



ICAR FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

ROMANIA

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PROMOTING THE REHABILITATION OF TORTURE
VICTIMS AND THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

MISSION:

To contribute to the consolidation of democracy by assisting groups of vulnerable, marginalized people, victims of gross human rights violations

Introduction

ICAR Foundation is a non-governmental, non-profit organization set up in 1991 by Dr. Camelia Doru with the support of 19 honorific members.

Short history

It was legally registered in 1992 and its main aim was to provide free medical, psychological, social and legal assistance for those who, for political reasons, experienced the communist detention regime. ICAR Foundation is the first and also the only organization in Romania that has set out and implemented such a program. The Foundation operates three rehabilitation centers in Romania, one in Bucharest (opened in 1993), one in Iasi (opened in 1995) and one in Craiova (opened in 1998). The centers provide free medical, psychiatric/psychological, social and legal services to victims of torture and ill-treatment among former political prisoners and their immediate families either by in-house staff or by referral to external services with which the Foundation has contracts.

From 2002, ICAR Foundation has extended its target population by offering medical and psychosocial services also to refugees and asylum seekers. For this purpose ICAR signed a collaboration protocol with the National Office for Refugees (now the Romanian Immigration Office) that allows ICAR to operate an office in the "Vasile Stolnicu" refugee reception and accommodation centre, where the Foundation's psychologist and volunteers organize psychosocial counseling sessions, Romanian language classes, information sessions, cultural orientation sessions and different social activities for asylum seekers and refugees living in the centre.

Objectives

- Recognition of and gratitude for the survivors of gross human rights violations (i.e. arrest, condemnations on political, ethnical or religious grounds, deportation, exploitation, extermination in concentration camps, torture, inhuman or degrading treatments etc.) through creation and access to comprehensive rehabilitation services.
- Promotion of victims' and their families' right to medical and psychological rehabilitation, to moral, legal and social redress, including financial compensations.
- Contribution to the life standard of primary and secondary victims of gross human rights violations among former political prisoners, refugees and asylum seekers, through provision of comprehensive rehabilitation (medical, psychosocial and legal).
- Support to activities of prevention of gross human rights violations and of awareness raising concerning their consequences.

Rehabilitation

MEDICAL SERVICES AT ICAR CENTERS

The medical assistance that ICAR Foundation offers to survivors of gross human rights abuses includes both general medical services and specialized medical services: psychiatry, cardiology and internal medicine, urology, physiotherapy, dentistry and basic laboratory investigations. For medical specialties that are not offered as in-house services (e.g. ENT, ophthalmology, special

Romania that have been subjected to torture and other gross human rights violations in their country of origin. The majority of asylum seekers and refugees seen at ICAR were from Iraq, Turkey, Congo, Somalia and Bangladesh. In 2008 the three ICAR centres registered 93 new patients to receive comprehensive rehabilitation services.

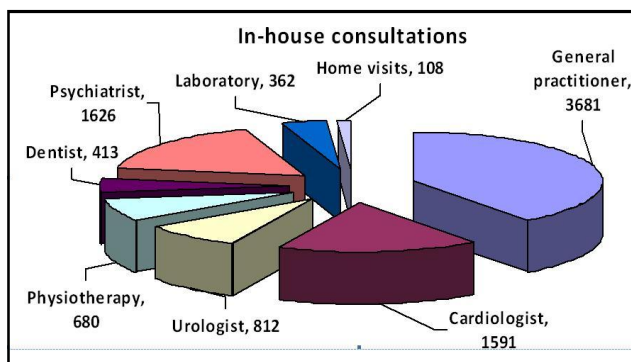
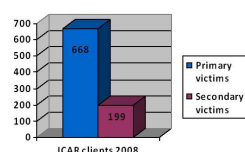
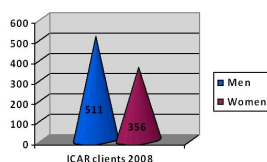
The medical staff at ICAR's rehabilitation centres made 9.273 consultations and 1.098 external referrals to other medical

and 108 home visits. In connection with the consultations, the physiotherapy specialists performed the following procedures during 2008: interferential currents (618), ultrasounds (1.502), laser therapy (335), galvanizations (625), diadynamic currents (849), massage and reflexo-therapy (1.911).

