

NOWADAYS, HE FOUND DARKNESS UNSETTLING...

WHEN HE WALKED ALONE ON THE STREET, HE FELT WATCHED OR FOLLOWED ALL THE TIME.

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

" TORTURE IS A CRIME "

AN INFOCOMIC IN CONJUNCTION WITH :

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TORTURE VICTIMS 2017

CHAPTER 1: THE PROBLEM

HE DREADED EVERY SINGLE SOUND FROM THE DARK ALLEYS...

HE WANTED TO REACH HOME...SOON.

SCREECHHH

COMIC BY: SHAZEERA A-Z

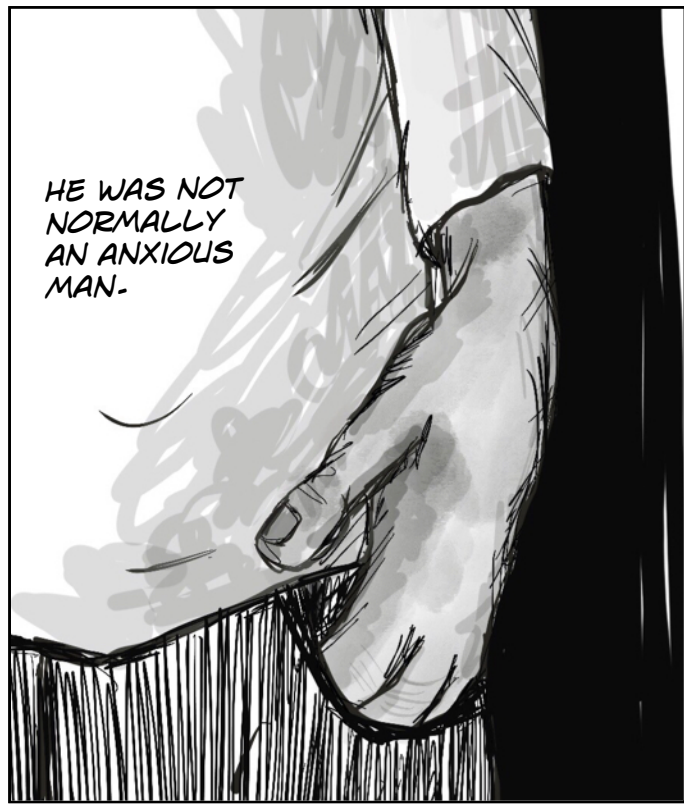


HMM...IT'S JUST A CAT..

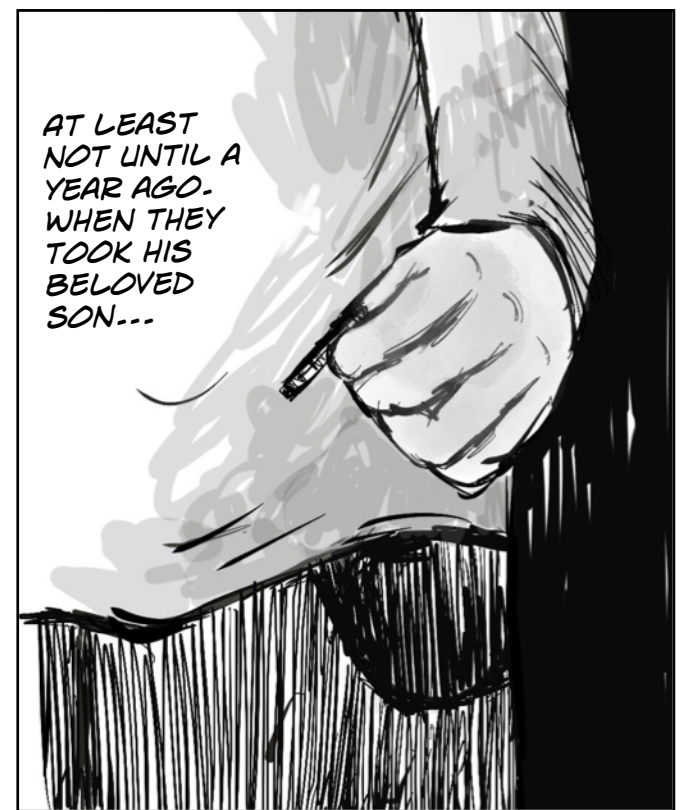
MOST OF THE TIME...HIS FEAR
WAS UNFOUNDED!

