

International Bridges to Justice

HIGHLIGHTS

of

The 12 Year Plan to End Torture
The movement to eliminate torture in our time

Every day, throughout the world, hundreds of thousands of people are arbitrarily detained, tortured, and denied access to counsel and basic due process rights. This stands as one of the great shames of our times, causing untold human suffering, perpetuating patterns of violence and impunity, and sapping vast economic potential. Most tragically, these abuses typically occur as a matter of routine, with scarce acknowledgement of the horrible injustice being wrought.

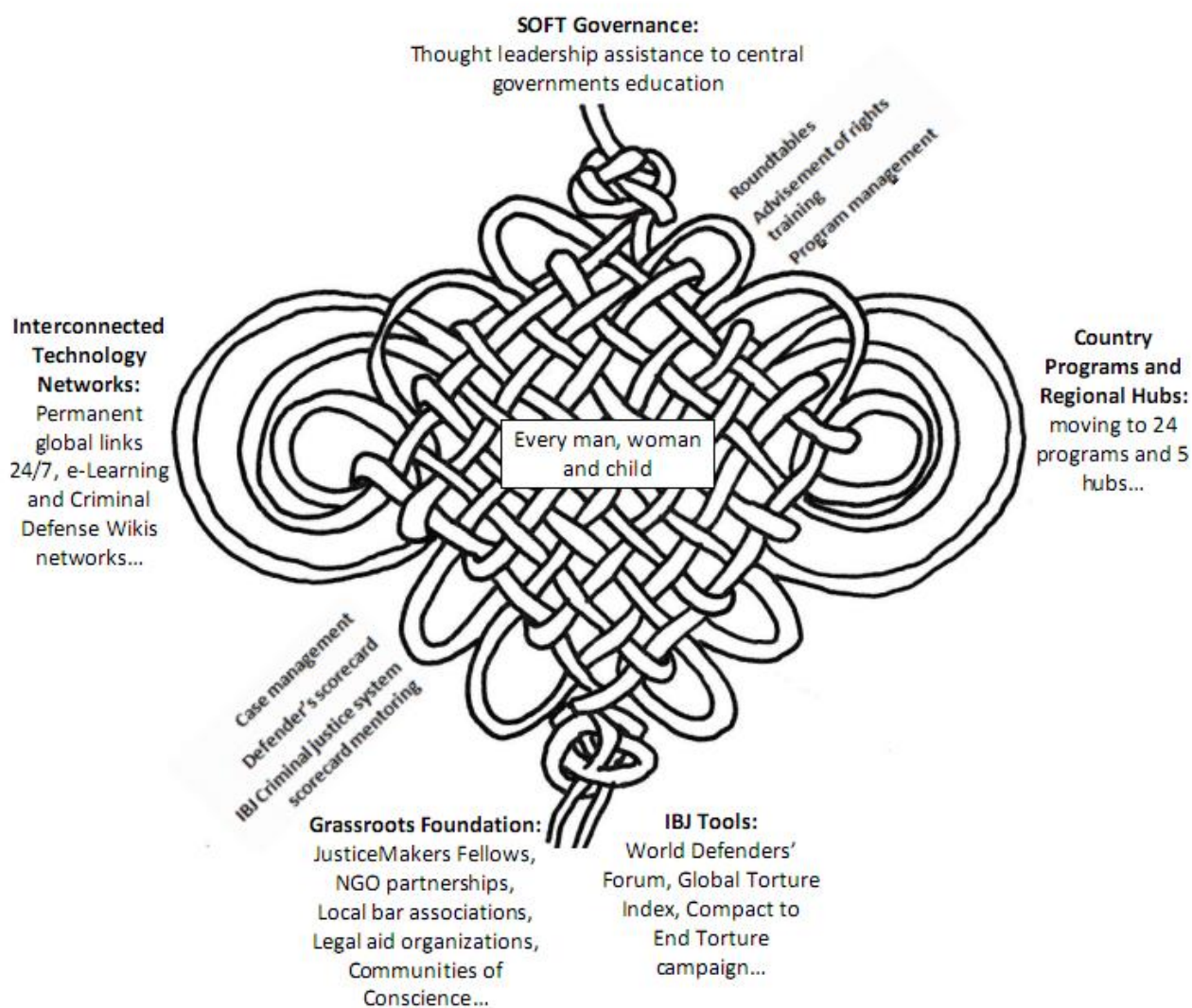
IBJ acknowledges it. IBJ encounters it every day in its work. Yet, much more importantly, IBJ believes that we have arrived at a crucial moment in history: the moment when torture can be completely eradicated. ***It is not enough to monitor and condemn torture; the time has come to eliminate it.***

With this purpose at our core, for more than a decade IBJ has been developing the prototype of a global movement: building country programs, networks and a wealth of resource materials. Our work has been systematic and opportunistic, both bottom-up and top-down, assembling the pieces to enable a global transformation. Now, at last, the foundation is fully in place.

