



Civil Society Coalition Against Torture and Impunity in Tajikistan

Legal Assistance Unit

Dushanbe, 2021

Legal Assistance Unit (LAU)

It is established in accordance with rules and principles of participation in the Coalition, in order to:

- facilitate the creation of a system for efficient response to torture claims
- provide for the safety of torture victims and eye-witnesses
- establish independent torture investigation mechanisms in Tajikistan

Composition of Legal Assistance Unit

- PO “World of Law”;
- PF “Nota Bene”;
- PO “Human Rights Center”;
- PO “Civil Liberties Office”;
- PF “Legal Initiative”;
- PO “Independent Center for Protection of Human Rights”;
- Partners of the Coalition (A. Tursunov, U. Niyazov, A. Sharipov, D. Samadova)

Standing Body – Secretariat of LAU comprising a coordinator, three torture case filing specialists for Dushanbe City and RRS, Soghd and Khatlon Regions (covering cases for GBAO), two lawyers and a counselor.

Primary Objectives

- Define the degree of incidence of torture and cruel treatment;
- Define procedures and facility for torture case filing, provide legal assistance to torture victims and/or their relatives, initiate and conduct legal proceedings of strategic nature;
- Coordinate activity for provision of legal assistance to torture victims and/or their relatives;
- Develop rules and terms of cooperation with practicing lawyers to provide legal assistance to torture victims and/or their relatives;
- Coordinate the work with state authorities to promote the creation of efficient response and torture investigation mechanisms.

Work Methodology

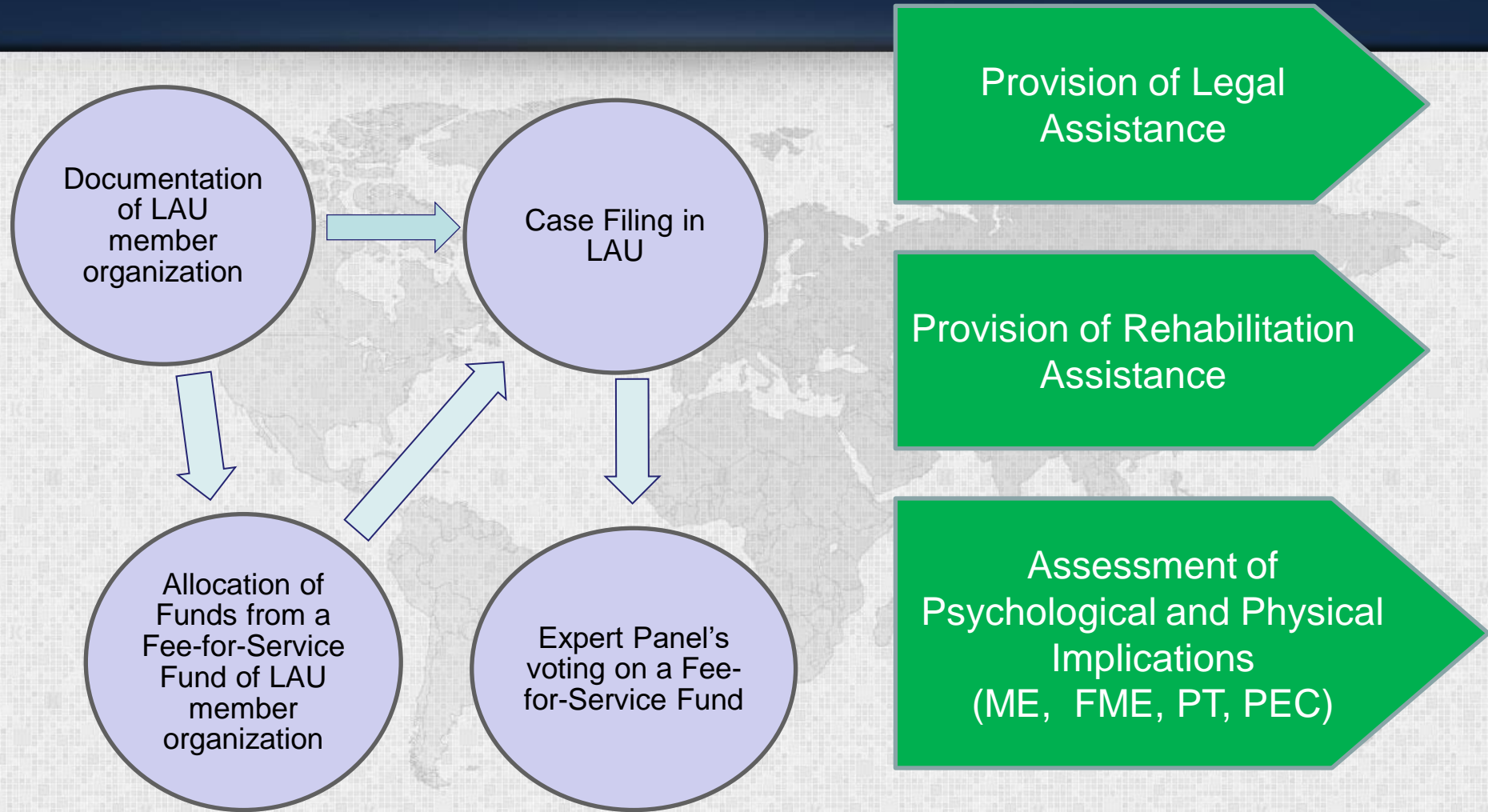
- regular working meetings with lawyers for torture cases detected by them during their practice of law;
- receive torture and cruel treatment claims from citizens;
- file torture cases;
- provide legal assistance to torture victims;
- take measures to provide for the safety of torture victims and their relatives;
- coordinate the work with other Coalition's units for torture and cruel treatment claims lodged to the Coalition;
- monitor selected legal proceedings concerning torture claims;
- share experience and best practices on protection of torture victims.