The external referrals were generally for ophthalmology and ENT consultations and for other laboratory investigations.

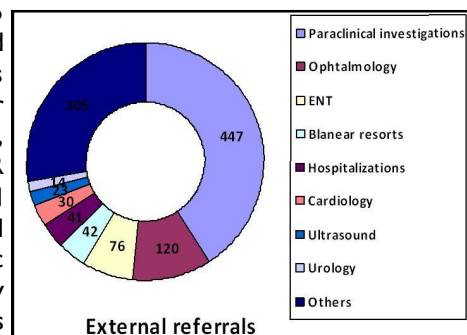
PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

The clients' need for mental health assistance is first evaluated by general practitioners but any of other specialists from the centres may refer the victims to be assessed and to receive psychopharmacological and/or psycho-therapeutic assistance from ICAR's psychiatrists and/or the psychologists. The counsellor working in the refugee accommodation centre provides psychosocial support sessions and conducts screening and needs assessment of inhabitants of the centre.



investigations, hospitalisations) ICAR refers its patients to medical cabinets or medical institutions outside the foundation. During 2008 the ICAR centres assisted on a regular basis around 900 patients, out of whom approximately 60% were men and 40% women, 80% were primary victims and 20% secondary victims (close family members). Among these patients about 90% were victims of torture in Romanian communist prisons while the rest were asylum seekers and refugees in

institutions during 2008. Out of the total of these 9.273 consultations, 3.681 were made by general physicians, 1.591 by the cardiologists, 812 by the urologist, 680 by the physiotherapy specialists and 413 by the dentists. The psychiatrists offered 1.626 specialized consultations over the year 2008. Also, the ICAR medical centers did 362 basic laboratory investigations



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

The social rehabilitation services include social needs assessments, social interventions, social counselling, social events, and aim at establishing a support network for the beneficiaries in order to prevent their marginalization, isolation and stigmatization. Among the activities performed during 2008: Romanian language classes and cultural orientation sessions for the refugees and asylum seekers living in "Vasile Stolnicul" centre; festive dinner in the refugee camp on the occasion of the winter holidays; donations in clothes, footwear, toys, fruits and sweets for the refugees and asylum seekers in "Vasile Stolnicul" centre; food transportation from the social canteen to beneficiaries' homes, support in home chores, errands and basic shopping etc. Also, the clients were invited and involved in different events organized by the centres throughout the year.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND COURT CASES

ICAR Foundation Bucharest provides legal counselling sessions to its clients on a weekly basis. During the year the legal counsellor performed 39 sessions for a number of 29 beneficiaries on issues related to local taxes, pension and other of their civil rights. ICAR also prepared and lodged a series of strategically selected cases for victims of the communist regime requesting reparation in court from the Romanian state, with the view of testing the Romanian judicial system in implementing national and international legislation concerning reparation.

M E D I C A L DOCUMENTATION OF ALLEGED CASES OF TORTURE

ICAR centre in Bucharest

issued a total number of 28 medical certificates documenting physical and psychological consequences of torture and traumatic events suffered by Romanian political prisoners during interrogation and detention in the communist regime and by asylum seekers in their country of origin. Out of these 28 medical reports, 10 were somatic and 18 psychiatric, 14 were issued for Romanians and 14 for asylum seekers.

ACTIVITIES IN THE REFUGEE RECEPTION AND ACCOMMODATION CENTRE IN BUCHAREST

In March 2008 ICAR Foundation renewed the protocol of collaboration with the Romanian Office for Immigration, which allows ICAR staff from the Bucharest centre to access "Vasile Stolnicul" refugee reception and accommodation centre, situated in the outskirts of Bucharest and hosting asylum seekers as well as legalized refugees who cannot afford to live in town.

ICAR's psychosocial counsellor was present weekly in ICAR Foundation's outreach premises in the refugee centre and conducted a total of 85 psycho-social counselling sessions with 34 beneficiaries during 2008.

The counsellor also conducted screening and needs assessment of inhabitants of the centre in order to identify potential torture victims among new-comers and those requiring medical assistance.

ICAR Foundation organised different social activities in the refugee centre with the help of volunteers. During 2008 the following activities were implemented: 9 group information sessions, in which 30 beneficiaries participated; 71 Romanian language classes for a total of 29 beneficiaries; inter-cultural activities.