Meanwhile, as IBJ has been developing its foundation, the world also has been changing in ways conducive to eliminating torture. While more than a hundred countries still practice torture, the majority of these have recently signed conventions and adopted national laws protecting basic due process rights. Furthermore, current technologies allow for a level of networking, message dissemination, and trans-border knowledge transfer that was unimaginable 20 years ago. This has only hastened the influence of soft governance processes, such as multi-stakeholder forums, cross-sectoral partnerships and other collaborations. Finally, the recent political changes in many countries have uncovered dark practices that only heighten global outrage over the scourge of torture.

The legal framework is in place. The ability to transport a global message to every village in the world now exists. IBJ has the systems and programs needed to make it happen. We can wait no more; the time is now. We will make torture and the lack of basic due process rights history.

IBJ asks you to join with us to create a global movement, working at the grassroots, in the halls of national governments, in the global media, and in the living room and town hall, to erase the scourge of torture for now and forever. Together, we will make it happen.



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Building Global Community Support for Justice

IBJ's Approach

The problem is enormous, shocking in its extent. Yet, IBJ does not work to “name and shame”. Instead, we talk with the local police. We partner with governments. We protect the brave lawyers on the front lines in this struggle. We work to create change; change that transforms criminal justice systems to respect due process rights, change that makes early access to counsel the norm; change that makes torture as an investigative tool a thing of the past.

We do this in two ways. First, we go directly to where the overwhelming majority of torture takes place: in local police stations and other facilities where the criminally accused are first detained. IBJ works to build capacity of defense lawyers, to create understanding and accountability among police, prosecutors, judges and prison officials, and to create procedures for access to counsel at the earliest possible moment after arrest. Second, we also work to raise the public consciousness about these issues, placing posters in police stations, hosting radio call-in shows, and leading village level awareness drives, all creating a new culture in which both political leaders and average citizens understand and support basic due process rights and the right to be free of torture at all times.

Strategic coordination is the key to our efforts. High level dialogue leverages training for local officials; public awareness events increase local accountability; international networks provide support for in-country benchmarks. In all that we do, IBJ integrates its efforts, always remaining focused on the ultimate objective: END TORTURE NOW.

Real People/Real Results

Our approach is creating dramatic change in every country where we work: changed policies, changed practices, changed lives, through partnership and determination. Consider the following few examples from our ongoing efforts:

- After two years of working to change the mindset of public officials in 2010, Burundi's president released 1,300 non-violent inmates from horrifically overcrowded prisons, with his spokesman quoting IBJ's motto, **“Freedom is the rule, detention is the exception,”** to explain their release.
- IBJ has dramatically reduced the incidence of torture in three Cambodian provinces, handling over a thousand cases and at the same time reaching 6.5 million people through a national radio-driven public awareness campaign. The case statistics are startling: Between October 2008 and June 2011, IBJ lawyers handled some 1,481 cases, of which 793 are closed, achieving remarkable results: 55% sentence mitigation, 10% dismissal and 8% acquittal on all charges, and – most importantly - significantly decreased instances of torture.
- In China, IBJ organized a campaign to distribute unprecedented “rights awareness” posters in police stations and detention centers throughout the country; this led to IBJ's ongoing program in which we already have trained over 2,000 police officers in investigative techniques to reduce their reliance on coercion and abusive practices.

- In Zimbabwe, IBJ saw five of its pre-trial detainee clients die while on remand. In the wake of such a tragedy, IBJ persuaded Harare judges to waive bail requirements altogether for many of the poor criminal defendants we represent. Through IBJ's efforts, this practice has now been institutionalized within the Harare courts as a "free-bail" policy.
- In India, where five people die in police custody every day, IBJ conducted the first national defense training for legal aid lawyers – in partnership with the government's legal aid authority – reaching lawyers in all 26 states. With IBJ's support, this has now evolved into a "duty lawyer" program through which lawyers are now accessing pre-trial detainees in Tihar prison in Delhi, Asia's largest prison.
- Inspired by IBJ trainings, several dozen Rwandan lawyers banded together under the leadership of IBJ's Fellow to initiate an organic movement to provide pro bono representation to impoverished criminal defendants, a movement which continues to grow with IBJ's support today.
- Globally, IBJ has trained thousands of legal professionals, reached many hundreds of thousands through our "Know Your Rights Campaigns", and hosted countless roundtables with prominent members of the criminal justice sector of local communities.

