

NOT ALONE, NEVER FORGOTTEN

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE
26 JUNE 2015

STOP ~~TORTURE~~

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Not alone, never forgotten: on 26 June, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we stand with all those whose lives have been marked by torture.

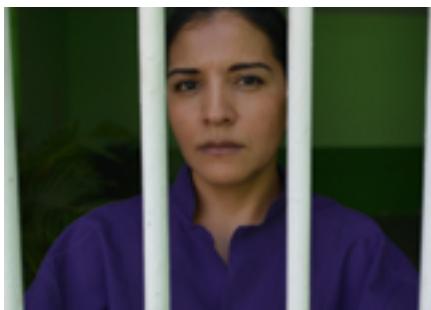
Since the launch of our global Stop Torture campaign in May 2014, more than two million of us have told our governments to stop torturing. We speak out with survivors like Wafae and Oussama from Morocco, and Dave from the Philippines.

All have had that most basic right – the right to live their lives free from torture – violated. All are claiming justice.

While their fight may not yet be over, it is a fight they do not take on alone. They must never be forgotten.

YECENIA ARMENTA

Mexico



“I just wanted them to put a bullet in my head so that it would all stop.”

In July 2012, Yecenia was tortured for 15 hours by Mexican police. They hung her upside down naked, beat her and raped her. They forced her to sign a confession while blindfolded, and charged her. Her nightmare was to continue: the medics who were sent to examine her worked for the same office as her torturers, and failed to record her injuries. Since then, independent medics have concluded that Yecenia was indeed tortured – but nearly three years on, she remains in jail. She must be released now.

WAFAE CHARAF AND OUSSAMA HOUSNE

Morocco/Western Sahara

“I feel great pride in [Amnesty’s] adoption of my and Wafae’s cases, as well as those of all victims of torture.”

Oussama Housne



Wafae Charaf is a 27-year-old law student and activist. In April 2014, as she was leaving a protest, she has described how two men forced her into a car, blindfolded her and beat her. A few days later, 22-year-old Oussama Housne also attended a protest. He too says he was abducted by unknown men who burned him with a hot metal rod and raped him with their fingers. Both Wafae and Oussama spoke out about their torture. Both were swiftly arrested and convicted of “falsely reporting” torture and slandering Morocco’s police force – even though neither of them had accused the police in their complaints. Wafae is serving two years in prison, Oussama three. They must be released.

MUHAMMAD BEKZHANOV

Uzbekistan

Muhammad is one of the world's longest-imprisoned journalists. A former editor of the banned opposition newspaper Erk, he has spent the last 19 years in prison for allegedly committing "anti-state" offences. At his trial, the court ignored him when he said that he had been tortured into making a confession. Muhammad was due to be released in February 2012, but shortly before his release date he was sentenced to an additional four years and eight months for allegedly violating prison rules. He must be released, now.

**"I am lying there
in a pool of blood
for at least a few days,
no water, no food.
Mentally I am preparing
myself to die."**



DAVE ENRIQUEZ

Philippines

Dave is a young bakery worker from the Philippines. In 2012, he was arrested and accused of stealing two roosters. In the police station, Dave – who suffers from learning difficulties – wasn't allowed to contact his lawyer or family. Instead, four policemen beat took turns to beat him with a wooden paddle, pound his fingers with a stapler and bang his head against the metal gate of his cell. Three years later, no one has ever been held responsible for torturing Dave.



From Argentina to Australia; from Morocco to Moldova; from Poland to the Philippines – activists in over 118 countries around the world have joined our campaign to stop torture. And it's working.

Torture survivor Moses Akatugba was released from death row in Nigeria after 800,000 people took action to save him.

Claudia Medina saw false charges dropped against her in Mexico after 300,000 people around the world wrote to demand justice for her torture.

And tens of thousands of us urged police in the Philippines to investigate the torture of Jerryme Corre; in March 2015 the police vowed to do so.

Together we celebrate each success, each step closer to justice.

Together we can stop torture.

"I am overwhelmed. I promise to be a human rights activist, to fight for others."

Moses Akatugba, freed 2 June 2015



TAKE ACTION NOW

Every action you take to support someone who has survived torture has an impact, no matter how big or small. Find out how you can get involved and join us to demand justice for Yecenia, Wafae, Oussama, Dave and Muhammad.



TOGETHER WE CAN STOP TORTURE

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