Procedures and Mechanisms for Provision of Legal Assistance

- Legal assistance is provided through counseling, legal (expert) case management and representation in state authorities and courts.
- Ground for legal case management and representation in state authorities is a standard written application of potential torture victim and/or victim's relatives filed to the organization's lawyer – member of LAU. Applicant should sign an application voluntarily, without outside interference.

Torture Message Validity Check

- Torture evidence filing;
- Personality identification of eye-witnesses, their interviewing, in case of obtaining consent for provision of information;
- Obtaining of medical documents and holding meetings with physicians upon request of torture victims or relatives themselves (if a victim is not alive);
- Familiarization with materials of official investigation, if at that stage it seems to be possible;
- Reception of other evidence;
- Provision of torture victim's photo with the consent of an applicant;
- Drawing up a validation report



Fee-for-Service Fund for Provision of Legal Assistance

- Payment for services of lawyer who provides legal assistance to potential torture victims and/or their relatives;
- Transport and daily allowances, when outreach lawyer's services are needed to protect torture victims;
- Expenses related to provision of medical care to torture victims or eye-witnesses: purchase of drugs/medications, payment for emergency operations, provision of psychological aid to/rehabilitation of torture victims;
- Expenses for attraction of specialists to carry out expert examination, with damage assessment;
- Expenses to pay for other interventions aimed at provision of protection to torture victims and/or their relatives, lawyers and eye-witnesses (temporary apartment lease, meal options, transport costs for temporary residence, purchase of SIM-card, Internet, etc.).

International Mechanisms

Composing messages under the UN Special Procedures

Composing messages to the UN Human Rights Committee

Materializing considerations of the UN Human Rights Committee at national level



Round-the-clock operating hot-line telephones:

For Khatlon Region – 98 787 66 66

For Soghd Region – 98 787 33 33

For RRS and City of Dushanbe – 98 708 76 76

The Coalition's web-site: notorturetj.org