On the 19th of December, on

the occasion of the winter holidays, the volunteers delivered an interactive presentation of the Romanian traditional customs for Christmas and New Year, with lots of pictures, music and videos, inviting the participants too to talk about the customs on the occasion of important religious celebrations in their home countries, accompanied by audition of Romanian traditional carols. ICAR managed to obtain some donations in clothes from MediHelp International and Ipsos Interactive Services, which were distributed to the asylum seekers living in the centre. Also, ICAR's project coordinator, counsellor and volunteers raised some money for the event (thanks to the generosity of the employees from Ipsos Interactive Services) and arranged a buffet for the participants, offered symbolic Christmas presents and decorated the space with a Christmas tree and traditional ornaments. The event was a success, everyone got talking and telling their stories and impressions, had lots of laughs and funny group pictures. The celebration had a large number of participants who had a great time and appreciated what ICAR did for them.



**Physiotherapy
session**



**ICAR staff in the refugee reception and
accommodation centre in Bucharest**

Training



TRAINING WITHIN THE ISTANBUL PROTOCOL WORKING GROUP

Within the periodic meetings of the working group on the

implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in Romania, ICAR Foundation Bucharest organized a training session on the 20th of February 2008. First a preliminary questionnaire to assess the training needs of the other members of the working group was applied. The training comprised theoretical and practical sessions on the definition of torture, physical and psychological

consequences of torture, re-traumatization of torture victims, burn-out syndrome, role-play about the torture victim's different reactions to interviewers (interview officers, legal counsellors, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, and doctors). The trainees included representatives of the Romanian Immigration Office, the Romanian National Council for Refugees, ARCA – The Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants, JRS – Jesuit Refugee Service.

STAFF TRAINING WITHIN EUROPEAN FINANCED PROJECT

In 2008 the ICAR Bucharest staff performed a series of training sessions for the professionals working for the other three partner centres in the European Commission financed project “Providing rehabilitation and seeking justice for victims of torture” (2005-2008): the other two ICAR centres in Iasi and Craiova, and “Memoria” Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims in Chisinau, Moldova.

Thus, on the 6th of June 2008, during the site visit to the ICAR centre in Craiova, ICAR Bucharest representatives conducted a training session on



elements of project design, with special reference on the specific ideas for new projects for the Craiova centre. The main issues of the training were: elements of project cycle management; identifying needs, analyzing problems and selecting the appropriate solution before writing a project application; elements of the project application –

title, duration, location, justification, target group, purpose, objectives, activities and plan of activities, results, beneficiaries, impact, multiplier effects, sustainability, methodology, resources, partners; implementation of the project, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project.

Between 1 and 2 July 2008 two representatives from ICAR Bucharest offered a training session to the staff of ICAR centre in Iasi focusing on possible strategies for attracting and involving patient in centre's activities, mapping and approaching potential new donors and financial issues.



On the 4th of July 2008 ICAR Bucharest's Project Coordinator conducted a training course on intercultural competences for the medical and psycho-social professionals for the staff at "Memoria" centre in Chisinau working at present or in the future with refugees and asylum seekers. The main

topics on the agenda were values, identities and differences (i.e. representation of the world map in different countries), communication among individuals from different countries, aspects of verbal and non-verbal communication, reactions to culture shock, particularities of the medical process when

working with refugees/asylum seekers, tools for doctors working with refugee/asylum seeker patients. During the same time the Director of Finance and Planning from Bucharest made a presentation on special financial reporting matters and EU budgeting for the newly hired accountant in Chisinau.



OTHER TRAINING

On the 15th of December 2008 a legal expert and a lawyer from the Association for the Defense of Human Rights in Romania – the Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH) delivered a training course for the staff, volunteers and beneficiaries from ICAR Foundation, focusing

on the civil and political rights of ICAR's beneficiaries from an international and national point of view. The main aspects discussed were fundamental civil and political rights in general, the Romanian law for combating discrimination, the Romanian laws for institutional transparency, as well as several case studies.