HISSSSSS!

AND HE KNEW THAT HE WILL
CONTINUE TO LIVE HIS LIFE IN
FEAR. IT WAS NOT BY CHOICE
BUT RATHER, A TRAGEDY...



HE WAS NOT
NORMALLY
AN ANXIOUS
MAN.



AT LEAST
NOT UNTIL A
YEAR AGO.
WHEN THEY
TOOK HIS
BELOVED
SON...



ON THAT UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT,
TWO UNIFORMED STRANGERS
STOPPED HIS SON ON HIS WAY HOME.
AN ENCOUNTER THAT SCARRED HIS
SON FOR LIFE!

PLEASE STOP!!!



HE COULD NOT BELIEVE HIS SON SURVIVED. HE
THOUGHT HE WOULD LOSE HIM FOREVER. THE
INJURIES SEEMED BEYOND REPAIR; BOTH PHYSICALLY
AND MENTALLY.




"THEY WANTED ME TO CONFESS TO A CRIME THAT I DIDN'T DO". HIS SON TOLD HIM.

WHEN HE REFUSED TO COMPLY, THE NIGHTMARE BEGAN...


THEY BEAT AND KICKED HIM FROM EVERY ANGLE MERCILESSLY.

ALL HE COULD THINK OF WAS HOW TO BREATHE.

AFTER 2 HOURS OF HORROR, THEY LEFT. WALKING AWAY FROM THE CRIME SCENE...FREE.



THE NEXT DAY, SOME VILLAGERS FOUND HIM WEAK AND BATTERED IN THE DARK ALLEY. THEY SAID HE WAS BARELY BREATHING WHEN HE WAS DISCOVERED...



WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A COMMON PLASTIC BAG CAN BE SO LETHAL....

HIS SON CHANGED A LOT SINCE THE INCIDENT. HE GREW QUIET AND ELLUSIVE. HE ALSO RARELY LEFT HIS ROOM, LET ALONE THE HOUSE.



SIGH...

WHILE HIS SON STRUGGLED TO RECOVER, THE PERSONS WHO CAUSED HIM THIS PAIN ARE STILL OUT THERE.

HE ASKED HIMSELF EVERYDAY... WHERE IS JUSTICE?

I CAN'T WATCH MY SON TURNED INTO A WALKING CORPSE! AND IT HAS BEEN 4 YEARS SINCE IT HAPPENED...WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

BUT PERHAPS, THERE WAS A GLIMMER OF HOPE. HE LEARNED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO ADOPT A LAW THAT PROHIBITS TORTURE...

IT SOUNDED VERY PROMISING...

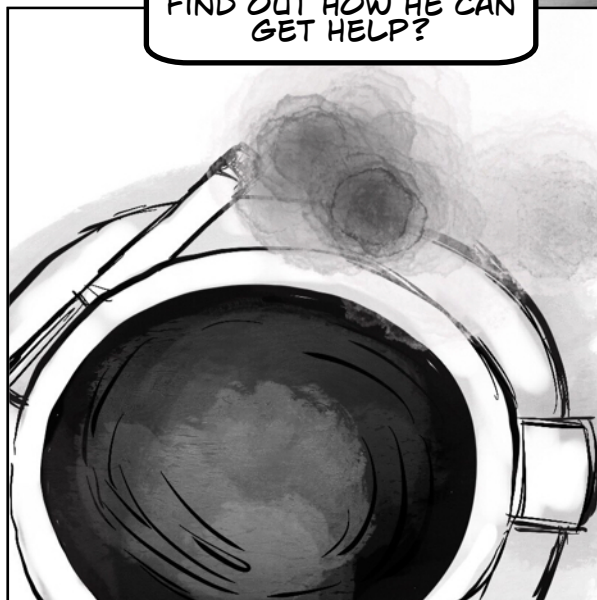
BE PATIENT! I MET A PARALEGAL FROM A GROUP CALLED CROSS-CULTURAL FOUNDATION YESTERDAY. SHE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO MAKE A LAW THAT CAN HELP OUR SON.



