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### HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

#### United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

#### Report of the Secretary-General

1. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981 for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of humanitarian assistance to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of torture and to their relatives, priority being given to victims of torture by States in which the human rights situation has been the subject of resolutions or decisions adopted by the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council or the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The Voluntary Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of a chairman and four members with wide experience in the field of human rights, acting in their personal capacity and appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and in consultation with their Governments. The membership of the Board of Trustees is as follows: Mr. Jaap Walkate (Chairman) (the Netherlands); Ms. Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica); Mr. Waleed Sadi (Jordan); Mr. Ivan Tosevski (Yugoslavia); and Mr. Ar ; Wako (Kenya).

3. In its resolution 36/151, the General Assembly authorized the Board of Trustees of the Fund to promote and solicit contributions and pledges. It also appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund. By the same resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to give the Board of Trustees all the assistance it may require. The Secretary-General reports annually to the Assembly and to the Commission

on Human Rights on the administration of the Fund. The previous reports of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly are contained in documents A/37/618, A/38/221, A/39/662, A/40/876, A/41/706, A/42/701, A/43/779, A/44/708 and A/45/633.

4. In its resolution 45/143 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly, taking note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/633), expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Governments, organizations and individuals that had contributed to the Fund and to the Governments that had pledged a contribution at the 1990 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities; called upon all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for initial as well as further contributions to the Fund; invited Governments to make contributions, preferably on a regular basis, in order to enable the Fund to provide continuous support to projects that depend on recurrent grants; requested the Secretary-General to include the Fund, on an annual basis, among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities; expressed its appreciation to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for the work it has carried out and to the Secretary-General for the support given to the Board by carrying out its decisions on an increasing number of projects; and requested the Secretary-General to make use of all existing possibilities, including the preparation, production and dissemination of information materials, to assist the Board of Trustees of the Fund in its efforts to make the Fund and its humanitarian work better known and in its appeal for contributions.

5. Since the report of the the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, the following contributions to the Voluntary Fund were received from Governments during the period from 24 October 1990 to 23 October 1991:

<u>Government</u>	<u>Contribution</u> (United States dollars)	
Austria	6 000 for 1991	7th contribution
Denmark	173 430 for 1990	8th "
Finland	174 640 for 1991	10th "
Germany	135 750 for 1990	8th "
Iceland	2 410 for 1990	5th "
Ireland	3 572 for 1991	7th "
Italy	30 000 for 1991	2nd "
Japan	50 000 for 1990	5th "
Netherlands	26 806 for 1990	9th "
New Zealand	17 676 for 1991	7th "
Norway	99 985 for 1991	6th "
Spain	34 799 for 1991	6th "
Sri Lanka	500 for 1990	2nd "
"	500 for 1991	3rd "
Switzerland	15 748 for 1990	4th "
"	7 901 for 1991	5th "
Tunisia	1 299 for 1991	1st "
Yugoslavia	5 000 for 1991	1st "

6. In addition, during the same period, the following pledges to the Voluntary Fund were made by Governments:

<u>Government</u>	<u>Pledge</u> (United States dollars)	
Chile	2 000 for 1991	First pledge
Greece	5 000 for 1991	Eight prior contributions
Italy	30 000 for 1991	(See para. 5 above)
"	30 000 for 1992	
"	30 000 for 1993	
Liechtenstein	7 692 for 1991	Three prior contributions
Sweden	SKr 1 000 000 for 1990	Four prior contributions
"	SKr 1 000 000 for 1991	
United States of America	100 000 for 1991	Three prior contributions Three prior pledges (see para. 7 below)

7. The following pledges to the Voluntary Fund are still pending:

<u>Government</u>	<u>Pledge</u> (United States dollars)
United States of America	90 000 for 1988
"	100 000 for 1989
"	100 000 for 1990

8. During that period, a contribution of \$US 3,000 was made by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers). A contribution of \$US 250 was received from Fordham University (New York, United States of America) in lieu of a honorarium for the participation of Mrs. Elissavet Stamatopoulou-Robbins in a study programme organized by the University.

9. Contributions have also been received from Mr. Noël Caillard (F 100), Mr. Peter Hodson (collection £124,50), Ms. Rita Maran (\$US 20), Ms. Ethel North (\$Can 300) and the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists (collection of donations by private individuals: \$US 6,109).

10. The Secretary-General received from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Fund additional information on the Board's activities, which is annexed to the present report.