Advocacy

TV SHOW "REPORTER SPECIAL" ON ANTENA 3 CHANNEL

In April 2008 a reporter from a Romanian private television station (Antena 3) contacted ICAR asking for assistance in making a TV show on the situation of foreigners in Romania. ICAR Foundation mediated the interviewing of several members of the refugee community in Bucharest and provided the

location for some of these interviews. Also, ICAR facilitated the team's access into the refugee and asylum seeker accommodation centre situated in the outskirts of Bucharest, as ICAR has a protocol of collaboration with this institution. Besides that, the feature report included an interview with ICAR Foundation's medical director talking about the situation of the refugees

and asylum seekers that request the protection of the Romanian state. A delicate subject that was also reached was the fact that many of the foreigners seeking asylum in Romania are traumatized or have been subjected to torture and ill treatments in their country of origin. ICAR's director stressed their needs and the risks they face.



Hartwick (who was actively advised by the centre in Bucharest during the production) followed by a press conference and refreshments. The event took place at the INFOEUROPA Centre, located in the Central University Library Bucharest and former headquarters of the European Commission delegation in Romania.

Members of National Council for Studying the Communist Archives, of the Institute for the Investigation of Communist Crimes, as well as personalities from civil society, the cultural milieu, human rights NGOs and media attended the event. Former political prisoners from Romania and Diaspora and their families, as well as members of the refugee community were

also present at the event.

The documentary „Beyond Torture” by Alan Hartwick presents confessions of three survivors of the gulag of Pitesti: Father George Calciu-Dumitreasa, Father Roman Braga and Dr. Nicu Ionita. The focus is on the very particular experiment of “re-education” invented by the communist regime for the young generation of students, priests, university professors, doctors and other representatives of the Romanian intellectual elite. The purpose was to transform them in unconditional supporters of the regime using as teaching method - torture.

The media best reflection of the event appeared in “Aldine”, a weekly cultural supplement of “Romania Libera” newspaper.

26 OF JUNE 2008 — UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY IN SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE

As in previous years, in 2008, too the three ICAR centres organized different advocacy and social events to mark 26 of June - the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

ICAR Bucharest projected the documentary “Beyond Torture” of the American director Alan

26 of June
United Nations
International Day in
Support of Victims
of Torture

In **Craiova** the manifestations in connection with this day started with the inauguration of the extended space of the centre, marking the end of a long and difficult period of time in which the team made sustained efforts to obtain the space and afterwards to get the necessary funds for its appropriate renovation and refurbishment.

Representatives from all domains were invited to the event: the local authorities, the Medical College, the Public Health authorities, the Health Insurance House, as well as representatives of the local business field. There were also present patients of the centre - members of the Association of Former Political Prisoners and of the organization Pro Basarabia.

On this occasion ICAR Foundation Craiova also marked 10 years of existence. A small part of the Foundation's activity was displayed in a photographic art exhibition in which moments of the day to day work of the centre's staff were shown.

Further during the day the painting and graphic exhibition of one of the centre's beneficiaries, Mr. Rene Jardescu, took place. He is a former political prisoner whose life was marked by the three years spent in the communist jails and concentration camps from Periprava, Balta Brailei and Tandarei - a person who managed to overcome all the sufferings finding an escape in his art work.

This beautiful day for ICAR Craiova and the persons that

were present at the event climaxed with the presentation of the documentary "So close to us" - documentary produced by ICAR Foundation Bucharest and directed by Mr. Mihai Preda and Mr. Nicolae Margineanu. It is an emotional movie which presents fragments from the lives of several persons assisted in the ICAR centres from Bucharest, Craiova and Iasi. The viewing of the documentary was followed by a reception and discussions about the impact of the movie.

During the day and the manifestations, in and outside of the Centre, booklets and presentation maps regarding the 26 of June were offered in order to raise public awareness concerning the significance of this day.

The **ICAR centre in Iasi** also projected the documentary "So close to us", once for its beneficiaries at the premises of the centre, and twice for the general public at Glendale Cinema Multiplex of Moldova Mall - where especially many young people came and showed much interest in the film, its subject and its characters.

The projection at Glendale Cinema was part of a public information campaign which took place between 23 - 26 of June with the support of volunteers from ICAR centre Iasi, Bethany Social Services Foundation and Caritas Diecezan Centre, who distributed 5000 flyers-invitations and 300 posters. The flyers and posters were meant as a film invitation to the local community for 26 of June, but they also offered

information about the meaning of "United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture", about torture and rehabilitation of its victims.

