Provisional programme

**Implementing the Convention against Torture (CAT): sharing best practice and experience in preventing torture in police custody in the Middle East and North Africa**

**Sunday 13 – Tuesday 15 December 2015 | WP1426**

**Held in Marrakech, Morocco**

Today, almost all countries in the MENA region have ratified the Convention against Torture. There is greater awareness of the need to enact laws, policies and regulations to monitor places of detention and thus prevent torture. However there is still much more that can be done. Just two MENA countries have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and there are concerns that domestic laws in some states may require significant improvement to be consistent with the Convention. Further work may also be needed to ensure the full implementation of laws that should protect against mistreatment within places of detention.

This regional workshop of the Convention against Torture Initiative, held in partnership with Wilton Park, will provide a neutral space for candid discussion, on a non-attributable basis, about the key challenges to implementing the Convention against Torture, with a focus on eliminating torture in police detention. The meeting is hosted by the Government of Morocco, aided by Morocco’s National Human Rights Council (CNDH).

Through frank and off the record discussion under the Wilton Park protocol, participants will share best practice, innovative approaches, challenges and opportunities and seek ways in which to enhance future co-operation.

The expert roundtable will provide a forum, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention against Torture, to:

- Explore options for viable solutions to prevent torture in police detention
- Exchange best practice and lessons learned in the implementation of torture-prevention policies and programmes
- Strengthen informal dialogue between key actors in the MENA region

**In association with:**
In partnership with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI), Geneva
In association with the National Human Rights Council of Morocco

Sunday 13 December

1600 Participants arrive
1915 Please meet in hotel reception for transportation to welcome dinner
2000 Welcome dinner kindly hosted by the President of Marrakech Safi Region at Dar Diafa Restaurant in Rmila

Monday 14 December

0800-0845 Breakfast in hotel at Leroy’s Kfe
0845-0900 Proceed to lower ground floor of Conference Centre, all sessions will be held in Oliveraie.
0900-1100 Opening Addresses
Hosted by Government of the Kingdom of Morocco

Mohamed Auajjar
Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations, Geneva

Mbarka Bouaida
Minister Delegate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Rabat

Charki Draiss
Minister Delegate, Ministry of Interior, Rabat

Carsten Staur
Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations, Geneva

Milouda Hazib
Deputy President, Region of Marrakech/Safi, Government of the Kingdom of Morocco, Marrakech

*Video message by Joachim Rücker
President, United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva

Driss El Yazami
President, National Human Rights Council of the Kingdom of Morocco, Rabat

Abderrazak Rouwane
Secretary General, Interministerial Delegation for Human Rights, Rabat

1100-1130 Photograph followed by Tea/coffee

1130-1140 Welcome and Introduction
Richard Burge
Chief Executive, Wilton Park, Steyning

1140-1300 1. What are the key provisions of the UN Convention Against Torture, and how has it been implemented in the MENA region?

This session will explore the key provisions of the Convention against Torture for protecting
Manfred Nowak  
Professor, International Law and Human Rights, University of Vienna; Former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture (2004-2010), Vienna

Introduction to the Convention against Torture  
Jens Modvig  
Member, UN Committee Against Torture; Director, Torture in Detention Department, Dignity, Danish Institute Against Torture, Copenhagen

CAT and the Maghreb  
Saâdia Belmir  
Vice Chair, UN Committee Against Torture; Magistrate, Ministry of Justice, Rabat

1300-1430  
Lunch kindly hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Morocco  
Held in the hotel at Grand Bleu (poolside)

1430-1600  
2. Respecting human rights throughout the criminal process: what are the experiences in the MENA region

- How to establish and maintain proper processing and documentation from the moment of arrest?
- How to ensure that detainees are only held in officially recognised places of detention?
- What provisions are there for access to detainees?
- What effective judicial remedies are available to allow lawyers and relatives to ascertain where prisoners are being held?

Abdelwahab Hani  
Member Elect, Committee Against Torture, United Nations, Geneva

Nadir Elmoumini  
Head, Department of Studies, Research and Documentation, National Human Rights Council of Morocco, Rabat

1600-1630  
Tea/coffee

1630-1800  
3. Police accountability

- What mechanisms are there for sharing best practice on establishing and supporting independent investigations into complaints of torture against the police, and prosecutions of those responsible for torture?
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT): what is the role of the UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture in independent monitoring?
- How to establish a legal basis for the monitoring of the places of detention, including access to the places of detention?
- What is the best way to ensure that detention centres are subject to regular inspections?
- How best to implement regular audits and effective sanctions?

Introduction to the OPCAT and the role of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT):  
Malcolm Evans  
Chair, UN Sub-committee on Prevention of Torture; Professor, International Law, University of Bristol

UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture in the MENA region  
Suzanne Jabbour  
Vice President, UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture; President, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims; Director, Restart Centre, Beirut
Experiences of monitoring detention in the MENA region
Haitham Shibli
Deputy Regional Director, MENA Office, Penal Reform International, Amman

2000
Please meet in hotel reception for transportation to dinner.

2030
Dinner kindly hosted by the National Human Rights Council of the Kingdom of Morocco (CNDH) at Restaurant Diaffa.

Tuesday 15 December

0800-0845
Breakfast in hotel at Leroys Kfe and checkout

0900-1030
4. Creating a professional police force: training, recruitment and retention

- How can non-acceptance of torture and mistreatment can lead to a more professional police force capable of securing greater public trust and confidence?
- Will non-acceptance of torture and mistreatment hamper prosecution and conviction rates?
- What rights and ethics training would be required to ensure that police are fully aware of their responsibilities not to tolerate torture and mistreatment?
- How to make adherence to rights and ethics responsibilities a key part of the culture of policing?

Michael Kellett
Retired Police Investigator; Former policing adviser to the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture; Board member, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Preston

Abdel Salam Sidahmed
Regional Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Beirut

Ahmed Ben Dahmane
Senior Police Commissioner, General Directorate for National Security, Rabat

1030-1100
Tea/coffee

1100-1215
5. Recent reforms: States sharing examples of best practices and lessons learned

Is there evidence that torture can be prevented through oversight, and sanctioning offenders? What constitutes good practices and lessons learned on national reforms of policing practices in detention?

Bahrain
Nawaf Abdulla Hamza
Advocate General and Head, Special Investigation Unit, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Manama

Jordan
Ayed Al Hamad
Attorney General Assistant, Public Security Directorate, Amman

Lebanon
Joseph Kallas
Inspector General, Internal Security Forces, Beruit

1215-1230
6. eQuestionnaire

Participants will be asked to complete a short anonymous online questionnaire.
http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wp1426/
1230-1400 Lunch held in the hotel at Grand Bleu (poolside)

1400-1530 7. Concluding session: Key steps that states in the region can take to stop torture and mistreatment in police detention

Mark Thomson
Secretary General, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Geneva

Juan Méndez
UN Special Rapporteur on torture, Washington DC

1530 Close of workshop

1545 Participants depart

1600-1830 Second Annual CTI Forum (private session)

The Second Annual CTI Forum will discuss CTI strategy for universal ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture by 2024. The Forum is a closed session for CTI core group and CTI Group of Friends only. Dinner at Hotel du Golf will follow the session.

1930 Dinner for participants remaining in hotel at Leroys Kfe