

TORTURE

Journal on Rehabilitation of Torture Victims and Prevention of Torture

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Preface

This issue of Torture is predominately composed of scientific articles and other contributions based on presentations at the 5th International Psychological Trauma Symposium in Istanbul, December 2007.

This symposium, launched under the slogan “Digging Up Wounds, Healing Wounds”, focused on observations, experiences and treatment outcomes from various places where psychological trauma exists, with the intention to identify the trauma, prevent injuries, and discover the conditions that create trauma and find ways to prevent them.

The symposium highlighted how while it is important to examine torture, situations indirectly following torture also have to be taken into consideration. Such situations may include refugee status, language problems, cultural alienation, unemployment and economic scarcity, among others. Therefore it may be meaningful to distinguish between torture as such and those conditions induced by torture. In this way the trauma symposium provided an opportunity to share information that supports existing knowledge related to torture.

The articles in this issue specifically focus on non-torture PTSD associated situations, and therefore conditions that often have to be considered in the evaluation of torture survivors’ situations. In this issue you’ll find articles dealing with traumatic experiences and risk factors in regions of armed conflict. Furthermore there is discussion of the psychological condition for displaced persons compared with the non-displaced in the aftermath of an ethnic conflict. There are articles that focus on disorders after exposure to traumatic events: one examines university students, and one compares cultural differences between adolescents in four Nordic nations. Another study discusses the impact of impunity in traumatized refugees. Finally there is an evaluation on problems occurring in solitary confinement.

The papers which have been selected and adapted for this issue have fulfilled the acceptance criteria and guidelines for Torture.

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