Approximately 400 spectators

attended the two projections of the documentary at Glendale Cinema, the hall being at full capacity every time as a result of the successful public campaign.

In the opening of the projections the executive manager of the ICAR Centre Iasi and the partners' representatives, Bethany Social Services Foundation, Caritas Diecezan Centre and Radio Iasi, sent a message of solidarity with the persons who, during the communist regime, fought for the democracy values we enjoy today, and launched an alarm signal about torture still being practiced in different countries in Asia and Africa. The manager of

ICAR Iasi read the International Council for Rehabilitation of Torture Victims Declaration, which was also

read worldwide by those involved in rehabilitation of tor-



Painting exhibition in Craiova



Film projection in Iași

ture victims. The impact of the messages and, most of all, of the movie was a very powerful one, thus, after both projections the spectators stood up and applauded as a sign of gratitude and admiration for those shown in the film and their peers.

The event was accompanied by a fundraising campaign, those present at the film projection having the possibility to make a donation for the rehabilitation

of torture victims. The centre collected 130 RON during the two projections and had promises from several participants of donating constant amounts of money for the development of rehabilitation activities.

There were published three articles in local and regional newspapers, the executive direc-

tor of ICAR Iasi was invited to two radio shows and the event was presented in three radio-TV news on 26 of June and in the days before and after the events.



MONITORING AND ADVOCACY PROJECT IN CRAIOVA

The Medical Coordinator of MRCT Craiova participated in two training sessions in Sighisoara, Transilvania, on monitoring of public institutions (27-30 March 2008) and advocacy (17-20 April 2008) within the project "ONG Proactiv" that gathered several NGOs in South-West Romania. As a result of the first training, MRCT Craiova has initiated a monitoring process of the House of Pensions Dolj analyzing how former po-

litical prisoners and displaced persons benefit from the free treatment tickets to spa resorts that all retired people are entitled to. In this respect MRCT Craiova sent an official letter to the House of Pensions Dolj asking, based on law 544/2001 on the free access to public information, for numbers of requests and treatment tickets in 2007.

Also, MRCT Craiova drew up and applied a questionnaire to its patients, former political prisoners and persons displaced from Basarabia by the communist regime, enquiring whether they benefited from a treatment ticket from the House of Pensions Dolj, if they got it in the resort they asked for and for the period they wanted and their opinion on the general procedure of receiving the treatment

tickets. From the Pensions House's response resulted that, from a number of 9.739 tickets granted in 2007, only 183 were for former political prisoners and 295 for deported persons, this representing only 4,9% of all requests granted.

The procedure is heavy and involves staying in queues for many hours because the number of tickets is smaller than the number of requests and they are given in the chronological order of the deposition of requests. In order to avoid this, ICAR Craiova wants to lobby for the tickets to be given on more relevant criteria than the chronological order of the requests, or a percentage of the tickets to be reserved for the retired people benefiting from special rights (former political prisoners and de-

ported persons). Some of the patients responding to ICAR's questionnaire suggested even that ICAR Craiova should mediate the granting of these treatment tickets.

The results of the project "ONG Proactiv" were published in September 2008 in a best practices guide for the use of other NGOs interested in monitoring and advocacy

activities. The best practices guide included a case study on ICAR Craiova's action targeting the House of Pensions Dolj.

Seminar „The Road towards National Reconciliation: Healing the Wounds/ Correcting the Injustice”, Bucharest, 26 September 2008

ICAR Foundation organised a one-day seminar on national reconciliation entitled "The Road towards National Reconciliation: Healing the Wounds / Correcting the Injustice". It was held on the 26th of September 2008 in Bucharest under the gracious patronage of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The Romanian Cultural Institute offered to host and to become co-organiser of the event. The following organizations also supported the event: The Romanian Association of Former Political Prisoners, Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest, National Council for Studying the Communist Archives, International Centre for Transitional Justice, Europe,

and the Federal Commissioner for the STASI Archives, Berlin, Germany.