SO, HE WAITED...ONE YEAR..TWO YEARS..FOR THIS LAW THAT HE HEARD ABOUT FROM THE PARALEGAL.. SURELY A LAW LIKE THIS TAKES TIME TO MAKE.

THE LAW IS AFTER ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

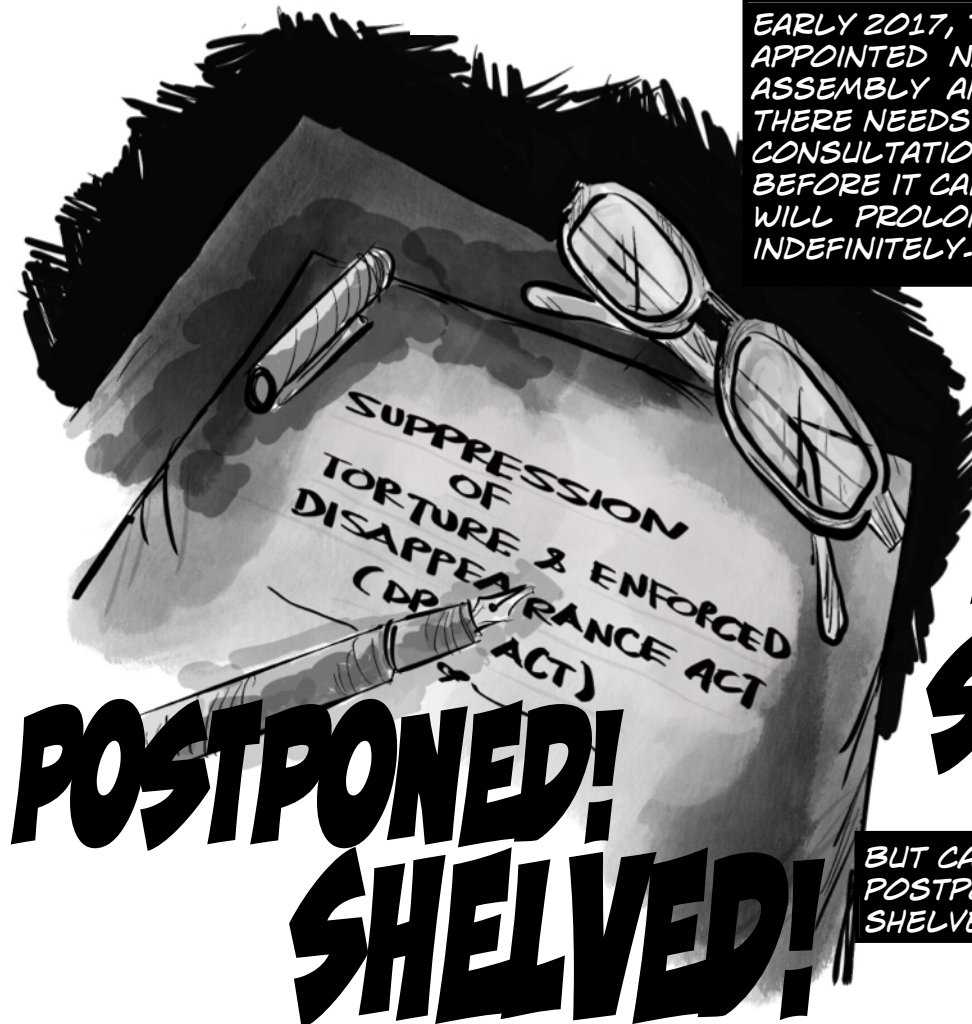
HOW IS YOUR SON? IS HE GETTING ANY BETTER? DID YOU FIND OUT HOW HE CAN GET HELP?



I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. HE REFUSES TO GO TO THE AUTHORITIES AND ASK FOR HELP. I AM SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM...ABOUT HIS FUTURE...



EARLY 2017, THE MILITARY APPOINTED NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCED THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE CONSULTATION ON THE BILL BEFORE IT CAN BE PASSED. THIS WILL PROLONG THE PROCESS, INDEFINITELY...

