leaving the country of origin;
- Psychological evaluation, using selected tests and trauma questionnaires, such as: Harvard Trauma Questionnaire (HTQ); (HSCL-25) Hopkins symptom checklist Taylor's Manifest Anxiety Scale (TMAS); The Spielberger State-Trait Anxiety Inventory (STAI); Zung Self-Rating Depression Scale; The Brief COPE scale; Rosenberg self-esteem scale (SEI); The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI).

Projective methods: Rosenzweig Picture-Frustration Study; Draw-An-Animal Test.

- Psychological rehabilitation through individual and co-therapy sessions.

The most frequent psychological problems identified to our beneficiaries from various target groups were:

1. *Victims of political repressions*: depression, feelings of loneliness, memories and regrets of the past, family problems and inter-generation conflicts;
2. *Recent victims of torture and inhuman treatment*: social maladjustment, interpersonal and communication problems, difficulties in decision making referring to their future, studies and career; the inability to find a job according to experience and needs; thirst for revenge and the tendency to leave country, because of feelings of insecurity due to the fact that their perpetrators were not punished, etc;
3. *Refugees/asylum seekers and people with humanitarian protection*: dysfunctional family relationships, feelings of insecurity, discrimination, feelings of uncertainty for the future; adaptation and socialization problems within the academic environment, etc.

In the rehabilitation process were widely used two important techniques, as "goal-setting" and "self-talk", which have been shown to be positively associated with whole rehabilitation programmes and with faster recovering of other traumas and pathologies.

The first technique is important in helping beneficiaries to overcome trauma related problems and to plan their future.

The second technique is very useful in the diminishing of destructive effects of traumas, as thoughts of revenge, depression, anxiety.

During the therapy sessions, the patients tell their life stories, including the traumatic experiences. We have in past a great experience with collecting of testimonies of our beneficiaries in a book "Shattered destinies" and we have in mind to repeat it with other survivors of torture. In future, we plan to use larger the "testimony therapy" in the assisting of our beneficiaries, possible in joint projects with some of our colleagues from abroad, who are more experienced or interested.

Consequently, the provided psychological assistance helped our beneficiaries to outrun the suffered traumas, to pass from the role of victim to the role survivor of torture, to reinforce their family relationships, to increase the feeling of trust in their own forces and other people, to develop communicative abilities, and to re-build or continue their life in a better way.

During 2010, the **SOCIAL ASSISTANCE** was focused on:

- assessment of individual needs;
- social counseling and support in the solving of beneficiaries problems;
- providing of needed information about the existent available services and opportunities;
- helping beneficiaries to obtain financial assistance from some of the state institutions;



- contacting institutions as: Departments for Social Assistance, Municipal Found for Social help; Municipal Employment Office (Agency), etc., as well as the potential donors of the humanitarian aid, in order to support our beneficiaries.

As in previous years, during 2010 the **LEGAL ASSISTANCE** was focused on: beneficiaries, organization, other institutions and lawyers.

According to beneficiaries' specific needs, legal adviser provided proper counseling to clients from all target groups, including family members with the analysis of documents and situation of the cases, with preparation of the needed petitions and claims to various instances. Some of beneficiaries were encouraged to start or to continue the claiming of their rights at local and international levels, in spite of difficulties and tergiversations.

A case of 3 victims (close relatives), assisted legally in all national instances by a lawyer with financial support from World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), contacted by RCTV "Memoria", was sent in May and accepted in August, at European Court for Human Rights (ECtHR). Our legal counselor assisted these persons and their lawyer, as well as monitored the evolution of the case.

Also, legal advices were provided to team members, such as: counseling and concluding on the documents and juridical acts, perfecting and preparing the legal papers, counseling on the legal framework or any legislative changes, elaboration and changing of the Contracts or Agreements of RCTV "Memoria" with tertiary.

**RCTV "Memoria" remains the only institution from Republic of Moldova, where is possible to obtain a medical certification of the suffered traumas, according to the Istanbul Protocol.** Our team members performed continuously adequate medical documentation of the cases and released the "*Extracts from client' files*", the analogs of the medical reports. These documents have been released at request of beneficiaries, their representatives, of lawyers as well as of prosecutors, or other authorities. Anyway, all the Extracts have been performed and released only with informed consents of our beneficiaries and their signature.

**MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION** became very important and useful, especially after dramatic events from April 2009, when appears the need for investigations of numerous cases of torture. These certifications helped our victims to support their cases in courts, to obtain the financial compensations for their sufferings or to benefit from support and assistance from other NGOs or even state institutions (E.g. 25 "*Extracts from client' files*" have been released for Governmental Commission for identification of victims of 7 April 2009).