The seminar included lectures from the following international speakers: David Becker, PhD (Free University, Berlin), Lyn S. Graybill, PhD (Sam Nunn Institute of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology), and Thomas Unger, LL.M. (International Centre for Transitional Justice). H.E. Carlos Parker Almonacid, Chilean Ambassador to Romania, spoke about his country's experience in uncovering the truth and reconciling with the past. At the event we also heard a report from a representative from Die Bundesbehörde für die Stasi-Unterlagen (BStU) – the German Federal Commission for the STASI Archives. The Romanian



speakers were Professor Corneliu-Liviu Popescu, PhD (Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest) and Dr. Camelia Doru (ICAR Foundation, Bucharest).



National events

CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS

ICAR Foundation's project coordinator participated on the 7th of March 2008 in a conference organized by Association for the Protection of Human Rights in Romania - the Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH) with a view to present their project on the integration of civil rights perspective in the activity of NGOs that offer social ser-

vices. They previously, applied a questionnaire to 15 Romanian NGOs in order to evaluate the needs of their beneficiaries with respect to their civil rights. The conference, in which representatives from all the 15 NGOs participated, presented the results of the questionnaire, talked about what are civil rights and also discussed particular cases of vulnerable categories of beneficiaries and possible solutions

of their problems from a civil rights point of view.

SIGNING A PROTOCOL OF COLLABORATION WITH UNHCR ROMANIA

On the 16 of April 2008 representatives from the Romanian office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Romanian Immigration Office, the Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR), the Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants



(ARCA), Save the Children Romania, ICAR Foundation, Jesuit Refugee Service – Romania (JRS) and the Refugee Women's Organization in Romania (OFRR) signed

a protocol of collaboration initiated by UNHCR Romania on implementing standard operation procedure for prevention and response to sexual and gender based violence among asylum seekers and refugees in Romania. The protocol engages each signing party to provide its expertise and resources to prevent sexual and gender based violence and to help its victims. In order to do this the annex of the protocol of collaboration sets out a series of guiding principles and operational mechanisms.

NGO FAIR IN IASI

On the 28th of April 2008 the ICAR centre in Iasi attended a public NGO fair meant to promote nongovernmental initiatives. The fair, called "Expovoluntar", hosted about 25 Iasi NGOs from different fields of activity: social, medical, environment, human rights, youth etc. The ICAR centre organized an exhibition for the public on the boulevard in front of the town hall, showing books written by its clients and pictures from the centre's activity, promoting ICAR actions and donors, recruiting volunteers and collecting 2% of the tax payers' income. The fair

was organized on a Saturday, and ICAR had about 500 visits to its stand. The event was also used to promote the rights of the former political prisoners.

BOOK LAUNCH OF C-TIN TICU DUMITRESCU

ICAR Foundation's director was invited at the launching of the book of Mr. Constantin Ticu Dumitrescu, president of the Association of Former Political Prisoners from Romania (AFDPR). The event, which also marked Mr. Dumitrescu's 80th birthday

anniversary, was held on the 27th of May 2008 and was organized by AFDPR in collaboration with the Romanian Cultural Institute that hosted the book launch and the reception. One of the guest speakers at the book launch was the Romanian President, Mr. Traian Basescu, who expressed his appreciation for those who fought against the communist regime before 1989 and those who fought for the rights of the former political prisoners after 1989.



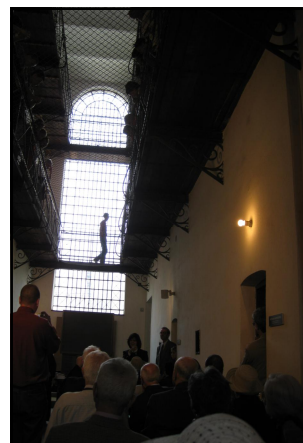
Romania's chronology 1945-1989, The army, the police and justice in communism.

The most important moment of the day was the inauguration, in the Paupers' Cemetery, of a funeral monument – a symbolic grave for the hundreds of thousands of victims of communism. There were also brought urns with soil from the other communist prisons and labour camps throughout

SIGHET MEMORIAL

ICAR Foundation Bucharest participated in the celebrations that took place on the 5th of June 2008 in Sighet, at the Memorial of the Victims of Communism and Resistance.

The event began with an opening speech by Ana Blandiana, president of Civic Academy Founda-



the country. The religious ceremony was performed by two priests, one Orthodox and one Greek-catholic, both survivors of the communist prisons.