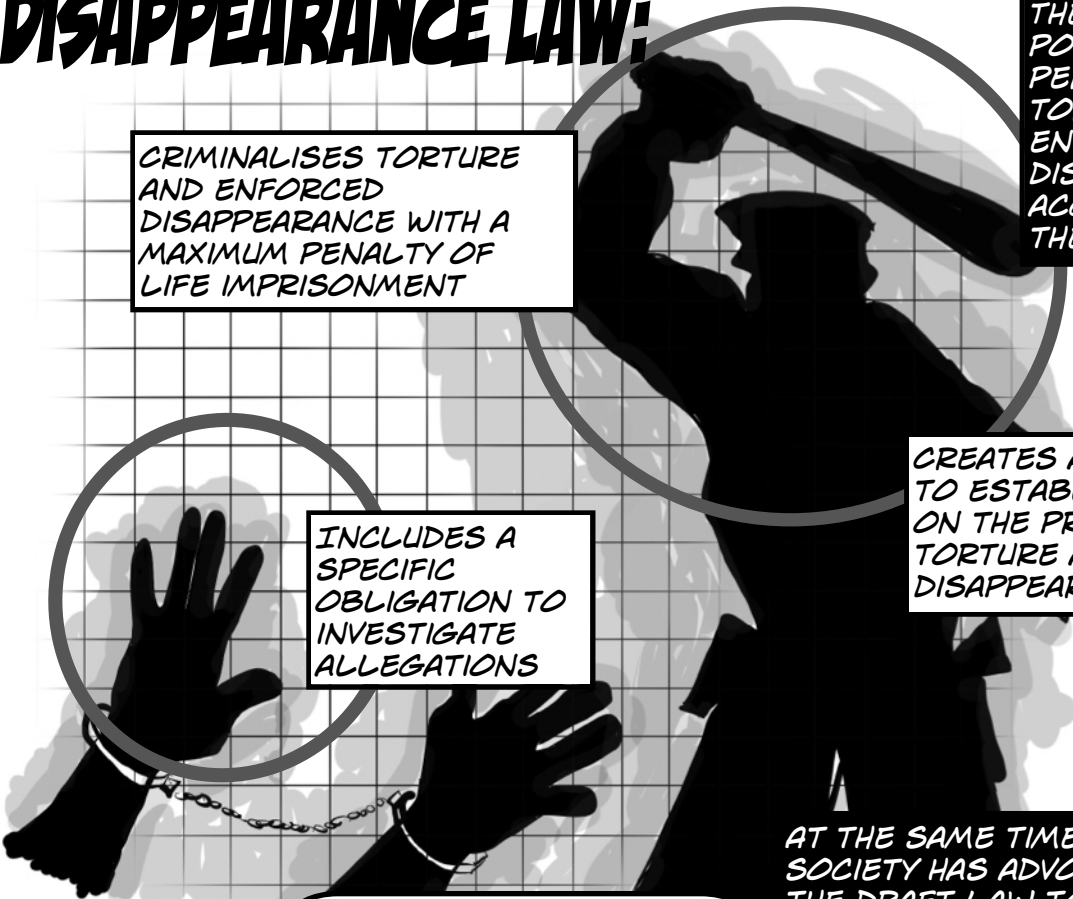


**NEEDS
MORE
STUDY!**

BUT CAN JUSTICE BE POSTPONED, BE SHELVED?

**POSTPONED!
SHELVED!**

THE DRAFT ANTI-TORTURE & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE LAW:



CRIMINALISES TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE WITH A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT

THE LAW COULD POTENTIALLY HOLD PERPETRATORS OF TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTS.

INCLUDES A SPECIFIC OBLIGATION TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS

CREATES A COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH POLICIES ON THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE.


AT THE SAME TIME, CIVIL SOCIETY HAS ADVOCATED FOR THE DRAFT LAW TO BE FURTHER REVISED IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW.

THE DRAFT LAW DOES NOT PROVIDE SPECIFIC PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OR WITNESSES FROM REPRISAL. THERE IS ALSO NO MENTION OF A PROPER COMPLAINT MECHANISM.



PORNPEN
KHONGKACHONKIET
DIRECTOR OF CROSS
CULTURAL FOUNDATION

THE DRAFT LAW SHOULD INCLUDE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FORBIDDING THE USE OF EVIDENCE OBTAINED BY TORTURE IN LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND CRIMINALIZING ACTS OF CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT.