### III. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES AND THE OBTAINED RESULTS

#### OBJECTIVE 1: Provide continuously rehabilitation services to victims of torture

##### RESULTS:

The rehabilitation program was continuously offered in a culture and gender sensitive way, helping our beneficiaries to improve their health status and quality of life and to reintegrate into society. The admission of new beneficiaries did not depend on age, sex, nationality, faith, ethnic origin or affiliation to different organizations. Diagnosis and treatment of various physical and psychological consequences of torture were performed with an individual and comprehensive approach to victim's problems, taking into consideration the medical, legal and social dimensions of the suffered traumas.

**The total nr of the assisted clients** during 2010 is **470**. Among them, **133** are **recent victims**, including **8** from **Transnistrian region**.

**The total nr of in-house medical consultation** provided during 2010 is **4370**, including **12 home visits** and **207 visits** at Placement Center for refugees.

**The total nr of external referrals** (consultations, diagnostic investigations, dental care and other services) - **6083**.

**Physiotherapy** was provided to **35 beneficiaries**, with a total of **331 consultations and procedures**.

Totally, for this period, our team provided the following assistance:

- **General Practitioners (GP)** – **2907 visits** in house and **5021 external referrals** performed.
- **Psychiatrist** – **2173** visits in house, including **12 home visits** and **207 visits** at Placement Center for refugees; **1532 therapy sessions** (**1372 individual** and **158 family therapy sessions**); also were issued **1062** external referrals.
- In addition, **Medical coordinator** was involved in the elaboration of the rehabilitation programs and provided about **200 consultations**.
- **Psychologist** assisted **248** beneficiaries, performed **439** visits, including **168** testing question sessions, provided **150** counseling sessions and **205 co-therapy sessions**.
- **Social worker** assisted **320 beneficiaries**, with total nr of visits – **1448**, including **social inquiry** – **85** and **informational and comprehensive interviews** – **1363**.
- **Legal adviser** assisted **133 beneficiaries** and performed the needed counseling for them and their relatives, according to their specific needs and rights and helping them in preparing the needed papers for court, in order to regain their legal rights. In this period were sent **23 petitions** to court and other institutions.

For the reported year, have been prepared and delivered **30 Extracts from medical files** (analogical to the Medical Reports), including **21** for recent victims from April 2009.

As result of joint efforts of staff and social assistance:

- a) Were received and distributed **donations of medicine about 2332, 35 EUR**.
- b) From Pentecostal Christian Church were received and distributed to majority of clients about **1500 kg of humanitarian aid** (second-hand cloths, toys); from Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) were received Christmas gifts for 40 children and **40 packages of humanitarian aid**.
- c) **25 beneficiaries** benefited from **free lunches** offered by Salvation Army, Moldova.
- d) **26 beneficiaries** benefited from **free services at Hairdresser's "Infostudio"**.



e) After submitted application, **one beneficiary attended 9 months tailor training course** offered by the National Agency for Employment. The beneficiary is a refugee's wife with no monthly income. Having 2 children she had no possibility to continue her studies.

## **OBJECTIVE 2: Improving the health status and the life quality of the assisted clients**

### **RESULTS:**

During 2009 we obtained a good level in the improvement of the patient's status 64,9 % (or 321 patients), taking into consideration the serious post-traumatic consequences in recent cases and periodic recurrences because of retraumatization, of persisting of stressful situations, etc.

This result is due to a continuous qualified and complex assistance provided, including comprehensive consultations, psycho-social support and involvement of our beneficiaries in various activities.

The treatment outcomes are measured by using of the following criteria:

- objective data: evaluation made by medical doctors;
- results of diagnostic investigations;
- subjective data: self-assessment of their health status and quality of life made by assisted clients;
- assessment of the social worker.

The results of the activity and services provided to our beneficiaries are measured, monitored and evaluated by using of the following instruments:

- Lists of assisted and registered beneficiaries (working list and waiting list);
- Clients' Medical records and feedbacks;
- Clients' evaluation forms and feedbacks;
- List and results of the used tests;
- Registers for daily assistance and monthly and annual monitoring;
- Registers for External medical services paid from this action;
- Registers for prescribing of the needed medicines;
- Staff' reports and presentations;
- Periodic / monthly monitoring reports;
- Evaluation forms for various events.

## **OBJECTIVE 3: Strengthening Institutional Capacity and Sustainability of RCTV "Memoria"**

### **RESULTS:**

Our Center is the only institution from Moldova, where are assisted for long period numerous deeply traumatized persons, who suffered because of State representatives and institutions. So, our team members are very exposed to professional burning, because of the multitude of negative factors, added to post traumatic sequels of our beneficiaries. In fact, we have to maintain a firm position between assisted victims and the involved state institutions or even their perpetrators. But this situation require additional efforts, personal involvement and dedication to our beneficiaries, thus, contributing to the professional burning. Taking into account our experience and the results of the performed testing, the **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** included also *the psychological support, debriefings, improvement of work climate and conditions, specialized treatment for our staff, and other needed support*, in dependence of the situation and case.



In this way, our organizational development was focused on: 1) team re-building and strengthening, 2) improvement of knowledge in the field of rehabilitation 3) technical enhancement:

### 1. Team rebuilding and strengthening

- On 26 November 2010, for our staff members was organized one day training **“Burnout Syndrome. Prevention and Management”**.

It included theoretical part with description and explanation of the burnout syndrome, as well as practical recommendations on its prevention and management. The event was organized with involvement of one international expert, *Camelia Doru*, ICAR Foundation (Bucharest, Romania) and two local experts: *Svetlana Rusnac*, Head of Psychology Department of the Free International University of Moldova, senior lecturer, doctor of psychology; *Zinaida Bolea*, PhD in psychology, senior lecturer at the Department of Applied Psychology at the State University of Moldova.



- On 17 December 2010, was organized training for our staff members: **“Occupational Stress Management”**.

The event was moderated by *Ms. Zinaida Bolea*, PhD in psychology, senior lecturer at the Department of Applied Psychology at the State University of Moldova. This training was a continuation of the previous training *“Burnout Syndrome. Management and Prevention”*.





2. In order to be able to provide continuous and adequate rehabilitation services to our beneficiaries, **the improvement of the knowledge** in this field was one of our main goals.

For this purpose, we planned to be as much as possible active and to participate in various national and international professional events.

- Two staff members from our Center (*Executive Director* and *Project Coordinator*) attended the 9<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the European Network of Rehabilitation Centres for Survivors of Torture, "Right to Health and Rehabilitation", organized in Copenhagen, Denmark (May 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010). Our staff members participated in the *Clinical discussion group* and *Assessment & Documentation working group*.
- In October 2010, Center "Sostradanie" (Moscow, Russia) organized the seminar "*The Society and Army*". The seminar was addressed to HR activists and such organizations as "Mothers of soldiers" from various regions of Russia and from New Independent States (NIS). Moldova was represented by two members from RCTV "Memoria", L. Popovici, *Executive Director* (as expert) and S. Visanu, *psychotherapist* (as participant).

At local level our staff was very active in various national professional and informative events.

3. Within the annual Rehabilitation project, thanks to our donors, was possible to **purchase the needed clinical and office equipment:**

- 3 new tonometers, because the previous were used since 2000
- 1 electrocardiograph;
- 2 Notebooks and 2 central processing unit (*CPU*) for old computers;
- 1 photo camera;
- 1 internal phone stations and network, for assurance of adequate work conditions and good communication between staff and beneficiaries.

#### **OBJECTIVE 4: The efficient contribution of Torture Prevention in the Republic of Moldova**

##### **RESULTS:**

Our center continues to maintain a good cooperation with various NGOs, mass media and relevant institutions both at local and international levels.

At *international level*, we cooperate with rehabilitation Centers and programs from Europe, in order to exchange experience and to share the best practices, to up-date and to improve knowledge in the field of rehabilitation of torture victims and to maintain the issues of torture victims and of this phenomenon on Agendas of International and national institutions. E.g. Camelia Doru, expert from Romanian Center ICAR Foundation, was invited for events organized for staff of RCTV "Memoria" and other medical professionals from Moldova. Also, we developed our professional partnership with Center "Sostradanie", from Russia, which organized the seminar "*The Society and Army*" and invited our staff member as expert.





