

**In Afghanistan**, Sahar Gul, age 15 in 2011, who was locked in a basement toilet for 6 months, had, for example, her fingernails pulled off, fingers broken, hair pulled out, burnt with a hot iron, and electric shocked for refusing to be 'prostituted' by her forced marriage 'husband' and his mother.

**In Austria**, Elizabeth was entombed for 24 years by her father, suffered continuous rapes, and multi-pregnancies and deliveries. Psychologically she never knew whether she and the children would die entombed. Their captivity was revealed when one child was taken to hospital and Elizabeth told.

**In Thailand**, Tola, age 7, was held captive by neighbors for five years. She was kicked, beaten, locked in a cage, had boiling water poured over her, had one ear lobe cut off with scissors, her left arm was so damaged she was unable to move it, and she was used for forced labor before escaping.

### **These torturers do what they do:**

- For pleasure, including sexualized pleasure; to gain financially; for other reasons such as gaining forced free labor
- To exert power and domination over persons they torture enforcing a state of powerlessness and torture-conditioned captivity and terror
- Because of misogynistic and or discriminatory justification beliefs

### **Helping responses**

- Remember classic non-State torture happens in families and in homes

- Remember children of all ages and adults from all walks of life can be so tortured
- When the person tells what they survived, use respect to uphold their dignity
- Tell the person you believe them, that it is not their fault and you are sorry
- Do not minimize the torture suffered to a lesser human rights crime
- Organize presentations/discussions with knowledgeable presenters, include informational written material in school, university, and professional programs; in relationship and sexuality education
- **RATE YOUR COUNTRY:** Is there a law that criminalizes non-State torture? If not, why not? If there is a non-State torture law is it being used? If not, why not? **Canada does not have a distinct non-State torture law so we advocate for its criminalization.** That non-State torture happens in the home is not new; it is minimized, misnamed, and invisibilized as a form of violence that happens in relationships.



### **NST**

**Persons against Non-State Torture**

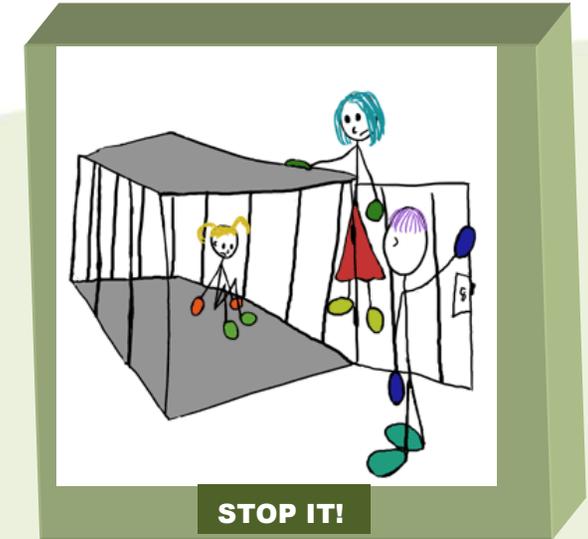
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Drawings by David MacDonald, 2005

## **'CLASSIC' NON-STATE TORTURE**

- **Do you know what this is?**
  - **Do you know this happens in the home?**
- **Do you know it happens in your country, in every country?**

## Classic non-State torture involves:

**a) Cruel, inhuman, and degrading acts** intentionally inflicted by one person against another person—a woman, girl, man or boy—to cause severe physical or mental pain and suffering for any reason such as discrimination or punishment. United Nations human rights say that no one shall be subjected to torture.

**b) Torture inflicted by private citizens** such as parents, family members, guardians, groups, or like-minded others. They are referred to as **non-State actors**. This term is used to separate torture inflicted by private citizens from torture done by government employees such as police or jail personnel and referred to as **State torture**. Non-State or State torturers are often referred to as actors. **Actors** is a term that simply refers to a person who is doing an act.

**c) Acts of torture** such as the following:

- Electric shocking of body, inside vagina
- Beatings, burnt, cut, broken bones
- Immobilization tortures: tied down, hung, caged, handcuffed, forced into small dark spaces, outdoors and tied to a tree
- Water tortures: held under water in a bathtub, bucket, sink, or outdoors in a lake or brook until near drowned
- Suffocation & choking tortures: hooded with a plastic bag over their head, objects placed over their face, sat on making it difficult to breath

- Sexualized tortures: Rapes, gang rapes, hand/object rapes, repetitive raping

- Reproductive tortures: forced impregnation and abortions, harms to organs that require surgery

- Animal-human cruelty: bestiality, threatening and or the killing of pets

- Forced drugging: by mouth, injections, mask, or nasal sniffing

- Deprivation tortures: withholding of food

- and drink, exposure to extremes of heat and cold, forced into dark spaces for prolonged periods of time, denied access to toileting so

- forced to urinate and have bowel movements on them-Self, forced to go without sleep, forced to listen to noise

- Psychological tortures: constantly terrorized and horrified, called derogatory names and putdowns,

- Forced to witness the torturing of others

- Forced to harm others

- Powerlessness: physical and conditioned captivity which forces a belief that there is no escaping, that they are trapped forever

- Humiliation caused by forced nakedness

- Cannibalistic: forced to swallow body fluids, to swallow aborted tissue, to Self-cut for torturers pleasure

- Dehumanization tortures: degraded, animalized when forced to eat and act like a dog or forced to believe they are an animal, and to feel and believe they are not human.



## Classic non-State torture happens in private spaces in every country of our planet

It happens in homes, in cabins, cottages, buildings, rented spaces, warehouses, on private boats, on farms and fields, or any place secured by the torturers. Vehicles such as cars, trucks, and planes are also used to transport a child or adult so harmed to other like-minded individual perpetrators or groups, such as pedophilic rings, in the community, in our nations, or across international borders.

**In Canada** in 2013 a young man described how, for months, his friend confined and battered him causing brain injuries, broken facial, jaw, and eye socket bones, cut pieces of his tongue and lip off with scissors, was starved, suffered continuous sexualized tortures, burnt, and stabbed for example.

**In Canada**, 30 years ago, a woman was silenced about being held captive, tortured and trafficked by her husband and three of his friends who severely beat and whipped her, forced her to Self-cut; group raped her with objects, a knife, gun, had five pregnancies violently aborted; held underwater until near death and threatened with electrocution for example.

**In Canada**, police have stated 20% of pedophilic sexualized crime images involve torture. Women tell us from infancy until escaping they were tortured, trafficked, and exploited by intergenerational family members, guardians, and by others.