I AM NOT a TERRORIST.
I AM a JOURNALIST.
The Program for Torture Victims (PTV) assists the courageous survivors of government-sponsored torture and persecution who have stood up for freedom, equality and human dignity. For 37 years, PTV has helped new U.S. refugees, from over 70 countries, heal their physical and psychological wounds, and start a second life here in California.

The mission of PTV is to:

- **Re-establish Trust** and self-confidence that human rights abuses have taken away.
- **Help with Basic Needs** such as food, housing, and transportation while we plan a path to self-sufficiency.
- **Heal the Wounds** with integrated medical and mental health care for uninsured survivors.
- **Ensure Justice** by authoring expert reports that provide evidence and credibility for survivors’ claims for asylum.
- **Restore Hope** by helping survivors rediscover their strengths and dreams.

**MISSION**

**BEING LGBT IS NOT A CRIME**

**JESSICA**
Survivor from Mexico

**Brenda, Survivor from Uganda.**

**ON THE COVER**
Dear Friends,

Every day across the world, people's human rights are violated. An activist is thrown into prison in Vietnam. A gay Russian is kidnapped and tortured by ultra-nationalists. An El Salvadoran teen is raped trying to cross the border. Many of these refugees flee to California for safety and freedom. But sometimes the U.S. actually make things worse — like when our government imprisons traumatized asylum seekers in detention facilities for months, or forces them to wear GPS ankle bracelets. Many survivors also report discrimination, xenophobia and homophobia as they resettle in their new communities.

This year, in response to the growing anti-immigrant and anti-refugee sentiment, we asked some of our survivors to help illuminate the debate with their own messages. This annual report is a platform for their voices.

SURVIVOR VOICES

Torture is almost exclusively carried out, or allowed to be carried out, by government leaders or their agents — the military, the police, village mayors, hate groups, drug cartels, or tribal leaders — to intimidate, repress and dehumanize individuals who are speaking out for governmental accountability, freedom, or equality. It’s used to break the human spirit. It’s used to instill fear in populations, and keep regimes in power at any cost.

Persecution is the creation of systematic oppression, hostility and violence directed at minority ethnic, religious or other groups such as the LGBT community that commonly leads to segregation, subjugation or extermination.

Although illegal under international law, both torture and persecution are prevalent. This violence shatters lives, separates families and can destroy whole communities. Devastating violations of human rights, torture and persecution are barriers to the development of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law.

With the generous support of our donors and partners, PTV has been able to serve the most vulnerable refugees for 37 years. We are proud to have healed so many lives and helped survivors manage the overwhelming challenge of a new country as they created lives filled with hope, possibility and purpose.

This work was possible because our donors and volunteers made a stand against human rights abuse and advocated for the restoration of health and human dignity. In partnership, the PTV family will continue to move forward in our mission to heal the wounds of torture and persecution.

FREQUENT TARGETS OF TORTURE AND PERSECUTION INCLUDE...

HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, UNION LEADERS, JOURNALISTS, TEACHERS, LGBT AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS DEFENDERS, RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC MINORITIES, ENVIRONMENTALISTS, AND STUDENT LEADERS.
MENTAL HEALTH CARE

As the pioneer in torture rehabilitation, PTV has developed an integrated and successful approach to healing survivors with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other disorders associated with torture or human rights abuse. PTV offers psychological evaluation, individual and family psychotherapy, peer support, and follow-up care.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL CARE

Most survivors cannot access government or workplace health coverage until after asylum has been filed. Through our Human Rights Health Clinic at USC Eisner, PTV provides outpatient medical care by physicians who are trained in refugee trauma. When specialists are needed, we utilize the network we have created at USC Eisner Family Medical Center and at other local health care organizations at no cost to the client. PTV also offers emergency or trauma-related dental care through our partnership with the Change A Life Foundation.

LEGAL SUPPORT

PTV works with an extensive network of attorneys and legal aid organizations to ensure high-quality legal assistance for our clients. Our staff conducts forensic medical and psychological evaluations, serves as expert witnesses for asylum cases in federal immigration proceedings, as well as for human rights or war crimes tribunals in international courts. Additionally, we provide training to attorneys and federal immigration officers.

BASIC NEEDS AND NAVIGATION

PTV provides basic needs such as emergency cash assistance, food, clothing, transportation, as well as linkages to permanent housing and employment. Our Survivor Advocates help survivors navigate the complex and bureaucratic US legal, healthcare and workplace sectors and help acclimate refugees to U.S. culture.

COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

Our holistic and integrated approach to healing also includes massage therapy, chiropractic care, acupuncture, relaxation classes, art therapy, storytelling and theatre, which are provided through our innovative partnerships with local teaching institutions or by dedicated volunteer professionals.

AS AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF PTV, I HAVE WITNESSED THEIR ABILITY TO HELP OTHERS REBUILD THEIR LIVES WITH HOPE, POSSIBILITY, AND PURPOSE.

LOS ANGELES MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI

AS AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF PTV, I HAVE WITNESSED THEIR ABILITY TO HELP OTHERS REBUILD THEIR LIVES WITH HOPE, POSSIBILITY, AND PURPOSE.

LOS ANGELES MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

PTV initiates public programs to educate the general public about the global use of government-sponsored torture and persecution and its consequences for individuals and society. We also engage elected officials and policymakers in efforts to identify and combat human rights abuses, and advocate for resources to heal refugees and ensure fair treatment and justice for asylum seekers.

The PTV Human Rights Health Clinic at USC Eisner trains and supervises USC Residents/Physicians to provide medical care for uninsured survivors.

PROGRAMS

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti with PTV Board Member Greg Good at the Human Dignity Awards Dinner.

LEONARD VERNON/PTV
NEW IN 2017

TRANS SAFE
The life expectancy of a transgender woman in El Salvador is just 34 years. An international study conducted between 2008 and April 2016 identified 1,650 murders of transgender individuals in Central and South America — 78% of the worldwide total, making this region the deadliest in the world for this population. With this level of transphobic violence, it’s no wonder these individuals often seek asylum in a safer country. Even in California, they remain a vulnerable group with 65% reporting being a victim of a local violent crime. Our transgender survivors routinely encounter prejudice, discrimination, homelessness and economic hardship due to high unemployment or underemployment. In partnership with St. John’s Well Child and Family Center and Homies Unidos, and with a grant from the California Office of Emergency Services, PTV launched the TRANS SAFE program in 2017 to provide advocacy, mental health services, crisis support and safety planning to transgender immigrants in Los Angeles.

SURVIVOR VOICES
PTV understands that many survivors can benefit from telling their stories. To amplify these voices, PTV has launched a new program, Survivor Voices, which encompasses several platforms. A survivor activist network raises public awareness and helps influence decision makers about international human rights abuses, as well as issues that affect asylum seekers and other refugees. Another platform is a speakers bureau that brings human rights education and survivors’ voices to schools, universities, faith-based institutions and human rights groups. Lastly, other survivors are producing an LGBT documentary and engaged in creative writing workshops as well as theatre performances.
Kachig is known around the office at PTV for his gentle kindness and also for baking delicious desserts for everyone to try. In his home country of Armenia, he was not only a successful baker, but also an activist who courageously stood up to political corruption. Violence and coercion at polling stations have marred numerous elections in Armenia, and remain current obstacles to the country’s progress of democracy.

Kachig was a member of a political opposition party, advocating to eliminate government corruption and voter fraud. During the presidential election of 2008, Kachig noticed supporters of the regime intimidating and assaulting voters at the polling station. When he stepped in to ask them to leave, he was cornered and beaten by the men. Four years later as he was volunteering at a polling station, three young men came in with envelopes stuffed full of fake ballots. Kachig attempted to stop them, but was again brutally beaten and had to be rushed to the hospital.

The next day, he went to the police to file a complaint but was instead jailed by the police chief. For two days he was restrained and repeatedly assaulted. After Kachig’s release he learned that the police had bullied his wife, threatening that she would never see him alive if he didn’t retract his complaint. Fearing for her safety, he moved her to a relative’s house and fled to the United States to seek asylum. As the political climate in Armenia remains unstable, and the wait time for his asylum case in America increases, he worries for his wife’s safety. However, with the help of PTV’s counseling and legal assistance programs, he has new-found strength and a greater confidence that he will win asylum and be able to finally reunite with his wife.
CONTRIBUTORS

PTV THANKS THE INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND INSTITUTIONS WHO, THROUGH GIFTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS, MADE OUR IMPORTANT WORK POSSIBLE....

