

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

By Her Excellency

GOVERNOR JANE SWIFT

2002

- WHEREAS:** Torture is a profound violation of human dignity, and affects millions of individuals and their families around the world, including the untold thousands who now live in Massachusetts; and
- WHEREAS:** On June 26th, 1987, the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which 128 countries including the United States are a party, reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to prevent and punish torture, protect people who are at risk of torture, and provide redress to victims of torture; and
- WHEREAS:** The United Nations General Assembly declared June 26th "United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture"; and
- WHEREAS:** The Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights and their partners together against torture aim to promote this special day of hope and honor to create awareness of the scourge of torture; and
- WHEREAS:** It is the mission of the Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights to provide comprehensive and multi-disciplinary health care coordinated with legal aid and social services in order to help survivors of torture and related trauma heal from their deep wounds and regain productive lives of leadership and contribution in our communities; and
- WHEREAS:** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts condemns the use of torture by any government and enthusiastically joins the Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights and other advocates to focus local and national attention to end the atrocities committed against torture victims and to support the rehabilitation of the survivors of torture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JANE SWIFT, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim June 26th, 2002, to be

SUPPORT OF VICTIMS OF TORTURE DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS

and urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand and two, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

By Her Excellency the Governor


JANE SWIFT



WILLIAM F. GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS