

RCTV Memoria

Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims "Memoria"



Agenda Săptămânii Anti-tortură

25 iunie 21:20	TV Moldova 1	Carta drepturilor omului Film documentar TV Moldova 1	NEBIRU centrul
26 iunie 9:00	Regency Hotel	Masa rotundă: Anti-tortura și dreptul la reabilitare Avocatul Poporului, instituții publice, ONG-uri	CCO Centrul de Cercetare și Informații
26 iunie 15:30	Vedea lui Veda	Surpriză - CIDO Venii și iașă-vă surpriza!	Promo - LEX
26 iunie 17:30	TV Moldova 1	Talk show: Dosarul public TV Moldova 1	AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
27 iunie 10:30	Iacul Valei Morilor	Maraton la Iacul Valei Morilor Alergam în sprijinul persoanelor care au avut de suferit în urma torturii	MEMORIA CENTRUL DE REABILITARE ȘI INFORMAȚII
27 iunie 12:30	Iacul Valei Morilor	Open Air - Întâlnire cu supraviețuitorii torturii Ei vin să ne împărtășească istoriile lor!	EUROPEAN ROBERTS EMBASSY
1 și 2 iulie 16:00	Regency Hotel	Curs on-line Anti-tortură Lansarea cursului destinat jurnaliștilor și profesioniștilor în domeniul dreptului	UNDP Engagement Iniciative Reabilitare națională

Nu tolera tortura!



2015 ACTIVITY REPORT

Chisinau

Republic of Moldova

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A message from Executive Director

The year 2015 was a special and an anniversary one. In addition to daily efforts in the rehabilitation field, we initiated new activities and organized great public events. All the achievements have been focused on fulfillment of our mission and on achievements of good results in the rehabilitation programs, public awareness building and prevention.

We are a small team, but very determined to support one of the most vulnerable groups – survivors of torture and other kind of violence. Despite financial difficulties and various obstacles, over 2015 we managed to provide appropriate rehabilitative care to 419 survivors (189 female and 230 male), including torture victims from transnistrian region, where torture is widely used both in detention and in Army. We continued to ensure their access to justice and to international human rights mechanisms, through appropriate documentation of cases.

States are responsible for the crimes of torture and violence against women, children, and men. But States are responsible also for ensuring the provision of redress and rehabilitation for the victims. Victims have the right to such services and it is the state's obligation to support rehabilitation centers that provide them.

We are glad that the model of assistance developed and implemented by RCTV Memoria is in line with the General Comments N 3 of the UN Committee against Torture to art 14 of UNCAT. This document was approved in 2012 and explains that within their right to redress, torture victims have a right to holistic, appropriate rehabilitation services. The GC N3 of CAT to art 14 took the bold step towards clarifying the right to rehabilitation for victims of torture and validated many of the key aspects of our mission and activity we started in Moldova in 2000.

Besides rehabilitation, the impact of our activity on prevention of torture in Moldova is widely recognized by other NGOs, partners, various professionals and stakeholders. An anniversary Conference "15 YEARS OF REHABILITATION OF VICTIMS AND PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN MOLDOVA: THE RIGHT TO REHABILITATION. PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND VIOLENCE. COMBATING IMPUNITY", was organized on April 22, 2015. It was attended by 75 participants from legal, medical, psychological fields and mass media. The presentations of our professionals were highly appreciated by participants, as being very informative, relevant and useful.

I'm very grateful to our team members for their hard work, dedication and abnegation. All together we are very grateful to our donors, who made it possible to maintain our activity. We are also very grateful to all our partners, especially to colleagues from Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) from MN, USA for their valuable support within PATH project that ended in September. We are very grateful to our friends and supporters, and we are convinced that together we can provide hope to the victims of torture and to make a difference in Moldova.

Ludmila Popovici, MD, Psychologist,
Executive Director and Medical Coordinator of RCTV Memoria

About RCTV Memoria

The Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (RCTV) "Memoria" is an apolitical and non-profit organization based in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova, and the only one dedicated to the rehabilitation of victims of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in the country. RCTV Memoria was officially registered by the Ministry of Justice in 7 December 1999. Since then it has become an active member of the International Network of Centres and Torture Rehabilitation Programs led by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and of the European Network of Rehabilitation Centres for Survivors of Torture and it has built a solid expertise in this field of work. At national level, RCTV Memoria is an active member of various platforms and entities focused on Human Rights and support to victims and vulnerable groups: National Coalition "Life without domestic violence" and Active Ageing Platform. RCTV Memoria provides its beneficiaries with a comprehensive model of rehabilitation which consists of medical, psychological, legal and social assistance, standing out as the first and as unique within the Republic of Moldova. Since it opened its doors, in 2000, and by the time of its 15th anniversary, RCTV Memoria had already supported 1850 cases, including the issuance of 341 extracts with statements and conclusions to be used by torture victims in court procedures and for claiming compensation. RCTV Memoria has supported 17 beneficiaries in lodging complains with the European Court of Human Rights, including 8 favourable rulings.

Vision: A prosperous society in which the respect for human rights is guaranteed, especially the right not to be tortured, and in which every person is able to benefit from quality services, including medical services; a society in which people feel like useful members of the society and can contribute to the social progress. As a representative of civil society, RCTV "Memoria" will play an active and important role in the implementation of this vision.

Mission: RCTV Memoria is dedicated to providing comprehensive rehabilitation assistance to all survivors of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, through medical, psychosocial and legal support, ultimately working towards the eradication of torture in Republic of Moldova.

Beneficiaries: RCTV Memoria aims to provide assistance to all victims of torture, in line with dispositions of article 14 of the UN Convention against Torture (UNCAT), as well with General Comment no. 3 of CAT. During 2015, our work has been focused on four cluster groups of beneficiaries:

- Torture victims among survivors of political repressions;
 - Recent victims of torture in Republic of Moldova (including transnistrian region); Torture victims among refugees and asylum-seekers;
 - Victims of domestic and sexual violence;
- In difficult cases we assisted also their families.

Our activities

RCTV Memoria works according to a broad interpretation of the practice of torture and to a comprehensive approach to rehabilitation. It is important to note how, on the one hand, the cluster groups of beneficiaries identified above often overlap and how, within the same group, victimization often occurs under very different circumstances. Currently, RCTV Memoria assists cases of individuals who are both survivors of political repression and victims of domestic violence; refugees and asylum-seekers who are both torture victims and victims of domestic or sexual violence. Many recent cases of torture date back to the events of April 2009; however, since then, RCTV Memoria has continued to receive new beneficiaries: victims of torture in places of deprivation of liberty such as police stations, detention centers, psychiatric institutions, or military facilities.

Our approach to rehabilitation is clustered around four dimensions: medical, psychological & psychiatric, social and legal. While RCTV Memoria has embraced this comprehensive model from its inception, its legitimacy has recently been strengthened by the adoption of General Comment no. 5 to article 14 of CAT, in which rehabilitation is defined as:

“[...] the restoration of function or the acquisition of new skills required as a result of the changed circumstances of a victim in the aftermath of torture or ill-treatment. It seeks to enable the maximum possible self-sufficiency and function for the individual concerned, and may involve adjustments to the person’s physical and social environment. Rehabilitation for victims should aim to restore, as far as possible, their independence, physical, mental, social and vocational ability; and full inclusion and participation in society.” (CAT/C/GC/3, 2013, para. 11)

MEDICAL SERVICES

At RCTV Memoria, beneficiaries are provided with consultations with a general practitioner, therapist and a cardiologist and with additional medical consultations, diagnostic investigations and specialized treatment, performed as external referrals, paid by RCTV Memoria from our projects. According to the needs and specificities of each case, beneficiaries are provided with medication free of charge.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

Among the most often psychological effects of torture diagnosed by professionals from our Mental Health department is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, sleeping problems, feelings of fear and insecurity, concentration deficit, increase of aggressiveness and other symptoms. At our centre, beneficiaries’ problems and needs are initially assessed through interviews and psychological tests following which they are provided with psychological counseling in order to improve their psycho-emotional status and attend individual and group therapeutic sessions. In their work, our staff uses the following evaluation tools: Hamilton Depression Scale, Taylor and Hamilton Anxiety Scales, Beck Depression Scale, Harvard Trauma Questionnaire among others.



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The social assistance provided by RCTV Memoria is aimed at supporting beneficiaries' in identifying problems and developing problem-solving skills, providing them with information regarding existent available opportunities and services, support in finding a job or other occupation and organizing creative clubs and social/cultural events (such as day trips, visits to museums, theatre, etc.) This work is based on an initial assessment and registration of the beneficiary's individual needs and guided by the drafting of a tailored intervention plan.

LEGAL AID

In a context of prevailing impunity and ineffective investigation of allegations of torture, our legal assistance intends to support beneficiaries and their lawyers in bringing their cases before national courts and also the European Court of Human Rights, under art. 3, and assisting them in building their legal strategy, in cooperation with specialized HR NGOs in this field. RCTV Memoria has assisted in providing much needed legal counseling, legal analysis of documentation, preparation of specific petitions and claims and securing appropriate legal representatives.

MEDICAL DOCUMENTATION

Underlying this work is the comprehensive medical documentation of all beneficiaries' cases of torture or degrading, inhuman and cruel treatment or punishment, providing thus a solid ground for our beneficiaries' claims for redress as well as our campaigning and advocacy work.

RCTV Memoria is the only centre in Republic of Moldova able to provide survivors of torture with appropriate medical documentation and certification in accordance to the provisions of the Istanbul Protocol.

Key achievements and activities in 2015

April: Production of a movie on activity of RCTV Memoria, on the occasion of its 15th anniversary;

22 April: Conference “15 years of rehabilitation and anti-torture movement in Moldova: the right to rehabilitation. Prevention of torture and violence. Combating of impunity.” on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of RCTV Memoria;

23 April: Anniversary Conference Closing Gala “15 years of efforts to promote dignity and human values”;

30 May – 5 June: four staff members participated at the workshop “Sustaining Gains and Integrating Domains”, organized by CVT and RCT EMPATHY within the PATH project¹ in Tbilisi, Georgia.

23 June – 2 July: Annual campaign to commemorate 26 June - International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, jointly organized with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Moldova, Amnesty International Moldova, Promo-LEX, Moldova 1 and Human Rights Embassy;

October: Launching of project Data in the Fight against Impunity (DFI) (2015-2017), The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT); RCTV Memoria was selected as one of the rehabilitation centres in the world to carry out the implementation of the second phase of the DFI project (2015-2017);

15 October: Launching of the project “Joint efforts for better access to psycho-social and medical services in Moldovan prisons”, through a partnership between RCTV Memoria and the Department of Penitentiary Institutions, Ministry of Justice, with the support of the Human Rights Fund from the Embassy of The Netherlands in Bucharest.

7 November: Cultural event – trip of beneficiaries to Orheiul Vechi and Curchi Monastery, within the support of IRCT CSG/ La Luz Grants;

25 November – 10 December: Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence”, organized by the Coalition against Violence of which RCTV Memoria is a member; included an awareness-raising initiative at Malldova, an Open House day in RCTV Memoria’s

¹ <http://www.cvt.org/partners-trauma-healing>

office, a flash-mob with a street Campaign and informative sessions in rural areas organized together with representatives of the Ombudsman's office;

10 – 16 December – Implementation of project “Voices of Hope” in commemoration of Human Rights Day 2015 (2015), with the support of IRCT CSG/La Luz Grants and the Delegation of European Union in Republic of Moldova, including a multimedia art installation on the experiences of torture and rehabilitation, an art workshop for beneficiaries and a human rights session for youth;

18 December: Cultural activity – visit of beneficiaries to Mihai Eminescu Theatre, to watch the play “Panică la Grand Hotel”, with the support of IRCT CSG/ La Luz Grants;

31 December: Social activity – beneficiaries attended a show for children “Fixiki”;

2015: Continuation of the weekly activities of the “Traditional Romanian blouse” club for victims of domestic and sexual violence and victims of political repression.

Activities in Focus



*A display of the work produced at our
“Traditional Romanian Blouse” club*

- **RCTV Memoria commemorates 15th anniversary**

The Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims “Memoria” celebrated, in April 2015, 15 years of work dedicated to the rehabilitation of victims of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in Republic of Moldova, as well to the prevention of this heinous practice. On this occasion, our centre organized the conference “15 years of rehabilitation and anti-torture movement in Moldova: the right to rehabilitation. Prevention of torture and violence. Combating impunity.” on 22 April and the gala “15 years of efforts to promote dignity and human values”, on 23 April.



Commemorating this milestone among partners and supporters

The conference was attended by representatives of partner NGOs (Promo-Lex, Amnesty International Moldova, Human Rights Embassy, Legal Resources Centre from Moldova, Women’s Law Centre), of the Ministries of Health, Labour and Social Protection, of several embassies, of the Delegation of European Union, and of media. RCTV Memoria’s address focused in denouncing the shortcomings in the state of implementation of the UN Convention against Torture as well as other international human rights instruments against torture, in Republic of Moldova. At the end of the event, RCTV Memoria and partner NGOs subscribed to a resolution to prevent torture and other inhuman, degrading and cruel treatment or punishment, to combat impunity and to respect victims’ rights to compensation and rehabilitation, to the attention of state authorities and representatives of the international community. At the gala, which was attended by many of our beneficiaries, RCTV Memoria nominated 15 Ambassadors of dignity and recognized by Certificated the efforts of numerous partners, donors, supporters, HR defenders and journalists. Within the festive part, we exhibited some of the beautiful work produced by participants at the “Traditional Romanian Blouse” club.



Our beneficiaries

- **Annual 26 June campaign**

This year's campaign to commemorate 26 June – International Day in Support of Victims of Torture was jointly organized with the Amnesty International (AI) Moldova, Promo-LEX, Moldova 1 and Human Rights Embassy, with RCTV Memoria assuming a coordinative role and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Moldova, as partner and donor. A press conference organized on 23 June, which brought together the Executive Director of RCTV Memoria and representatives from Amnesty International Moldova and Promo-Lex, kicked off the campaign, under the slogan "Rehabilitation must be a priority for society and a reality for survivors". RCTV Memoria also participated in two media programs, by Moldova 1, which consisted of a news report filmed in our office and a broader discussion of the practice of torture in Republic of Moldova, with a focus on the situation in the Army.

On 26 June, our Executive Director participated as a human rights expert at a roundtable organized by the Ombudsman's office, which focused on the incidence of torture and ill-treatment in places of detention, and included the participation of Mihai Cotorobai, the Ombudsman, Claude Chan, UN Human Rights Adviser, and Ana Dabija, Head of the Penitentiary Institutions Department.

On 27 of June, RCTV Memoria hosted the event "The Art to Live with Dignity", bringing together staff, partners and beneficiaries, in the grounds where one day we hope will stand Moldova's first National Centre for Trauma Treatment and Research, run by RCTV Memoria, which we have long been advocating for. The initiative included the presence of H.E Pirkka Tapiola, Head of the Delegation of European Union in Republic of Moldova. The event included several artistic performances, the collective production of two joint paintings and the erecting of a symbolic "Tree of Hope" where beneficiaries and guests hung their wishes and hopes for the future. On 27 June, seventeen RCTV Memoria's staff, beneficiaries and volunteers took part in the marathon "Never Alone, Never Forgotten", organized together with our partners. The 26 June campaign further provided the opportunity for the launching of our online fundraising campaign under the slogan "You can bring Peace in a soul and Smile on a face. Donate to save! Donate to heal! Donate to make a difference!"

