

INOVAS joins victims and survivors in marking UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June

INOVAS, within the framework of UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, condemns torture as a degrading act, currently practiced by states and governments across the world. INOVAS considers torture an abhorrent crime that is an affront to human dignity, that should be criminalised so that its perpetrators are prosecuted. It is a crime that inflicts lifelong psychological, physical and mental scars on its victims.

INOVAS recognizes that torture has taken place throughout history and that it continues to take place today in all regions of the world – the Americas, Asia and Africa, at the hands of authoritarian governments, to silence, crush and dominate peoples' struggles for full emancipation.

At this time, INOVAS expresses deep concern about ongoing reports of torture from countries in South East Asia (Myanmar, Australia, Vietnam and Nepal); from Latin American countries (Colombia, Peru and Guatemala); from countries in the Middle East and North African region (Egypt, Yemen, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia) and from countries in the African Region (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Mali and Djibouti).

INOVAS supports the call made on states by the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture for states to address violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of their people given the evidence that practices of torture can be linked to the presence of high levels of corruption in these states where these crimes are difficult to expose or to prosecute.

On this International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, INOVAS calls on:

- governments and international organizations to take action to prevent torture and to stop it wherever it is taking place;
- the international community to support and accompany the struggles of victims and survivors of torture for access to reparation and rehabilitation; and
- victims and survivors of torture worldwide to unite their struggles in building a world of respect, justice and equality.

INOVAS is a network formed by, and for, victims and survivors of serious human rights abuses around the world. Launched in 2021, the network INOVAS aims to re-empower victims and survivors through five core activities: advocacy, empowerment of victims and survivors, protection of activists, documentation, and participatory research. Led by victims and survivors, INOVAS links organisations, groups and individuals from across the world—regardless of their colour, race, religion or belief, culture, nationality, gender, sexual orientation or ethnic origin—and aims to provide victims and survivors with a platform to allow their voices as claim-making agents to be heard, facilitating exchanges and reinforces solidarity between victims and survivors worldwide. The network advocates for their rights, and helps to strengthen their participation in national, regional and international processes related to justice, human rights, social change and peace.

Signatories:

Asociación de víctimas Renacer siglo XXI (“Rebirth in the 21st century” Victims’ Association) (Colombia)

Asociación Movimiento Nacional de Víctimas del Conflicto Armado Interno de Guatemala (Q’anil Tinamit) (Guatemala)

Association of Justice and Rehabilitation (Tunisia)

Committee of the Families of the Kidnapped and Missing in Lebanon (Lebanon)

Initiative for Vulnerable Persons and Women in Action for Integrated Development
(IPVFAD) (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Khulumani Support Group (South Africa)
Network of Families of the Disappeared in Nepal (NEFAD) (Nepal)
Proyecto VOS-Voces of Survivors (USA/Argentina)
Relais Prison-Société Association (Morocco)
Ta'afi (Syria)