With quite modest resources, we are shifting consciousness – and our prototype is working. Yet all of this is just the beginning. There are still too many forgotten corners of the world where the poor and vulnerable are abused. We cannot rest until our efforts bring justice and dignity to all who are accused, everywhere.

The Elements in Place

IBJ's successes to date are not accidental. We work carefully, analyzing regional and country-specific dynamics, forging key alliances and deploying a series of complementary programs. We work from the bottom-up, and from the top-down, focusing on the interaction between the grassroots, the national and the global levels. The key elements of our work, implemented flexibly in response to local circumstances, and managed for consistency and quality, are creating synergies and building the critical mass for change.

Nine years lost awaiting justice

In Sri Lanka in early 2003, several Moratuwa policemen surrounded and arrested Ms. U.A. Somawathi, then a 36-year-old mother of three. In violation of Sri Lankan law, there was no female officer present for their search. The police claimed to have found five small packets of heroin on Somawathi. These police threatened that they would put her away for five to six years. Incredibly, the policemen's threats were kinder than reality. For the next nine years, Somawathi was held in pre-trial detention in Welikada remand prison in Sri Lanka's capital city of Colombo.

In the first year and a half of her imprisonment, over the course of 19 court dates, no progress was made in her case. The first legal aid to reach Somawathi finally came towards the end of 2010. IBJ JusticeMaker Ms. Harshi Perera took on the case, but even after four court appearances, nothing changed. On Harshi's advice, Somawathi herself wrote to the Attorney General's office, detailing her ordeal, and pleading for them to send the long-awaited instructions.



IBJ 2010 JusticeMaker Harshi Perera (left) with her client, U.A. Somawathi

In early 2011, Harshi decided that justice could no longer await the Attorney General's instructions. On February 5th, Harshi helped Somawathi directly petition the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, attaching affidavits both to the Court and to the Attorney General. On February 22nd, the Court heard her petition. That day, after nine years lost to a broken system, Somawathi was finally released.

Thanks to Harshi's efforts, Somawathi is now a free woman. Now 45 years old, her priorities are to try to locate her children, with whom she had lost contact after the 2004 tsunami, and to build a peaceful future for herself.

Country Programs:

IBJ has permanent on-the-ground programs in China, Cambodia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Burundi and India – six hot spots for unlawful detention and torture. Through these programs, IBJ supports brave entrepreneurial lawyers working to improve their justice systems. We maintain Defenders Resource Centers throughout these countries, through which lawyers defend the rights of countless citizens. Most critically, the Centers provide early access to counsel to all those accused. In addition, we train public defenders, police, prison officials, judges and others. We host roundtables bringing together local activists and policy level officials, and we run rights awareness campaigns.

e-Learning and Criminal Defense Wikis networks:

In 2010, IBJ launched two important on-line resources: the Legal Resource Center, the first free website devoted to providing legal education to criminal defense lawyers in the developing world, and the Criminal Defense Wiki, which brings case law, codes treaties and other legal resources within a click of legal professionals throughout the developing world.

JusticeMakers:

IBJ's global, online JusticeMakers network selects defender activists from throughout the world, and provides them with \$5000 seed grants and a support network enabling them to undertake rights awareness campaigns, multi-stakeholder dialogues, and defense bar trainings. To date, JusticeMakers have included individuals from 25 countries including Colombia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nigeria and Afghanistan.

Communities of Conscience:

IBJ's Communities of Conscience program brings together experienced lawyers from developed countries with criminal defenders in developing countries, to provide training, mentoring, and resources. Through this program, Chinese defenders have met their colleagues in Ireland and Washington D.C., and Indian defenders have linked with counterparts in San Francisco. Significantly, substantial support for these exchanges has been provided by international law firms partnering with IBJ in its mission.

Regional Hubs:

In 2010, IBJ opened its first regional hub in Singapore. Serving the Asia region, the hub builds relations with regional governments and bar associations, conducts trainings on a regional scale, and develops a network for change from within the criminal justice community of the Asia region.

A Twelve-Year Plan to End Torture

With replicable systems in place, now is the time for transformative change. Beginning in 2012, and in the following twelve years, each of the elements mentioned above will be brought up to global scale. Coupled with a global network for change, we will create a worldwide movement in which torture and the denial of basic due process rights is no longer tolerated. We will create the tipping point by which the global community ends torture in our time.

First of all, IBJ will ensure that our own foundation is in place. We will upscale our own internal staffing and capacity, assembling a team with both the diverse strengths and level of commitment creating a team ready to conduct the global effort. Immediately thereafter, IBJ will upscale its programmatic infrastructure, giving it a truly global platform from which to spread its message:

- ⇒ Beginning in late 2012, and continuing to 2018, IBJ will **expand its country programs**, ultimately including operations in another 18 countries in addition to those six where it currently operates.
- ⇒ At the end of 2012, building on its previous regional JusticeMakers competitions, IBJ will launch its **first Annual Global JusticeMakers competition**, awarding one sustaining grant of \$30,000 per year to an outstanding social entrepreneur for criminal justice in each of the 5 regions where IBJ will establish hubs, as well as acknowledging and supporting other outstanding JusticeMaker Fellows.
- ⇒ Beginning in 2013, IBJ will **expand its e-Learning and Criminal Defense Wiki materials**, translating these resources into dozens of languages, and creating an on-line accreditation program for all categories of legal professionals. IBJ also will develop new policy and “blueprint for reform” materials, distributing them to bar associations, justice ministries, defenders and others globally.
- ⇒ In 2013, IBJ will open its **second regional hub**, in the Mid-East/North Africa (MENA) region. This will be followed by hubs in Latin America (2014), sub-Saharan Africa (2016), and Eurasia (2017).

As it puts this global infrastructure into place, IBJ also will launch a series of new initiatives and tools to build the global profile of the movement.

- ⇒ In 2014, IBJ will host its **first ever World Defenders’ Forum**, bringing together top defenders, JusticeMaker Fellows, policy makers, government officials, technology experts and business leaders to discuss specific defender techniques, to share strategic approaches to reform, and to build and strengthen the global network for change. The Forum will become a permanent, standing entity, with a stand alone IT infrastructure, regional events and on-line publications. Subsequent global Forum events will be convened in 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022.
- ⇒ In 2016 IBJ will launch the **Global Torture Index**, illustrating how countries compare not only in absolute terms, but in terms of efforts underway to eliminate torture altogether; this will be accompanied by a certification and award process acknowledging countries that have completely eradicated torture, have made important strides, etc.
- ⇒ In 2018, IBJ will launch the **Compact to End Torture campaign**, building on pre-existing networks, media campaigning and grassroots empowerment to obtain written commitments from governments throughout the world agreeing to specific activities and timelines to bring an end to torture within their jurisdictions. IBJ will obtain similar commitments from public and private multi-lateral institutions.

All of these actions will be supported by and linked into a series of networking and awareness raising actions resulting in a truly global movement to end torture.

- ⇒ Global roundtables, bringing together high level officials from such institutions as the UN, EU, regional development banks and cooperation mechanisms, the private sector, and bar associations to agree on principles and timelines by which to eradicate torture.
- ⇒ Model curricula for schoolchildren, combining global messaging with country-by-country local context, informing children everywhere about their role in ending torture.
- ⇒ Technology forums, specifically convened to harness the power of media and technology to create the broadest possible reach for the message.
- ⇒ Comic books, Facebook games, and other tools to further involve youth in the movement.
- ⇒ An integrated public service announcement (PSA) campaign – ranging from local radio, to international television networks, to social media and search engine site postings, achieving truly global penetration of the simple message: torture is a thing of the past.
- ⇒ A greatly expanded Communities of Conscience program, connecting defenders across borders to share skills, but also linking policy makers, politicians and police across borders and regions to increase understanding and build momentum for reform and transformational change.

A Global Network for Change

While each of the initiatives described above is a bold undertaking in its own right, it is their integration into a global movement that ensures our success. Complementing every element that IBJ undertakes will be an overlying, dedicated drive to create a “global network for change”. Each element will complement and build upon the others, and each will be leveraged to realize this potential to the fullest, resulting in a global network for change that extends from rural villages to the halls of international financial institutions to suburban living rooms. The following are merely a few examples:

- ◆ World Defender Forums igniting new collaborations involving defenders, technology experts, business leaders and governments.
- ◆ Cross-innovation among a global community of defenders, sharing a culture of advocacy for change, and united by a commitment to upholding due process rights and eliminating torture.
- ◆ Children in classrooms throughout the world learning about their rights to be free from torture, and writing letters to those national leaders with whom IBJ works day to day on its in-country programs.

- ◆ Communities and towns throughout the developed world “adopting” prisons and police stations to ensure these facilities have the technical capacity and resources to transform themselves into places of dignity and respect for basic rights.
- ◆ Clubs, youth groups and informal associations spreading information and advocating for change.
- ◆ Business leaders urging politicians to eradicate torture in the name of increasing global productivity and social stability.
- ◆ JusticeMakers as key spokespeople on national PSAs, and lobbying world leaders (who have already heard from their own children) about the need to end torture.
- ◆ Bar associations, trade groups, church groups, and chambers of commerce, all becoming part of the momentum for change, making pledges, joining the communities of conscience movement, and lobbying leaders.
- ◆ Leadership awards to defenders, judges, and even countries whose bold actions place them in the vanguard of the movement to end torture.
- ◆ A global “Torture is Over” day, harnessing energy on university campuses and online platforms to build awareness, and offering an opportunity for countries and other institutions to simultaneously take the IBJ pledge to end torture – permanently.
- ◆ Global publicity, highlighting special events, the global defender network, cross-community/cross-culture partnerships, recent country commitments, and the ultimate message: torture is over – now.

These are just a few images of the new global network for change that will end torture. Countless other activities will support the network, all united by a common purpose: eradicating torture in our time.

Timeline and Budget

2012 is the Year of the Dragon, the most powerful figure in the Chinese lunar calendar. Using the Year of the Dragon as our departure point, IBJ will operationalize the entire campaign described above for approximately \$200 million over twelve years. Operations will peak during Year 7, then begin to taper off as countries enact lasting changes. The entire effort culminates in a global proclamation on the elimination of torture in 2024, the subsequent Year of the Dragon.

Looking to 2024 and Beyond

IBJ sees a future when children learn about torture as a historic artifact. IBJ sees a future when basic rights and dignities are understood and respected on a global scale, and as a matter of course. IBJ sees a future when countless citizens throughout the world realize their full economic potential, free from the scars of torture and abuse.

Beyond 2024, IBJ will maintain its global efforts as torture disappears from the global stage. We will phase out our country programs over time, certify countries that are effectively upholding due process rights, and continue vigilant monitoring and advocacy over the long term.

History demands the transformation that is about to take place, and together we will make it happen. The power of justice, the tenacity of the human spirit, and the goodwill of people everywhere are with us in this endeavor. There is no other option, and the future is clear: torture will cease to exist in our time.

Please join us now.

Harnessing the Threads of History to Create a Torture-Free World

There is wide agreement that torture ought to be eliminated, but an almost equally widespread sense that it is simply too entrenched, that except in the most exceptional circumstances nothing can be done to stop it. IBJ not only disagrees, but is actively proving this view to be plain wrong.

The world is changing:

- 30 years ago, there was no international Convention Against Torture. Now, it has been ratified by 147 countries.
- In 2011, defenders on different continents are linked and cross-innovate in real time.
- Public opinion is no longer controlled by the elite; networking technology allows for global messaging, global mobilization, and global change, empowering the voice of citizens and framing the movement for change as never before.
- Corporate social responsibility now drives major corporations to the fore of social justice movements.

This changed world creates a unique window of opportunity to end torture in our time. The coming movement capitalizes on all these changes. All of the models, all of the programs and all of the prototypes developed over the past ten years will now be expanded, yet carefully implemented in the same top-down, bottom-up systematic manner that has already yielded such success. Persuading officials to provide early access to counsel, empowering citizens with rights awareness, influencing policy makers, networking defenders and professionals from all walks of life – these are the elements of the path ahead. These are the means to create the tipping point that will end torture in our time.

Yet, the Arab Spring revolutions have exposed regimes in which torture has been a deeply entrenched part of life, destroying the lives of dissidents and average citizens alike. In country after country, there is law, but no implementation. And where development partners have provided resources, the pattern is always the same: prosecutors, judges, and even police are all trained, but the defender sits alone.

This is IBJ's entry point. This is where the bottom-up approach begins. Empowering defenders and ensuring early access to counsel: a focused, completely grassroots effort, that also serves as the basis of our top-down messaging and policy advocacy and that now becomes the rallying cry of our global movement.

The world is crying for justice. The world is crying for the end of torture. IBJ hears the cry.