H. E Pirkka Tapiola symbolically inaugurates Moldova's future National Centre for Trauma Treatment and Research



Celebrating hope and resilience after trauma



- **Campaign “16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence”**

Since 2013, RCTV Memoria has extended its rehabilitation support to victims of domestic and sexual violence. In 2015, RCTV Memoria took part in the commemorations as member of the NGO Coalition against Violence. To mark 25 November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, an awareness-raising initiative was organized at the shopping centre Malldova, including a musical performance and the participation of partners and representatives of several embassies. On 27 November, RCTV Memoria was represented by its psychologists at 3 sessions on combating domestic violence, in the villages of Gura Bîcului and Mereni, Anenii Noi district, and Ghidighici village. The meetings were organized by the Ombudsman’s office in Moldova. Our psychologist’s message focused on the impact of violence on the social relations of families and communities, and the rehabilitation services available for victims at RCTV Memoria. On 9 December, our centre hosted an Open House day: under the slogan “A cup of tea instead of fighting”, volunteers greeted passer-bys and distributed tea together with informative materials in the street, outside our centre; staff welcomed visitors throughout the day, providing them with tours and preparing a poster where visitors wrote their messages and wishes to cheer victims of violence.



Domestic violence is a problem of society as a whole and can only be tackled as such



Rehabilitation in statistics

RCTV MEMORIA

IN 2015

Assisted

a total number of **419** (189 female and 230 male) beneficiaries through comprehensive rehabilitation services

110 new beneficiaries

Medical Assistance

1462 in-house visits by the medical staff

1082 external references

Psychological Assistance

1375 in-house visits by the psychotherapist

839 visits by the psychologists

579 psychotherapy sessions, **451** counselling sessions, **16** co-therapy sessions, **354** psychological tests were used

Social Assistance

1546 in-house visits to our social worker, **154** Comprehensive conversations, **260** questionnaires for evaluation of satisfaction degree

18 beneficiaries benefited from the services of the "Infostudio" social barbershop

Legal assistance

91 consultations, **12** petitions, and **52** persons were assisted by the legal advisor

Documentation

40 extracts from medical files released for Courts and other institutions

RCTV Memoria
15 Years of Activity

Prospects for 2016

The upcoming year is bound to bring with it new challenges and opportunities for our work: in 2016, the Republic of Moldova will be one of the countries under review at the 26th session of the 2nd cycle (2012-2016) of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism, scheduled for 31 October – 11 November 2016.

These circumstances constitute a unique momentum for human rights advocacy in our country, which we intend to seize for campaigning specifically on behalf of torture survivors' right to rehabilitation, which was not adequately addressed during the last UPR cycle. The Republic of Moldova holds certain obligations and responsibilities under international law, with regards to guaranteeing redress, including rehabilitation, to victims of torture, whose fulfilment is far from meeting survivors' needs and expectations. We will work towards the insertion of the right to rehabilitation as a topic of discussion during the Working Group session later this year and will advocate including it in the recommendations of the final UPR Report.

The Republic of Moldova continues to undergo rapidly changing and troubling socio-political period. In the pursuit of our work, we hope to be able to rely on the generous support of current partners and potential new ones, and we will continue to strengthen our partnerships with local human rights NGOs, universities and other relevant actors of civil society, and to raise RCTV Memoria's visibility within the wider public. We are looking forward to the launching of a new online fundraising campaign and we welcome the exciting opportunity to collaborate with two different research projects involving some of our beneficiaries who were victims of political repressions.

Finally, we hope that this year will bring us closer to fulfil one of our long-lasting ambitions, the establishing of a National Centre for Trauma Treatment and Research, run by RCTV Memoria, which would definitely improve the conditions and outreach of RCTV Memoria's work and would attest to the national authorities' commitment to ensuring the respect for and implementing the twin rights of not being subjected to torture and right to rehabilitation in the Republic of Moldova.

Financial report

ANNUAL INCOME BY DONORS	USD(\$)
La Luz/ IRCT Centers Support Grant	11 558
OAK Foundation, IRCT Centers Support Grant	22 641
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victim of Torture (UNVFVT)	19 992
MATRA Program, MFA of Netherlands	9 003
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), MN, USA/ USAID	39 589
IRCT, DFI Project	1 239
Delegation of European Union in Republic of Moldova	557
TOTAL INCOME	104 579

Representatives of the Delegation of European Union in Moldova having a tour of the “Voices of Hope” art installation on the opening evening →

Art session of the Creative Art Club



R2R: Right to Rehabilitation



Trip with beneficiaries to Orhei Vechi and Curchi Monastery