ANNEX

Information on the activities of the Board of Trustees of  
the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture,  
provided by the Chairman of the Board

1. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Chairman wishes to express its deep gratitude to all Governments, organizations and, last but certainly not least, to the individuals who have contributed to the Fund over the past years. Those contributions have enabled the Board to make recommendations on a sizeable number of grants for the benefit of victims of torture all over the world. All those contributions were very welcome indeed.
2. The Board is also delighted that Member States contribute to the Fund on an annual basis. The Board has found that regular contributions facilitate the support of larger projects in the long run. Therefore, it is the wish of the Board that pledges materialize rather soon after they have been made, since pledges as such cannot be taken into account for long-term planning.
3. During its tenth session, held at Geneva from 17 to 26 April 1991, the Board of Trustees of the Fund examined information prepared by the Secretariat concerning 104 projects, including analyses of narrative reports, financial reports and audits on the use of grants made in previous years, as well as requests for continuing assistance and new projects. The Board also heard 21 representatives of organizations implementing 28 of these projects.
4. The Board of Trustees recommended to the Secretary-General, who approved those recommendations, that 72 new grants should be made from the Fund. Fifty-eight of these grants, corresponding to 59 projects and sub-projects, representing an amount of \$US 2,025,700, deal with continuing support for projects approved in the past and 14, representing an amount of \$US 273,000, deal with 11 new projects and sub-projects. The total amount of the grants recommended is \$US 2,238,700 for 1991 and \$US 60,000 for 1992. This brings the total of commitments to \$US 2,298,700. During its tenth session, the Board also took note that seven projects were terminated (concerning seminars, training sessions, etc.) and it recommended that seven should be cancelled for lack of information on the proposed projects.
5. The projects recommended by the Board are carried out in about 40 countries and benefit persons from many other countries. As in the past, the focus of the Board's recommendations was on supporting programmes providing direct medical, psychological, social or other assistance to torture victims and their family members. The Board also made recommendations for support to training programmes for health professionals of several countries on the techniques of treatment of victims of torture, as well as for meetings of health professionals, in which they could compare their experience.

6. At its tenth session, the Board also reviewed and discussed a number of other projects on which it has not made recommendations for support because they were outside the Fund's mandate or further particulars were needed.

7. The Board, in reviewing the projects under way, felt that it would be important for its members to have a first-hand understanding of how projects are carried out and how the Fund's resources are used. It therefore recommended that members of the Board should visit some of the most important projects to see them in action and discuss project progress and needs with sponsors. The Board recommended that a member of the Board should visit a project in his or her geographical region.

8. The guidelines adopted at the ninth session for dealing with emergency individual cases (see A/45/633, para. 10) were found satisfactory and properly implemented by the Secretariat. The same procedure should be retained in 1991-1992.

9. The Board recommended that the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 should set aside some time to meet as a pledging conference for United Nations voluntary funds, such as the United Nations Volunteers Fund for Victims of Torture. It appeared to the Board that the forum of the World Conference would be an excellent means for Member States to translate their policies and intentions in the field of human rights into concrete financial terms by pledging a contribution to the Fund(s). This suggestion was submitted to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference (see A/CONF.157/PC/6/Add.9).

10. The Board renewed its recommendation that its sessions should be scheduled in principle in April of each year. At its tenth session, the Board very much appreciated its meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Chairman of the Committee against Torture and recommended that similar meetings should be organized at its eleventh session and, therefore, that part of its session should be scheduled to coincide with part of the session of the Committee against Torture.

11. At its tenth session, renewing its continuing concern for optimal use of money of the Fund for assistance to victims of torture and their families, the Board also very much appreciated the discussion with officers of the Financial Resources Management Service and it recommended that a similar meeting should be organized at its eleventh session.

12. The length of the eleventh session (on the basis of eight working days), agenda and timetable should stay the same as in 1991. If possible, interpretation services in Spanish should be made available during the entire session.

13. The Board had worked, last April, under excellent conditions and appreciated the expertise and devotion of the staff. It expressed the hope that this will again be the case in 1992 and that the problems that the staff was still encountering in view of the ever-increasing number of projects would be solved.

14. The Board insisted that the maximum amount of money available to the Fund should be spent for assistance to victims of torture and their families. It underlined that almost all the funds available for grants at the tenth session had been recommended to the Secretary-General for disbursement, as was the case at the ninth session, and that it intended to continue this practice in the future, provided that satisfactory requests for grants could be favourably recommended.

15. With an increasing number of contributions and requests for assistance, the highest standards should be applied to procedures followed by the Board and the Secretariat. The Board, therefore, continued reviewing its own procedures and the guidelines for applications for grants. An improved application form was prepared that is reprinted, for practical purposes, in an appendix to this annex.