Over 100 persons from all over Romania, former political detainees in communist prisoners and their relatives, participated in the event.

UNHCR SEMINAR ON

STATELESS PEOPLE

On the 30th of September 2008, ICAR's project assistant attended a UNHCR seminar on stateless people. UNHCR representatives and academic lectures in the field of international human rights law presented the theoretical aspects of the subject and the current national and international legis-

lation regulating the situation of stateless people. Debates took place with representatives of Romanian authorities (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Romanian Immigration Office) on the degree of implementation in Romania of the UN conventions on stateless people and on the reduction of statelessness.

International events

STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Between 28th of September and 11th of October 2008 the executive director from ICAR Iasi was involved in an IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims) internship program. The internship was carried out at Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims in Athens, Greece. The centre in Iasi doesn't work with asylum seekers and refugees, its main clients being victims of the Romanian former communist regime. But since Romania became in 2007 the eastern border-state of the European Union, the ICAR management in Iasi started to consider this particular group too as possible target group for their services. In this respect MRCT Athens was a good reference centre, as it had been providing services for refugees and asylum seekers for many years and could offer ICAR Iasi important knowledge and guidance on working with this special category of clients. As a result of the internship ICAR Iasi's representative managed to clarify all the aspects regarding working

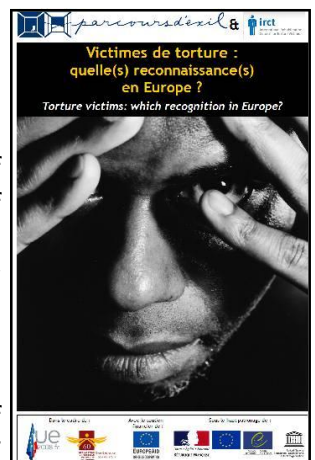
with asylum seekers and refugees: how the system works in an older EU member state, its particularities, the institutions involved and the sharing of responsibilities in-between, the qualifications required for the personnel, the medical, social, legal and cultural difficulties. At the same time, the Athens centre learned more about similar activities in Romania and the way the staff in Iasi conduct their work. This also represented the basis of future collaborations between the two centres.

CONFERENCE „TORTURE VICTIMS: WHICH RECOGNITION IN EUROPE?”, PARIS, FRANCE

ICAR Foundation's Medical Director, Mrs. Camelia Doru was invited as guest speaker at the Conference „Torture victims: which recognition in Europe?” (28-29 October 2008) organized by the centre *Parcours d'Exil* in Paris under the patronage of the French Presidency of the European Union. The lecture delivered by Camelia Doru was on the situation of the victims living in the country they were subjected to torture.

LOBBY ACTION AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

A representative of ICAR Foundation was part of the delegation of the European Network of Rehabilitation Centres for Survivors of Torture to the Council of Europe (CoE) in Strasbourg, in November 2008. The European Network has been in contact with the CoE since 2006 with the aim of bringing the issue of rehabilitation of torture victims on the agenda of this organization, which has already a leading role in the field of torture prevention (through the Council for the Prevention of Torture). On the 27th of November 2008, the delegation of the European Network was received by the Steering Committee of Legal and Human Rights (CDDH) of CoE as the only external organization heard by CDDH during that session. Between 50 and 60 members of the Steering Committee participated in the 40 minute hearing that focused on the current financial crisis amongst the European rehabilitation centres and the potential negative



consequences of EC's phasing out of funds for European centres. The delegation called for an initiative by the CoE concerning member states' obligation towards victims.

TRAINING FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS, BELLAGIO, ITALY

The Center for Victims of Torture from Minneapolis, USA organized a training workshop for professionals working in mental health care within the 2008 International

Capacity Building Project. The workshop "Trauma Healing and Hope: Overcoming Legacies of Political Violence" took place in Bellagio, Italy between December 8-13, 2008 and gathered psychiatrists and psychologists from all over the world working with trauma victims in Africa, South-East Asia, Middle East and Eastern Europe. ICAR Foundation's psychologist attended the training and extended her knowledge on specific issues such as principles of practical assessment,

triage, critical components of early intervention, positive psychotherapy, Socratic questioning, integrating counselling into community based care and did a lot of role-play practice.



