

## Achievement as member of the SPT

Christian Pross has been a member of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) since January 2011. In September 2011 he participated in SPT's country visit to Brazil where he visited prisons for adults and juveniles, police stations, mental hospitals and shelters for drug addicts and street children. In the committee he is the liaison person for several European National Preventive Mechanisms. As one of the five health professionals in the SPT he established a task force for monitoring mental health institutions and drafted a mental health monitoring guide which is presently in the process of being finalized. For the 17th session of SPT in June 2012 he organized a two day workshop for SPT members on Monitoring of Mental Health Institutions. In this workshop eight mental health experts, psychiatrists and user-experts from different parts of the world trained the committee members in methods of interviewing patients and staff, discussed issues of user involvement in monitoring and SPT's potential contribution to mental health reform in low income countries. This event was a cornerstone in enabling SPT to enhance its capacity in monitoring mental health institutions on its future country missions.

## Future priorities as member of SPT

- Further develop SPT's skills in monitoring of mental health institutions.
- Enhance SPT's skills in interview techniques and intercultural communication to improve quality of documentation and monitoring



# Christian Pross

CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION TO  
THE UN SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
PREVENTION OF TORTURE

## Main professional activities

- Research and teaching in psychotraumatology, medicine and human rights;
- Clinical supervisor and organizational consultant for psychosocial care teams and human rights NGOs;
- Director of training institute in clinical supervision;
- Member of UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT) since 2011;
- Consultant to Independent Federal Commission for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Sexual Abuse;
- Consultancy work as Member of Senior Clinical Advisory Group, International Rehabilitation Center for Torture Victims (IRCT).

## List of most recent publications in the field

- PROSS, C. (2011) Manual for Good Practice and Management in Trauma Centres: Structural Aspects of Work Related Stress - Care for Caregivers, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Copenhagen <http://www.irct.org/library/other-irct-key-publications.aspx>
- PROSS, C., SCHWEITZER, S. (2010) The Culture of Organizations Dealing With Trauma: Sources of Work-Related Stress and Conflict-Traumatology December 2010 16: 97-108, doi:10.1177/1534765610388301
- PROSS, C. (2009) The Attitude of German Émigré Doctors Toward Medicine under National Socialism. *Social History of Medicine*, 22: 531-552; doi:10.1093/shm/hkpo64 <http://www.christian-pross.de/sochist.pdf>
- CROSBY, S., HASHEMIAN, F., IACOPINO, V., KELLER, A., NGUYEN, L., PROSS, C., ÖZKALIPICI, Ö. (2008) Broken Laws, Broken Lives. Medical Evidence of Torture by US Personnel and its Impact. A Report by Physicians for Human Rights. Cambridge/Washington. [http://brokenlives.info/?page\\_id=69](http://brokenlives.info/?page_id=69)
- RUBENSTEIN, L, PROSS, C, DAVIDOFF, F, IACOPINO, V (2005) Coercive U.S. Interrogation Policies: A Challenge to Medical Ethics. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 294: 1544-1549

## About Christian Pross

Christian Pross, MD, born in 1948, is a specialist in family medicine and psychotherapy and Professor of Psychotraumatology at Charité University Medical Center in Berlin/Germany. He co-founded and directed the Berlin Center for the Treatment of Torture Victims for 13 years.

He was a member of the international network of rehabilitation centers for torture survivors IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims) for 14 years. In this capacity he gained ample experience in examining and treating torture survivors, in documenting human rights violations and collecting evidence on torture cases. He participated in numerous human rights fact finding missions to countries ridden by dictatorship and armed conflict.

As a renowned scholar and university professor he published on human rights violations in Germany during the Nazi and Communist period as well as on current human rights violations in the war on terror. His research focussed particularly on the nature and the long-term after-effects of psychological torture. In his most recent study he examined issues of work related stress of caregivers working in the field of trauma (see adjacent list of publications). In the past 20 years he has been embedded in a network of professional experts

and human rights advocates which enabled him to extend his experience and know-how in the field.

For many years Christian Pross has visited prisons, mental hospitals, police stations and refugee camps in many countries all over the world and has done inquiries on their adherence to international standards and codes of human rights. He has talked to inmates and staff in these institutions and to government officials. He is familiar with the culture of such places, he knows what to look for, how to detect traces of torture in the body and the mind and what special safeguards and mechanisms have to be taken to protect people at risk from being victimized.

Last but not least Christian Pross for most of his professional life has worked and still works for independent Non-Governmental and Non-Profit-Organisations. Thus he is an independent expert in the true sense of the word. Through his frequent travelling he is familiar with many different cultures and he speaks four languages (German, English, French and Spanish).

All these capacities qualify Christian Pross for a second term as member of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.