APPENDIX

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture - Fonds des Nations Unies pour les victimes de la torture  
Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para las Víctimas de la Tortura  
UNVFVT - FCVNUVT - FCVNUVT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - DESCRIPTION DU PROJET - DESCRIPCION DEL PROYECTO

- P. ( )
1. Short title of project /  
Nom abrégé du projet /  
Nombre abreviado del proyecto
  2. Date submitted / de soumission / Fecha de sumisión :
  3. Countries concerned / Pays concernés / Países interesados :
  4. Type of assistance offered / type d'aide offerte / tipo de asistencia ofrecida :
 

a) Medical / Médicale / Médica { }	e) Meetings / Réunions / Reuniones { }
b) Psychological / Psychologique / Psicológica { }	f) Publications / Publications { }
c) Social / Social { }	g) Research / Recherche / Investigación { }
d) Training of professional / Formation de professionnels / Formación de profesionales { }	h) Other (specify) / Autres (préciser) / Otros (precisar) { }
  5. Organization and person in charge of the project /  
Organisation et personne responsables du projet /  
Organización y persona responsable del proyecto :  
  
Mailing address / Adresse postale / Dirección postal :  
  
Bank of your organization, account No., address /  
Banque de votre organisation, No de compte, adresse /  
Banco de su organización, No de cuenta, dirección :  
  
Tel., fax, telex :
  6. Sponsoring organization /  
Organisation patronnant le projet /  
Organización patrocinadora del proyecto :
  7. Detailed summary of assistance to be provided to victims of torture /  
Résumé détaillé de l'aide à fournir aux victimes de la torture /  
Resumen detallado de la ayuda que se prestará a las víctimas de la tortura :
    - a) Kind of assistance /  
Type d'aide /  
Tipo de ayuda :
    - b) Number of persons assisted and nationalities /  
Nationalités et nombre des personnes aidées /  
Nacionalidades y número de las personas objeto de la ayuda :
    - c) Geographical area covered /  
Aire géographique couverte /  
Area geográfica cubierta :
    - d) Staff required /  
Personnel requis /  
Personal que se necesitará :
    - e) Envisaged duration and steps of project /  
Durée et étapes envisagées du projet /  
Duración y etapas previstas del proyecto

8. Please annex a provisional budget, indicating the total amount needed for the whole project, the amount requested from the Fund and its envisaged use / Veuillez joindre un budget prévisionnel indiquant le montant total du projet, ainsi que le montant global pour le projet en son conjunto y el monto solicitado al Fondo, así como el destino de éste.
9. Please indicate clearly the part of your provisional budget which you are requesting the Fund to support /  
Détaillez ci-dessous la partie du budget affectée à votre projet que vous sollicitez du Fonds /  
Detállese la parte del presupuesto destinada a su proyecto que se solicita del Fondo :

TOTAL Fund / Fonds / Fondo : \_\_\_\_\_

10. General provisional budget of your organization /  
Budget prévisionnel général de votre organisation /  
Presupuesto general de su organización :

TOTAL GENERAL: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Other sources of financing /  
Autres sources de financement /  
Otras fuentes de financiación :

12. Please indicate if this project is already functioning and if it is a new project or a new aspect of an existing project /  
Veuillez indiquer si ce projet fonctionne déjà et s'il s'agit d'un nouveau projet ou d'un nouvel aspect d'un projet déjà existant /  
Detállese si este proyecto ya funciona y si es nuevo o si se trata de un aspecto nuevo de un proyecto ya existente :

13. Please indicate the envisaged starting date /  
Veuillez indiquer sa date prévue de démarrage /  
Indíquese la fecha de comienzo prevista :

14. Will you develop this project with other organizations (please specify) ? / Développerez-vous ce projet avec d'autres organisations (veuillez détailler) / Detállese si este proyecto se desarrollará en conjunto con otras organizaciones :

15. Organizations or specialists on the treatment of victims of torture accepting to offer reference for this project /  
Organisations ou spécialistes dans le traitement de victimes de la torture acceptant de servir de référence pour ce projet /  
Organización o especialistas en el tratamiento de víctimas de tortura quien aceptan ser una referencia por este proyecto:

**- NOTA BENE -**

The Board of Trustees gives priority to funding medical, psychological, social and, to a smaller degree, economic assistance, as directly as possible, to the victims of torture and their families. The assistance may cover administrative expenses if it is to support the costs of doctors, psychologists, therapists and others helping victims of torture and their families / Le Conseil d'administration donne, en priorité, son soutien à une aide médicale, psychologique, sociale et, à un moindre degré, économique, aussi directe que possible aux victimes de la torture et à leur famille. Ce soutien peut couvrir des frais administratifs s'ils sont directement liés au travail des médecins, psychologues, thérapeutes et autres professionnels qui assistent les victimes et leurs familles / La Junta de Síndicos da prioridad a la asistencia médica, psicológica, social y, en menor grado, económica, dirigida lo más directamente posible a las víctimas y sus familiares. La asistencia puede concederse para los gastos administrativos si están relacionados directamente con el trabajo de médicos, psicólogos, terapeutas y otros que ayudan a las víctimas y sus familiares.