

On UN Day, Let's Celebrate the Global Movement to Rebuild the Lives of Survivors

On October 24, as nations across the globe mark the annual United Nations Day, the international community will be casting an anxious eye toward the U.S. Presidential election. At stake, among other things, is whether the U.S. will maintain its policy banishing the use of "enhanced interrogation" techniques, otherwise known as torture.

Thankfully the euphemism employed by torture apologists are increasingly transparent. This is due not only to the persistent efforts here and abroad to outlaw torture, but also to the rehabilitation of torture survivors, writes PTV Executive Director Julie Gutman in a new [Huffington Post article](#).

"There's no question that efforts at the national and international level to eradicate the use of torture are indispensable," observes Gutman. "But legal and policy responses can never be fully successful without the rehabilitation of survivors, whose endurance and testimony act as the most powerful counterweight to those who practice or defend torture."

Gutman argues that survivors are uniquely positioned to counter torture defenders not only by speaking to the terrible cost of torture but also repudiating claims that torture is effective in eliciting sensitive information. [Read the full article here.](#)

Special Screening of *Beneath the Blindfold*



PTV will host an intimate screening of the [acclaimed independent film](#) *Beneath the Blindfold* at the historic Dolby Theater in Hollywood on Sunday, December 16, at 6 p.m.

A documentary by Ines Sommer and Kathy Berger, *Beneath the Blindfold* explores the lifelong impact of torture on the physical and psychological health of survivors. The film follows four torture survivors as they build new lives, careers and relationships in the U.S.

The evening includes a pre-screening reception and a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers and one of the survivors featured in the documentary, PTV board member Hector Aristizabal. PTV is currently soliciting sponsors for this event. Please contact Development Coordinator Maggie Shackelford at [213/747-4944 ext. 253](tel:2137474944) or mshackelford@ptvla.org if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities.

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