

PRESENTATION: REHABILITATION & RESEARCH CENTRE FOR TORTURE VICTIMS (RCT)

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Unbearable Pain: the Impact of Torture (Outline)

1. Individual, familial/community and societal level

2. Definition

3. What the UN Convention against Torture prohibits

4. Facts about torture

✓ Zimbardo – an unethical study? http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Zimbardo

✓ Milgram http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram_experiment

5. Effects of torture

6. Consequences of torture for the individual

7. Consequences of torture at the community level

8. Societal consequences of torture

9. Effects of torture on politics

10. Effects of torture on the economy

11. Effects of torture on culture/society

12. How to deal with torture

13. It's about remembrance and living memory (one generation)

Jan Ole Haagenzen,

RCT, Denmark

Reflections, Questions & Answers

1. Hasina Kharbhih, India: I wish to raise a question about the dislocation of human rights workers working in isolation. Parliamentarians are generally not involved when it comes to dealing with these activists. Sometimes, there exists just documentation without proper strategies to connecting these statistics and studies to the political environment and how it needs to change. We have spoken of the victims' and survivors' pursuit of compensation. In Denmark, such programmes are integrated into the national healthcare system. There therefore is the constant link between advocacy, prevention of atrocities, compensation and rehabilitation.

2. Basil Fernando, AHRC: Regarding compensation, in Sri Lanka you have avenues through which to demand your fundamental human rights. You can make a declaration or demand compensation. Instead, the debate has revolved around quantum and time frame for the delivery of these funds and services.