KINGSLEY ABBOTT,
SENIOR LEGAL ADVISOR,
INTERNATIONAL
COMMISSION OF JURISTS

CHAPTER 2: WHY TORTURE SHOULD BE CRIMINALIZED



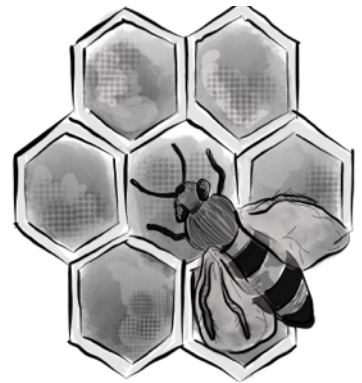
SOMCHAI
NEELAPAJIT,
HUMAN RIGHTS
LAWYER.

PORLAJEE "BILLY"
RAKCHONGCHAROEN, ETHNIC
KAREN ACTIVIST

THAILAND HAS BEEN UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT FOR ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE FOR YEARS.

THERE ARE ALSO CONTINUING ALLEGATIONS OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE.

THIS IS WHY ADOPTING AN ANTI-TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE LAW WAS A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.



BILLY DISAPPEARED AFTER HE WAS ACCUSED OF COLLECTING HONEY FROM THE FOREST ILLEGALLY.

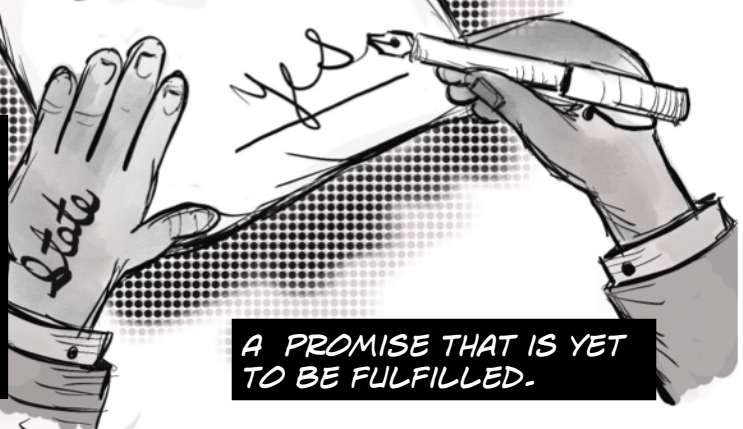
THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO MAKE TORTURE A CRIME WHEN IT RATIFIED THE UNITED NATION'S CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE (UNCAT) ON 2 OCTOBER 2007.

AN OBLIGATION PRESCRIBED BY ARTICLE 4 OF THE TREATY.

ON MARCH 10, 2017, THE MILITARY-APPOINTED NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY APPROVED RATIFICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL PERSONS FROM ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE, WHICH THAILAND SIGNED IN 2012.

UNITED NATION'S
CONVENTION
AGAINST
TORTURE

ARTICLE
4



A PROMISE THAT IS YET TO BE FULFILLED.

WHEN THAILAND WAS REVIEWED BY THE UNCAT COMMITTEE IN 2014, IT REITERATED ITS COMMITMENT TO CRIMINALISE TORTURE

LIKE THE FATHER OF THE TORTURED VICTIM...EVERYONE WAITED FOR THAILAND TO ADOPT AN ANTI-TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE LAW.

BUT, WHERE IS THE LAW?

IN 2016, THE UNITED NATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN ON THAILAND'S SITUATION OFFICIALLY...

I ALSO ENCOURAGE THE GOVERNMENT TO URGENTLY ENACT THE ANTI-TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE BILL...

ZEID RA'AD AL HUSSEIN, AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL'S 31ST SESSION.

AT THE SAME TIME, EXPERTS HAVE PROVED THAT TORTURE IS NOT ONLY ILLEGAL, IN FACT IT DOESN'T WORK!

