

## **Istanbul Protocol Training Programme in Turkey: Enhancing the Knowledge Level of Non-Forensic Expert Physicians, Judges and Prosecutors**

This project were prepared by Turkish Medical Association (TMA) and International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) and held in 2007-2009, in Turkey. Key Stakeholders of this project were Council of Forensic Medicine, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice.

The ToT seminars were held in three big cities in Turkey. 163 participants attended the ToT seminars towards physicians. 120 ToU seminars that were held in 30 different cities in Turkey, more than 4000 non-forensic expert physicians were invited by the ministries. But a total of 3476 physicians attended the trainings.

The project entailed activities for the training of non-forensic expert physicians, prosecutors and judges in the standards of Istanbul Protocol, the development of improved guidelines about medical examinations and judicial proceedings of torture and ill-treatment claims in Turkey based on the assessment of current situation in this scope and assistance to the beneficiaries with regards to the implementation of improved guidelines, the training strategy developed and the monitoring mechanism established for the medical examination/reporting and judicial proceedings of torture and ill-treatment claims. To realize these tasks, the TMA and the IRCT established two project management teams that are in close communication with each other. The project management provided organizational and administrative-related assistance to the Training Committee, the Steering Committee and the Joint Working Group in all the activities to be carried out.

The Joint Working Group reviewed the procedures implemented and the existing legislation for the evaluation of the current situation and planned and conducted a scientific research study where the samples of forensic reports were evaluated.

1288 official medico legal reports (detention entry-exit reports) which were collected throughout Turkey were evaluated. According to the analysis of them;

- Standard forensic examination report forms (90%) and body diagrams (79%) are not used in the health units including forensic medicine experts
- The conditions of the examination environments is not recorded (80%)
- During interview history (99%) and complaints (92%) are not taken
- Examination is made while cloths are on (82%)
- No sufficient examination (99%)
- Psychological examination is not made % 95.60
- Consultations (98%) and advenced tests (98%) are scarcely any
- No comment is made while result is written% 90.4
- Severity of injury is not mentioned while result is written (96%)

As a result, the current situation in Turkey was analyzed based on the evaluations of procedures and legislation, the conclusions of the study where samples of forensic reports, and the frequently asked questions in the training seminars. The development of recommendations for the harmonization of the current situation with the procedures and principles stated in the Istanbul Protocol were realized with the participation of all stakeholders of the project. As a result of these studies, it was decided that new procedures and implementation principles should be recommended to make possible torture and ill-treatment cases be evaluated in line with the principles of the Istanbul Protocol and recommendations should be developed regarding the revision and amendment of the existing legislation. A training strategy was developed by the members of the Joint Working Group to guide the further training activities, and recommendations for the curriculum of undergraduate and graduate studies in the Faculties of Medicine and Law, as well as the Police Academy.