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CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

TORTURE AND DETENTION

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Introduction

1. This addendum on the financial situation of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture updates the annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/57/268), which took stock of the Fund's first 20 years of activity, and the report of the Secretary-General to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2003/61) concerning contributions received and pledges of contributions to the Fund made after 16 January 2003, the date of preparation of the report to the Commission (E/CN.4/2003/61, para. 4).

I. CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE BOARD

2. The contributions received by 27 March 2003 for allocation by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its twenty-second session (12-28 May 2003) amount to US\$ 1,230,374 (see table 1, which supplements table 1 in document E/CN.4/2003/61). The requests received for funding amount to almost \$13 million.

Table 1

Contributions available for the twenty-second session of the Board and recorded since the preparation of the report to the Commission (16 January 2003)^a

Donor	Amount (in US\$)	Currency of payment	Currency of pledge	Date recorded	For the year	Contribution No.
Austria	40 000			3 March 2003	2003	20
Iceland	4 650			20 February 2003	2003	17
Japan	43 000			24 February 2003	2003	17
Liechtenstein	7 353			3 February 2003	2003	15
Netherlands	500 000			17 March 2003		22
Saudi Arabia	10 000			5 February 2002	2003	3
Spain	5 000			3 February 2003	2003	18
Switzerland	58 823		SwF 80 000	19 February 2003	2003	16
Thailand	10 000			27 January 2003	2003	1
Total	678 826					

^a According to the information available to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

II. PLEDGED CONTRIBUTIONS

3. As at 27 March 2003, according to the information available to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the following pledges were outstanding:

Table 2. Pledges outstanding as at 27 March 2003

Donor	Amount (in US\$)	Currency of pledge	Date of pledge	For the year	Contribution No.
Algeria ^a	5 000	DKr 2 000 000	5 November 2002	2003	12
Brazil ^b	10 000		20 December 1994	1995	8
Brazil ^b	5 000		2 November 1995	1996	9
Bulgaria ^c	1 000		5 January 2001	2001	1
Chile ^d	10 000		2 November 2000	2001	9
Chile ^d	1 000		2 November 2002	2003	11
Denmark	288 517		26 March 2003	2003	21
Germany	139 935		13 February 2003	2003	21
Kuwait ^e	10 000		5 November 2002	2003	1
Luxembourg	18 685		20 March 2003	2003	19
Monaco ^f	10 000	€17 500	5 November 2002	2003	10
Philippines	1 982		4 November 1998	1999	6
United Kingdom	236 130	£150 000	25 March 2003	2003	16
Venezuela	5 000		7 December 2001	2002	2
Venezuela ^g	5 000		5 November 2002	2003	3
Total	746 249				

^a Pledge made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in New York on 5 November 2002.

^b Pledges made in a letter dated 20 December 1994 for the year 1995 and, for the year 1996, at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in November 1995 (half of this pledge has already been paid).

^c Payment of this contribution was pledged by the Bulgarian Government on 5 January 2001. According to the Treasurer of the United Nations, this contribution has not been received either in New York or in Geneva.

^d Pledges made at the sessions of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in November 2000, for the year 2001, and in November 2002, for the year 2003.

^e Pledge made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in New York on 5 November 2002.

^f Pledge made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in New York on 5 November 2002.

^g Pledge made at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities held in New York on 5 November 2002.

III. NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL FUNDING: THE EUROPEAN UNION

4. The Commission of the European Union, which has until now been the main source of funding for projects to assist victims of torture, has reduced its grants in this area; in 2002, it funded only 11 organizations providing assistance to victims of torture to the amount of over €8 million. In the medium term, it is envisaged that the Commission will stop funding assistance to victims of torture altogether. According to the available information, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture remains the prime source of funding for medium-sized and micro projects in the area of assistance to victims of torture. An increase in the number of requests to the Fund is therefore to be expected, including urgent requests from organizations whose financial situation would be seriously affected by this development.
