

26 June 2014

**Message of H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
for United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture**

Every day, crimes of torture are committed against men, women and children and, in most cases, these crimes are committed with impunity.

On 26 June each year, the world honours victims and survivors of these crimes. Today, the United Nations family stands united against torture and recognizes that ending torture requires a concerted and sustained effort by governments, civil society and other stakeholders. We should put the necessary infrastructure firmly in place to prosecute perpetrators and to provide adequate resources to victims to enable them to deal with the devastating physical and psychological consequences of torture in order to rebuild their lives.

For over 30 years, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture has provided humanitarian assistance to victims of torture and their families. The Fund is now one of the largest humanitarian trust funds throughout the United Nations.

I encourage Member States and other stakeholders around the world, to continue to speak out against torture, and to support survivors so we can bring an end to these horrific crimes.