

Call for papers for the Torture Journal special section on: 'Long-term effects of interventions: Torture survivors in the Balkans region as a paradigm of reflection'

Background

Torture Journal undertook a Delphi study¹ on research priorities in the field. "Long-term outcomes and effects of interventions" was considered the leading priority by a worldwide representative sample of experts, including research related to chronicity, factors leading to re-traumatisation, and implications for public health and cohort studies with untreated survivors. Identifying what happens with undetected victims and researching effective rehabilitation strategies, their impact, and the unmet need for services is essential for ensuring anti-torture remains a priority for governments, donor agencies, and research institutions. Understanding the repercussions of torture on communities and society at large is also imperative for evidencing the need for comprehensive access to rehabilitation, as defined by General Comment #3. Studies focused on the Balkans region is the object of this call.

It has been just over seventeen years since the peace agreement – 'Agreement on Succession Issues'—was signed in 2001, which saw an end to one of the bloodiest and most protracted wars since WW2 - the Balkans wars (1991-2001). The breakup of Yugoslavia resulted in human loss and countless atrocities, including ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, torture, and rape. An estimated 140,000 people were killed in the region and 4 million others were displaced during the conflicts.² Torture was perpetrated by all

actors in the conflict; however, a quarter of a century after the conflict began, there has been scarce information on what happened to torture survivors and their current situation. Therefore, the Torture Journal strives to make a portrait of the long-term outcomes and effects of interventions on torture survivors in the Balkans.

Objective

To gather and disseminate scientific perspectives and experiences developed with torture survivors in the Balkans region with a focus on detection of unmet needs and follow-up studies of programmes.

Call for papers

Torture Journal encourages authors to submit papers with a medical and psychological orientation, including those that are interdisciplinary with other fields of knowledge. We welcome papers on the following:

- a. Long-term follow up of torture survivors from any of the 6 former Yugoslavian republics (Slovenia, Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo, and Macedonia) and other countries where there were local refugees (i.e. Albania). We also welcome contributions related to people that were granted refugee status in other third countries.
- b. Clinical and non-clinical aspects related to the natural evolution of persons who have not followed any type of rehabilitation programme and of persons who have been in such programmes.
- c. Implementation and assessment of

¹ Pérez-Sales et al., 2017. Health and cohort studies with untreated survivors (p. 9)

² ICTJ. (2009). *Transitional Justice in the Former Yugoslavia*. New York, USA. Retrieved from: [https://](https://www.ictj.org/publication/transitional-justice-former-yugoslavia)

- reparation policies implemented in the area. Assessment of impact on survivors.
- d. Current needs of survivors.
 - e. Peace or reconciliation initiatives and their impact at a societal, community or individual level.
 - f. Work with specific groups (e.g. children, disabled), especially with reference to short and long-term impact of gender-based torture.
 - g. Legal, psychosocial, political or other elements that have influenced torture survivors.
 - h. Development and impact of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, especially in relation to the well-being of victims of torture.
 - i. Impunity and the role of perpetrators where this has happened.
 - j. Symbolic measures in transitional justice – the process and its potential impact.
 - k. Developmental disruptions, long-term impact of relatives' torture, and the impact of witnessing torture.

Submission guidelines

Read about the Torture Journal, author guidelines, and how to submit an article here: <https://irct.org/global-resources/torture-journal>

Deadline for submissions: 30th June 2019

For more information

Contact Pau Pérez-Sales, the Editor in Chief (pauperez@arrakis.es) or Harry Shepherd, Assistant editor a.i. (hsh@irct.org). For more general enquiries, please write to publications@irct.org

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