At *local level*, in the close cooperation with other NGOs, as Amnesty International Moldova, PromoLex, IDOM have been organized the Campaign dedicated to 26 of June (International Day in Support of Victims of Torture). Our team was the main coordinator of this Campaign:

- On 17 June, the **picketing of the Russian Embassy in Chisinau**, in support of Ilie Cazac's, who was illegally arrested by the separatist Transnistrian security forces, on charges of treason and was subjected to torture in order to blame himself:



- **Press Conference "Reforms costs millions, but it costs nothing to renounce torture"**, was organized on 24 June, together with Amnesty International Moldova, Moldovan Institute for Human Rights (IDOM), Promo-LEX:





- **Joint Public actions “Torture-free zone”** was organized on 26 June in the center of Chisinau, together with above mentioned NGOs. During this event, have been distributed the informative and anti-torture materials and collecting of signatures in support of some of torture victims from other countries:



During the year, the team of RCTV “Memoria” organized a series of independent activities, as:

- On 18-20 June, a **summer camp “Know your Rights”**, which was organized for our beneficiaries who have been tortured in April 2009:



- On 25 of June, **the Open Doors Day** was attended by 40 persons: journalists, colleagues from other NGOs, medical professionals, lawyers, our beneficiaries, etc. This event included also an exhibition of our beneficiaries works and creations as well as the screening of the documentary film "Ghosts: A portrait of life after torture", with some of our team members and beneficiaries as protagonists:





- Also, within this Campaign was again initiated the **marathon “Let’s build together”** in order to collect funds for the building of new premises for our Center. Unfortunately, we received only 1000 MDL from one private company (about 90 USD), added to other about 200 USD collected in glass box inside of our center. So, our hope remains the donors from abroad.

**For this Campaign, were produced the informative and promotional materials, using “T” logo, copied from the web page of IRCT: Banners, Banner stands, 50 t-shirts with printed “T”, pens, leaflets, etc.**

- On 15 December 2010, we organized a **Press conference**, dedicated to the releasing of the booklet: **“RCTV Memoria, 10 years of activity”**.

The booklet presents a *summary of 10 years of experience, dedicated to support and rehabilitation of torture survivors from Moldova, but also to the fight against this destructive phenomenon*. In addition, this press conference aimed to inform the general public about various aspects of the activity of RCTV “Memoria”, as well the importance of an adequate and complex approach of the phenomenon of torture in Moldova.

The Press conference was attended by local media representatives: *Info Prim Neo News Agency, Radio Moldova, Publika TV, Journal TV, Moldova 1, TVC 21, ALT TV.*

**Articles/videos from the press conference can be viewed at:**

- <http://www.info-prim.md/?x=24&y=35469>
- [http://www.publika.md/circa-87-de-mii-de-moldoveni-au-fost-victime-ale-torturii-in-ultimii-5-ani\\_162711.html](http://www.publika.md/circa-87-de-mii-de-moldoveni-au-fost-victime-ale-torturii-in-ultimii-5-ani_162711.html)
- <http://prime.md/ro/news/tortura-se-aplica-mai-des-in-institutiile-de-drept-98986/>

The integral press conference (**viewed in online by 3200 visitors**):

<http://www.privesc.eu/Arhiva/2714/Centrul-de-Reabilitare-a-Victimelor-Torturii--Memoria----Lupta-impotriva-torturii-continua>



- Prevention of torture through rehabilitation and medical documentation.

Because the medical professionals from the Territorial Medical Association Centru (AMT Centru) have an important role in the documenting of cases of our beneficiaries, by diagnostic investigations and additional medical consultations, we planned to involve them in a **seminar “Evolution and the Need for Rehabilitation of Torture Survivors”**. The event was held on 25 November and was attended by 34 participants: medical staff of AMT Centru, including Director, Vice Director and Chiefs of Departments, as well as the staff of RCTV “Memoria”.



The main aims of the event were:

- to inform health care professionals about the phenomenon of torture in Moldova, about the medical and psychological consequences, on examples of beneficiaries of the RCTV “Memoria”;
- to strength the professional partnership RCTV “Memoria” – AMT Centru, exchanging of experience and sharing of best practices in the assistance and in the medical documentation.



- Promotion of the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in Moldova.

With direct involvement or support of our team members, during the reported period were **disseminated about 2900 copies of Romanian versions of the Istanbul Protocol**, to various professionals from public institutions, lawyers, other NGOs, journalists and students. The publication was edited in 2009, with financial support of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) representative in Moldova, within the Project “Local integration of refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, 2009-2011”.

- The contribution of RCTV “Memoria” in ratification by Moldova of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

During the last 8 years, together with Amnesty International Moldova and other Human Rights NGOs, RCTV “Memoria” promoted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, repeatedly asking our authorities to ratify this important instrument. In order to strengthen our efforts, in March 2010, we formed the National Coalition for the International Criminal Court, organizing various public events and meetings with Parliamentary Commissions and other relevant actors. So, we are considering that we played an important role in the ratifying by Moldova of the Rome Statute of the ICC, on 9th September 2010. Therefore, for next years, our actions are oriented to the implementation of the Rome Statute in Moldova.