$100,000 OR MORE
Chao Soon-Shiong Family Foundation
Claudia and Elizabeth Koebelnet
David Hopper
Marjorie Jean-Baptiste
Alan and Joyce Liao
United Nations

$50,000 OR MORE
Badia Quincoces PC
Employees Community Fund of Boeing
Evel Sleep Work
Knights of Columbus
Overland Family Fund
Anonymous
Independent Media
Cassia
Jimmy and Janet Lee
L.A. Justice Fund
USC Keck School of Medicine

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Change A Life Foundation
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Jaswinder and Geeta Brara
Frederick Braudfon
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Ursula Mary Brooks
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$250 OR MORE
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Jenny and Janet Lee
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L.A. Justice Fund
USC Keck School of Medicine

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Laurie Haltmeyer
Tony Haw
Ann Marie Herold
Hill & Piibe
New anti-refugee policies by the Trump administration, including a ban on refugees from seven predominantly Muslim countries, sparked protests in cities across the U.S. in 2017.

On any given day, you’re likely to find Rehema buzzing away at her newly-donated Singer sewing machine made possible by donations to PTV’s Client Fund. The intricate concentration she pours into every stitch prevents her from lingering too long on the five children and husband she desperately misses.

Rehema flew to the U.S. from East Africa to participate in a conference on women’s empowerment. She was the founder of a nonprofit that trains women on how to generate income from small business and that also provided micro loans.

Before she boarded the plane to return to Africa, she received an ominous call from a friend warning her that her name was on a government hit list of people to be picked up and taken to the central prison where political activists are commonly never heard from again. Her lifelong activism to empower women had created many enemies. She had previously been arrested three times, badly beaten, tortured, and raped.

“I was scared. The only thing that kept me going was my children. I knew I had to be strong for them. I know what it’s like to grow up without a mother.”

Stranded, Rehema was referred to PTV, where she met with a Survivor Advocate who assisted her with basic needs, scheduled her for a free medical checkup and connected her to a pro-bono attorney to build an asylum case. A PTV physician and psychologist also conducted forensic evaluations documenting the scars her torturers had left. Their reports will be used to strengthen her asylum case by providing medical evidence to the immigration courts that she was tortured. And although feeling desperate at first, multiple sessions with her PTV therapist have helped make a significant improvement. “Here in the U.S., I am helpless. But at PTV, I know I am not alone.”

We have made every effort to recognize all of our donors correctly. If you notice an error please contact us at ext. 234.
For years, Yacoub traveled from country to country seeking refuge. Mauritania has been called ‘slavery’s last stronghold,’ with 17% of the population still living in inter-generational slavery. As a child of the ethnic Wolof tribe, Yacoub was forced into punishing labor and street begging instead of going to school. After several attempts to run away, Yacoub finally made it back to his family’s farm, only to watch a border war erupt. His tribe was expelled from Mauritania, forcing his family to flee, while creating a massive refugee crisis.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
as of Sept 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
<td>512,946</td>
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<td>Grants Receivable</td>
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<td>Pledges Receivable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets</td>
<td>1,317</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses</td>
<td>10,527</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-Term Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrestricted Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</td>
<td>556,719</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Income: $1,180,547

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
for the year ended Sept 30, 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Grants</td>
<td>225,533</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Kind Contributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events (net)</td>
<td>203,383</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>38,504</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fees/Misc</td>
<td>9,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$1,180,547</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Government Grants: 42%
Foundation Grants: 19%
In-Kind Contributions: 17%
Events and Individuals: 20%
Fees/Misc: 2%
Net Change in Assets: $204,313

Yacoub arrived at the US border in 2013 and requested asylum. But like many refugees, he was shocked to find himself placed in immigration detention for several months —subjected to jail-like conditions—a common and shameful practice by the U.S. Upon release, Yacoub began his work with PTV's physicians, a counselor, and a Survivor Advocate who helped him heal and begin to feel safe. PTV also helped with transportation and enrolled him in English classes.

When he first came to PTV his gaze was fixed to the floor. Now he makes eye contact and speaks English along with five additional languages that he learned on his long journey to safety. After a six month wait for a work permit, he began a humble job at a grocery store, sleeping on a pastor's couch that PTV helped him find. With PTV's help, he filed his asylum application with high hopes of finding a safe country to call home. And most importantly to him, he met a woman at his mosque that he plans to marry next year!
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* The name, image or other identifying characteristics of some survivors may be changed to protect client confidentiality and the safety of family and friends that still live in the survivor’s country of origin.

MR. PRESIDENT, I DIDN’T GROW UP IN A HUT.
I WANT TO BE FREE. LIKE YOU.

CONSTANCE
SURVIVOR FROM CHINA