Partners

ICAR is pleased to acknowledge the fruitful partnership with various institutions and organizations, both at the national and international level.

National partners:

- Romanian Cultural Institute
- Human Rights Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Bucharest
- Romanian Association of Former Political Prisoners (AFDPR)
- Romanian Immigration Office
- Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR)
- ARCA- The Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) - Romania

International partners:

- "Memoria" Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims – Chisinau, Moldova
- International Centre for Transitional Justice
- TRIAL Geneva
- European Network of Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres for Victims of Torture and Human Rights Violations
- Centre for Victims of Torture, Minneapolis, USA
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)
- Association for Prevention of Torture (APT)
- Free University – Berlin
- German Association of Centres for Refugees and Victims of Torture (BAFF)

Fundraising

In order to increase the sustainability of the centres and their activity, ICAR Foundation made numerous funding applications in 2008, both to institutional and private donors, in Romania and abroad. The main problem encountered by the three centres in their fundraising activities is the fact that the majority of regional and local institutional donors don't sup-

port the provision of services to clients. Adding the fact that torture victims of past or present regimes are not a popular category of people, all of these make the success of the fundraising activity a very difficult task. Also, for many donors Romania is no longer eligible for funds after joining the European Union. USAID, European Commission and other big source of

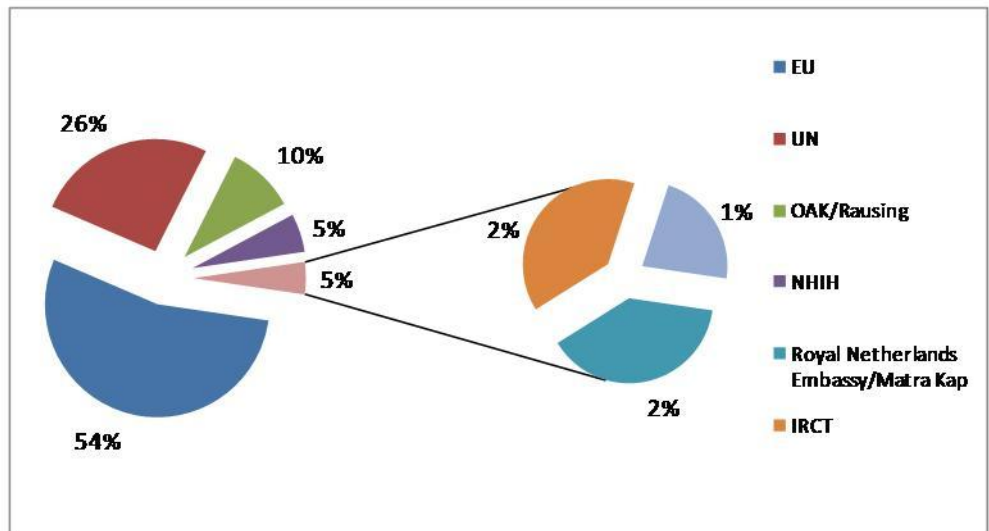
funding stopped their projects support in Romania expecting the state to take over the valuable initiatives funded previously through external financial assistance. The relatively abrupt cut of funding is creating problems to service provider organizations like ours due to the scarce available resources at national and international level.

Donors

ICAR Foundation's activity in 2008 was possible thanks to the financial support from:

International donors

- European Commission (through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights): 180.281 EUR
- United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture : 86.339 EUR
- OAK Foundation and Rausing Trust : 32.437 EUR
- International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims: 6.028 EUR
- The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Bucharest (through MATRA-KAP program): 6.000 EUR



National donors

- National Health Insurance House: 18.307 EUR
- Other donors/ Private donors (2% campaign): 3.456 EUR

ICAR is grateful to all the donors that supported the foundation's activities and projects, as well as to the city halls' of Bucharest, Iasi and Craiova that have made available the premises the centers currently use.



Help the survivors

**ICAR Foundation helps torture survivors and their families.
You can do it, too!**

ICAR's bank accounts:

BRD Decebal Branch

IBAN: RO42BRDE44ISVI9070944410 (RON)

or

IBAN: RO019BRDE44ISVI9071404410 (EUR)

Swift code: BRDEROBU



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