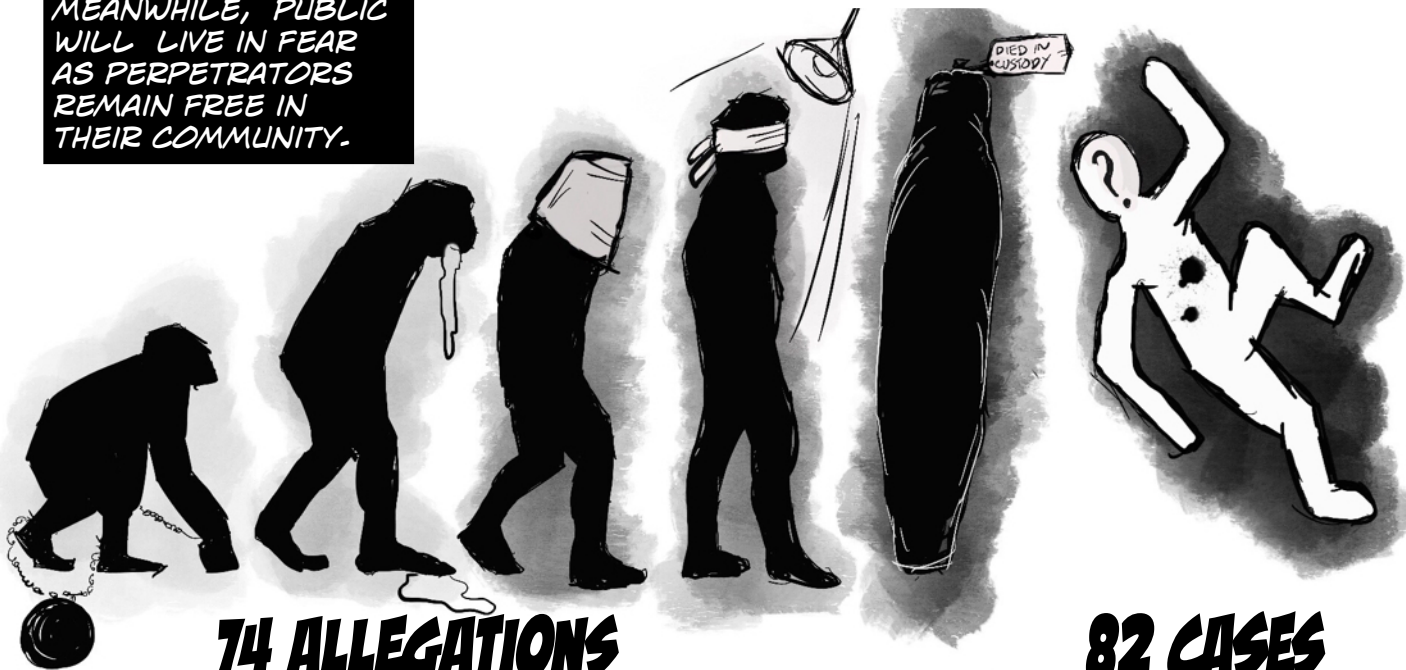
**STARVATION
THIRST
EXTREME
TEMPERATURE
DEPRIVATION
OF SLEEP**

METHODS OF TORTURE CREATE PROBLEMS FOR MEMORY, MOOD AND THINKING. SUFFERERS WILL PRODUCE INFORMATION THAT IS DEEPLY UNRELIABLE.

SHANE O'MARA
"WHY TORTURE DOESN'T
WORK: THE NEUROSCIENCE OF
INTERROGATION"

AS LONG AS THE ANTI-TORTURE AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE LAW IS NOT PASSED, THERE WILL CONTINUE TO BE IMPUNITY IN THAILAND. SURVIVORS AND LOVED ONES WILL CONTINUE TO LIVE IN TRAUMA; WITHOUT PROPER ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND REMEDY.

MEANWHILE, PUBLIC WILL LIVE IN FEAR AS PERPETRATORS REMAIN FREE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.



74 ALLEGATIONS

82 CASES

OF TORTURE & ILL-TREATMENT

FROM "MAKE HIM SPEAK BY TOMORROW", A REPORT BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THAT COVERS ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE FROM 2013 TO 2015.

OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

FROM COMPILATION OF CASES SINCE 1980 BY THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED AND INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE.

TORTURE IS ILLEGAL AND IT DOESN'T WORK. HENCE, IT SHOULD BE CRIMINALISED...



WHEN NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT?