



association pour la prévention de la torture  
asociación para la prevención de la tortura  
association for the prevention of torture

## **Call for proposals – In-country research on torture and other ill-treatment**

**Research project on measures and mechanisms which contribute to  
preventing torture and other ill-treatment**

**Deadline for applications:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013

**Deadline for submission of research report:** January 2015

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## **1. Background**

Torture happens behind closed doors. This means that little, if any, information and data on the prevalence of torture and other forms of ill-treatment is available at a global level. For that, and other reasons, little research has been undertaken on interventions which contribute to lessening the risk of torture.

To shed new light on measures that effectively prevent torture, the APT commissioned in April 2012 a major three-year research project by a scholar and human rights expert, Richard Carver, from Oxford Brookes University in the United Kingdom. Richard Carver was the lead researcher of the International Council on Human Rights Policy's project on assessing the impact of National Human Rights Institutions.<sup>1</sup> Numerous initiatives to support the performance of National Human Rights Institutions were launched on the basis of this research. Richard Carver's experience combines expertise in the human rights field as well as performance assessment.

## **2. The research project**

The project aims to identify the key factors leading to a reduction in the risk of torture and other ill-treatment. In-depth research into the effects of various torture prevention interventions is expected to give greater insight into their impact. The research findings are intended to be used to develop effective evaluation tools for future use by, among others, National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture.

**The research project is commissioned and supported by the APT but is conducted independently of the organisation.**

For more information on the project, see the description available here:

[http://www.apr.ch/content/files\\_res/apr\\_researchproject\\_2012-14.pdf](http://www.apr.ch/content/files_res/apr_researchproject_2012-14.pdf)

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ichrp.org/files/reports/18/125\\_report.pdf](http://www.ichrp.org/files/reports/18/125_report.pdf)

During the first phase of the project, Richard Carver undertook a review of existing literature and research in the area of torture prevalence and preventive measures. The full report of that phase is available at the following link:

[http://www.apr.ch/en/news\\_on\\_prevention/research-on-effectiveness-of-torture-prevention-phase-1-report-available/](http://www.apr.ch/en/news_on_prevention/research-on-effectiveness-of-torture-prevention-phase-1-report-available/)

In the second and third phases of the project, which are currently under way, Carver and his team are conducting pilot research in five countries (Argentina, Norway, United Kingdom, Turkey, and Uganda) to test and refine the methodology for the project.

The fourth stage, from January 2014, constitutes the main research period. It consists of a set of detailed case studies in up to 12 different countries on specific torture preventive interventions, using quantitative and qualitative methods. As part of this phase of the project, the APT is seeking proposals from institutions or individuals with experience and expertise in human rights research in order to assess the impact of a pre-defined set of variables on the prevalence of torture and other ill-treatment at the national level.

### **3. Objectives of the call for proposals**

The APT is seeking proposals from individuals or institutions based in, or with expertise on, the countries mentioned below, in order to undertake empirical research (see details below) on the evolution of torture and other ill-treatment over recent decades, and what factors seem to have contributed to the evolution.

### **4. Target countries**

Proposals are sought from applicants based in the following countries:

- 1) Albania
- 2) Armenia
- 3) Benin
- 4) Colombia
- 5) Georgia
- 6) Honduras

- 7) Hungary
- 8) India
- 9) Israel
- 10) Kenya
- 11) Kyrgyzstan
- 12) Malawi
- 13) Malaysia
- 14) Maldives
- 15) Mexico
- 16) Montenegro
- 17) Morocco
- 18) Nepal
- 19) Peru
- 20) Philippines
- 21) Senegal
- 22) South Africa
- 23) Taiwan
- 24) Thailand
- 25) Tunisia
- 26) Zimbabwe

The expectation would be that the researcher would be resident in the country, although, exceptionally, proposals from researchers based outside the country will be considered. Applicants may apply for a maximum of one country. Applications to undertake the research in several countries will not be considered.

#### ***5. Timeframe and duration of the assignment***

The initial planned duration of the research will be approximately six months (applicants should specify the expected time required to undertake the research and complete the study) between January 2014 and January 2015.

## **6. Eligibility criteria and requirements**

Applicants can either be individuals or institutions, usually based in one of the target countries mentioned above. They should have a proven track record in undertaking empirical research in the human rights field. Experience in research related to detention issues and/or torture will be an asset. Applications from both individuals and institutions will be considered, including but not limited to the academic sector, research institutions, think tanks and NGOs (preferably national). In the case of institutional applications, the name of the researcher responsible should be specified, with evidence of her/his suitability. It is stressed that in the case of institutions, the identified individual researcher will be the one actually conducting the research at all times.

## **7. Communication languages**

The communication language of the project is English. Proposals and research reports must be submitted in English, and communication with the research team will also normally be in English. However, language should not be barrier. Applicants may incorporate all costs related to the translation of all relevant documents into English in their proposal. The budget can accommodate all related costs.

## **8. Research methodology**

The research seeks to evaluate the impact of torture prevention mechanisms over a 30-year period, using a comparative case study method across 17 countries in total. The research includes both qualitative and quantitative components.

The quantitative part of the study proceeds by assigning scores for both the dependent variable (incidence of torture) and a variety of independent or explanatory variables (torture prevention interventions) for each "country-year" from 1985 until the present. Torture is defined as in Article 1 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The independent variables are grouped into three broad categories: detention procedures, investigation and prosecution of alleged torturers, and monitoring and complaints mechanisms. To ensure a consistency of approach across all countries, scores will be assigned by the core research team, but this will be done in the closest consultation with country research partners to guarantee that they reflect the most complete understanding of particular local factors. Statistical analysis will be carried out by the core team, so ability to

conduct techniques such as multivariate regression is not required. However, a basic understanding of quantitative research methods is an asset, as part of a broader ability to conduct rigorous and replicable research.

Qualitative analysis will consist of a country chapter for inclusion in the final report, to be drafted by the research partner. This will be a paper of approximately 20-25 pages on the evolution of torture and preventive measures in the country during the entire period under study. It will focus on the same three areas as the quantitative portion of the research – detention procedures, prosecution, and monitoring and complaints – but will allow flexibility to discuss background political factors, relationship to other human rights issues, and many other factors that will not be captured in the quantitative analysis. As part of the strategy for diffusing the findings of the study, research partners will be free to publish an account of their research elsewhere, for example in local peer-reviewed publications, subject to a prior review by the core team and due acknowledgment of the support for the research from the APT.

The final report of the research will be in the form of an edited volume published by a reputable academic publisher, containing the country chapters drafted by research partners and an overall comparative and quantitative analysis written by the core research team. We will seek other ways, in discussion with research partners, to disseminate these findings both within the research countries and globally.

#### ***9. Support made available to the research partners***

Research partners will be invited to an initial workshop in Geneva scheduled to take place in early 2014. Specific communication tools, such as an email group, may be established if required. As mentioned above, translation requirements may be budgeted in by the applicants.

Richard Carver will provide a detailed framework for the study and terms of references for research partners. Carver will be the main point of contact for partners on research and methodology related issues.

The APT will provide transport and related logistical support for the participation of research partners in project-related activities, including the initial workshop in Geneva. The APT will also be the main point of contact for research partners on administrative issues, including payments.

### ***10. Reporting to Richard Carver and APT***

Research partners will work under the supervision of Richard Carver. They will report on a regular basis to Emilie Aubert, the Research Project Administrator, who will also be able to provide support as may be required.

### ***11. Research report***

The research partner will be expected to provide a country report of approximately 20-25 pages, as described above. In addition, partners will be required to complete worksheets providing data on the incidence of torture and the law and practice of preventive measures.

### ***12. Initial project workshop in Geneva***

Research partners who will have successfully been shortlisted will be convened to an initial workshop held in Geneva in early 2014, to meet the research team, and agree on the scope and terms of the research. This will also be a first opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences in the area of research on torture and other ill-treatment. Research partners will receive training on the methodology being used for the research, including the essential data to be gathered. Interpretation will be provided. Costs for this workshop will be met directly by APT and should not be included in the country proposal.

### ***13. Second project workshop***

APT will also seek funding for a second workshop to be held at the conclusion of the research phase to share findings and plan the final publication.

### ***14. Financial allocation***

Funds are available to cover all necessary costs to be incurred as part of the research (personnel, logistics, transportations, translation, interpretation, communications, etc.) Proposals should include a detailed breakdown of expected expenditure to be incurred as part of the research (see below).

### **15. How to apply & format of the proposal**

Applicants should submit in English a narrative proposal outlining their qualifications and relevant experience, as well as a budget, with details on all expected costs anticipated to undertake the research.

The narrative proposal should be of maximum three pages in length<sup>2</sup>, and include the following information:

- Name, nationality, date of creation (institutions) and contact details
- Credentials/legal status (institutions)
- Lead contact/programme leader (institutions), including curriculum vitae. Individual applicants should also attach a CV.
- Presentation of the institution/individual and institutional background (institutions)
- Relevant experience with regards to the scope and objectives of the research
- Implementation plan and proposed time required to undertake the study
- Applicants are encouraged to provide any additional information which may be relevant to the research, including references
- An annex including copies and/or weblinks of relevant publications and/or research in the human rights field, preferably related to detention issues and/or torture (annexes may be in any language).

The budget should provide details on anticipated costs to be incurred as part of undertaking the research, including number of units and unit costs.

Applications and questions should be submitted by email to [eaubert@apt.ch](mailto:eaubert@apt.ch) with subject "Proposal for Research Project", specifying for which country at the latest by **01/11/2013** COB. Any applications received past the deadline may be rejected.

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<sup>2</sup> The size limit does not apply to annexes

## **16. Evaluation and selection of proposals**

Proposals will be reviewed by an evaluation panel, which will shortlist and select them based on their adequacy and relevance to the research objective and methodology. The panel may request additional information as part of the application process.

Please note that the research will only be conducted in 12 countries out of the 24 listed above. As well as taking account of the suitability of research partners, the research team will also have to ensure that the necessary balance of countries is maintained in relation to geopolitical considerations, as well as the variables being studied.

Successful applicants will be notified within a period of eight weeks following the deadline for submission of proposals.

## **17. Guiding principles**

In its work and functioning, the APT is committed to implementing a human rights based approach, including the principles of empowerment, non-discrimination and accountability. For more information, see our policy at: [http://www.apr.ch/content/files\\_res/apr\\_hrba\\_policy.pdf](http://www.apr.ch/content/files_res/apr_hrba_policy.pdf). The research partners, while undertaking the research independently, will be required to accept to take into account the terms of the APT Human Right Based Approach policy.

## **18. Confidentiality clause**

Although the research project is commissioned and funded by the APT, it is conducted independently of the organisation, under the authority of Prof. Richard Carver. Applicants will be required to work independently and focus on the objectives and methodologies designed as part of the overall project. Successful applicants will also be required to agree to a confidentiality clause as part of their implementation agreement. Confidentiality may be particularly applicable to data and information on torture, including but not limited to, the identity of victims and perpetrators.

*APT, September 2013*