Our Goals

1. To make Christians and churches profoundly aware of the scandal of torture—a social cancer practiced in more than 60 countries worldwide.

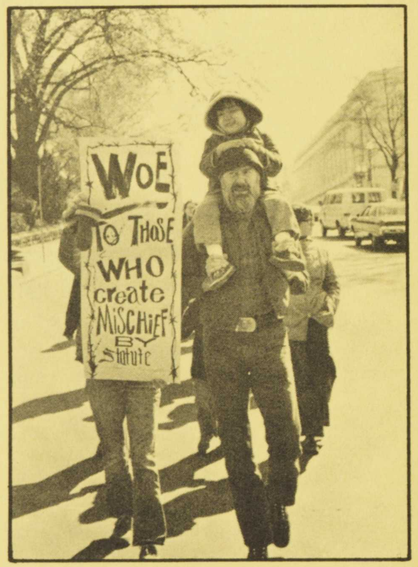
2. To urge Christians to participate in the struggle against torture and assaults on human dignity; to urge them to do this without regard for country, government, or political ideology, and no matter who the victims are—to make the voice of the Church heard.

3. To cry out to God on behalf of the tortured and the torturer; to urge Christians to use spiritual means, especially prayer, to work for the abolition of torture.

4. To stimulate people to a variety of actions to end torture and halt other attacks on human rights.

5. To express solidarity and support for Christians—Christian communities, priests, pastors and laity—who labor for more justice in their countries.

6. To work with all people of good will, pacifist and non-pacifist, pledging ourselves to nonviolent discipline in whatever actions we take.



Our Convictions

1. Although Christ "died for sins once and for all" (I Pet. 3:18), he still suffers among those tortured and unjustly imprisoned (Mt. 25:36 and Acts 9:4-5). To tolerate torture is to profane the human creation, made in the image of God.

2. God loves justice and is at work in our world, rescuing the oppressed and setting the prisoners free (Lk. 4:18-19 and Is. 61:8).

3. Christians must join in God's work, remembering prisoners "as though in prison with them" (Heb. 13:3), working to "seek justice, correct oppression" (Is. 1:17).

4. Special light, joy, and healing come to those who pour themselves out for the afflicted (Is. 58:8-11).

Our Origins

We began as American Christians protesting torture and human rights abuses in lands like El Salvador, Chile, Iran and the USSR. We learned of the growth of a dynamic movement, "Action des Chretiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture," which was founded in France and has since spread to other European countries. It has thousands of Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox members. It cries out so that none will be tortured and works in every way to abolish torture.

We decided to work together with this European movement to help build a worldwide Christian movement against torture and for basic human rights. In December, 1980, we were welcomed as a "related organization" to ACAT.

Our Methods

1. Developing a nationwide membership and local chapters made up of Christians committed to the above goals.

2. Deepening our life of prayer, fasting and biblical reflection to strengthen us for this struggle.

3. Sponsoring refugees who flee to this country from repression—helping them find housing, work, and friends.

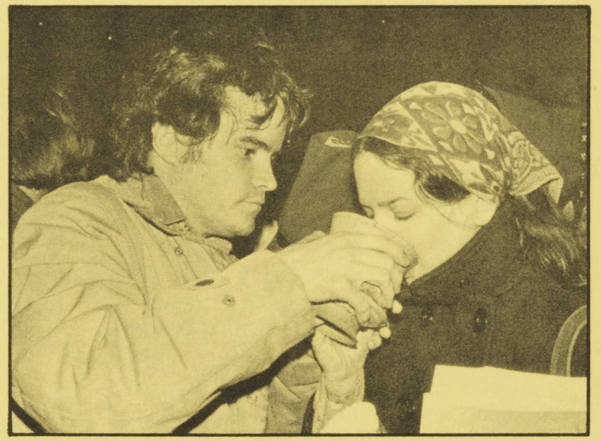
4. Producing and distributing written and audio-visual documentation.

5. Responding to the Urgent Action Appeals of Amnesty International by writing letters to petition the release of those unjustly imprisoned.

6. Contacting U.S. government representatives to urge their assistance in freeing prisoners and in ending any U.S. support for torture-practicing regimes.

7. Educating Christians about the reality of torture; encouraging them to participate in the effort to abolish it.

8. Becoming trained in nonviolence so we can use direct action to educate the public and challenge oppression.



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