

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 050709)

RESOLUTION

Declaring June 26, 2005 as Philadelphia Day In Support of Torture Victims.

WHEREAS, According to the United Nations, survivors of torture include, people who have suffered intentional, severe, physical and/or mental distress at the hands of their government; and

WHEREAS, The effects of torture are manifested physically and emotionally with personal, professional, legal and social consequences which have a profound impact upon the individual's health, social relationships, and overall sense of well-being; and

WHEREAS, The long-term consequences of torture and forced exile are felt not only by the individual, but also by their families who have lost their traditional support systems; by their children who have difficulty assimilating and being accepted in a new culture; and, by their communities which have lost their leaders and talented citizens; and

WHEREAS, There are as many as 400,000 torture survivors now living in the United States who have come from many different countries, such as: Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, Afghanistan, Egypt, Liberia, Bosnia, Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Cameroon, Togo, Mauritania, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that over 5000 survivors of torture reside in Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Torture survivors living in the Philadelphia region make positive contributions to neighborhoods throughout our City and serve as courageous examples of strength and hope for us all; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is honored to house the Liberty Center for Survivors of Torture, a division of Lutheran Children and Family Service, and a nationally recognized service provider which coordinates legal, medical, mental health, and social services for over 250 immigrant survivors of torture each year; and

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WHEREAS, The United Nations has declared June 26th as “International Day of Torture Victims” to honor and support all who are affected by torture locally, nationally and internationally; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That we hereby declare June 26, 2005 as Philadelphia Day in Support of Torture Victims.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the Liberty Center as an expression of the sincere sentiments of this legislative body for the extraordinary experiences survivors of torture have encountered, and for their determination and steadfast spirit.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the sixteenth of June, 2005.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Nutter

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Nutter, Rizzo, Mariano, Reynolds Brown, DiCicco, Kenney, O'Neill, Blackwell, Miller, Clarke, Cohen, Tasco and Ramos