- During the year, our center was in many times mentioned or present in various TV and radio programs. In the local mass media appear various interviews, publications about torture phenomenon and our Rehabilitation Center.

In addition to the planned rehabilitation activities, in 2010 we organized **free English classes, filmmakers club** for our beneficiaries. So, they learned how to shoot a video and how to interview people. These activities were organized with involvement of our local and international volunteers, whom we hosted during this year. For future, we are planning to involve volunteer in as much as possible activities related to rehabilitation programs.



## IV. PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED DURING 2010

Year 2010 was a special and different from previous years because the financial crisis has been overcome and we managed to organize in a better way the initiated rehabilitation programs and to register more new beneficiaries.

Among the problems faced during the year:

### **1) Increased costs of medicines**

**OUR ACTIONS:** unfortunately, even we set the monthly limits for medicines and prescribed in each case the most important medicines at reasonable price, the costs for medical supplies are high.

### **2) Limited Nr of providers ready to sell goods without VAT, because of bureaucracy**

**OUR ACTIONS:** we managed to find suitable providers, to explain the legal provisions and to convince them to provide the needed goods and services without VAT.

### **3) Persistence of the impunity**

**OUR ACTIONS:** as we expected, during the reported period, the impunity persisted and the legal investigation of our beneficiaries who claimed torture was tergiversated. They faced difficulties and recurrences of the consequences of the suffered traumas, especially after numerous visits to Prosecutors, hearings of their cases in Courts, pressure from their perpetrators and/or other actions related to their cases.

### **4) The premises of RCTV "Memoria", rented since 2000 became too small for increased Nr of clients and inappropriate to ensure rehabilitation services at the needed level.**

**OUR ACTIONS:** RCTV "Memoria" addressed repeatedly to the National authorities with copies to some Diplomatic Missions in Moldova, asking for concrete support in the solving of the problems with temporary spaces and with building of the new premises. Finally, since January 2011, we will benefit from support in renting of other premises, twice larger as current at better price. We are hoping that after a small adaptation and renovation, in February – March, we will move to new headquarter.

### **5) A group of our beneficiaries are living outside of Chisinau city, in Cahul region. Because of the distance (168 km), these beneficiaries did not have the opportunity to come systematically to our Center; this is the reason they benefited less of our rehabilitation services.**

**OUR ACTIONS:** In some of the cases, our medical staff kept communication with them providing consultations through phone. In order to increase our rehabilitation services for beneficiaries outside the Chisinau we are thinking to open in future a mobile point in Cahul region.

### **6) A continuous increasing of the prices, including for medicine. In this way, the situation of our beneficiaries became more difficult and some of them refused to take medicines, because of lack of money and impossibility to cover 50% of the costs.**

**OUR ACTIONS:** We wrote several solicitation letters to different pharmaceutical companies, in order to receive donations of medicine for our beneficiaries. Since June 2010, we decided to prescribe to our beneficiaries all the most important medicine for free, being sure that they will follow the indicated treatment.



## V. INFORMATION ON THE VICTIMS OF TORTURE ASSISTED DURING 2010

|                | Number of torture victims (TV) registered as clients as per 1 January 2010 | Number of TV clients registered as per 31 December 2010 | New TV clients in 2010 | Discharged TV clients in 2010 |
|----------------|--|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Men above 18   | 188  | 204   | 66                     | 48                            |
| Women above 18 | 144  | 157   | 46                     | 34                            |
| Women under 18 | 23   | 17  | 5                      | 5                             |
| Men under 18   | 18   | 34  | 16                     | 7                             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>373</b>   | <b>412</b>  | <b>133</b>             | <b>94</b>                     |

## VI. FINANCIAL RESOURCES for 2010

| INCOME BY DONOR  | EUR            |
|--|----------------|
| <b>International donors:</b>                                     |                |
| A) OAK/Sigrid Rousing Trust Centre Support Grants                | 12000          |
| B) UNVFVT  | 44448          |
| C) EU Delegation in Moldova (Project 2010-2012)                  | 65048          |
| D) Amnesty International, Swiss section (Project 2010-2011)      | 728            |
| E) OMCT (Case T)   | 1250           |
| <b>Any other income:</b>   |                |
| Cash at the beginning of period (project UNDP Moldova 2009-2010) | 6292           |
| <b>Local sources:</b>  |                |
| 1. UNDP Moldova (second installment)                             | 2915           |
| 2. ICNUR (Save Children, Moldova)                                | 289            |
| 3. IDOM (Institute for Human Rights)                             | 2586           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>  | <b>135 555</b> |