



Background

For many years, people from Africa have been abducted to the Sinai and brutally tortured in so-called torture camps, in order to extort money from their relatives. This kind of human trafficking, which at its peak, generated 622 million USD for those responsible according to an official report (The Human Trafficking Cycle: Sinai and Beyond) has been called “one of the least publically known crises in the world” by the UN. By now, it seems like this perfidious business has been driven out of the Sinai and relocated to other regions, i.e. Libya. Still, many of the victims, for whom our organization feels responsible, are still suffering from the physical and psychological wounds, which were inflicted on them in the Sinai. In Israel alone, there are 4000 “Sinai Survivors”, who would be all left to their own resources were it not for aid organizations like ASSAF (Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Israel), who have been looking after these people. Thanks to our partner organization ASSAF we can provide concrete help to these people **and you can help us to help them!**

Fundraising Project 1: Health Insurance for children



Shockingly, there are children among the Sinai Survivors, who were either tortured themselves or had to watch how their own mother or father was tortured – in some cases tortured to death. Often, parents are no longer able to work regularly due to the torture they suffered in Sinai. If they can, they are generally only able to find low-paid jobs (e.g. as cleaners, warehouse workers or kitchen helpers),

which are tolerated by the government, even though it doesn't grant work permits to African migrants. To make matters worse, since May 2017 they have to pay 20% of their income into a fund, which they can only access, once they leave the country. In addition, their employer has to pay a 16% tax, making it even more unattractive to hire them in the first place.

All that puts them in such a bad economic situation that only very few can afford to register their children with a health insurance provider. However, this would be the only way for these children to have official access to the Israeli Health Service. As a consequence, the children are ill more often and for longer periods, which either means longer absences from work and loss of income for their parents or that the sick children have bad or even no childcare. Based on their parents' dismal financial situation, a lot of children have to spend their days in so-called “children warehouses”, informal childcare services, where one babysitter has to look after dozens of kids.

Desert Rose e. V. / SOS Sinai

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Desert Rose e. V.

Desert Rose e.V., in association with ASSAF, has identified families, whose children are in urgent need of the services only health insurance can provide. These are families with two or more children.

From two children on, an amount of 814 Euro per year is necessary to insure the children (740 € for the insurance + 74 € for the administrative costs of the ASSAF program). Within a first pilot scheme, Desert Rose was able to finance health insurance for five children (from two families). By now, it has been able to provide insurance for children from eight additional families.

„Before I had health insurance, I was very worried about my children’s future. Since then, my tensions and fears have been dispelled a lot. I really appreciate, what you have done for them. You have given them something I couldn’t provide them here in Israel by my own efforts.“
Sinai Survivor from Eritrea in Tel Aviv/ Israel, who has been supported by Desert Rose e.V.

Since the situation for these children has improved so much, we want to fund health insurance for more families, to provide their children with access to professional health care

16 €

cover the cost of **health insurance for children from one family for**

1 week

68 €

cover the cost of **health insurance for children from one family for**

1 month

204 €

cover the cost of **health insurance for children from one family for**

1 quarter

Please make a donation using the reference

„health insurance“ to:

Account holder: Desert Rose e. V.

Bank: Sparkasse KölnBonn

IBAN: DE20 3705 0198 1932 0461 52

Or: [Paypal.me/SOSSinai](https://www.paypal.me/SOSSinai)

Donation receipt: You will receive a donation confirmation from Desert Rose e.V. on request.



PayPal



More Information

Fundraising Project 2: Group therapy for women and men



A second project, which has been carried out with great success for some time now by ASSAF, is psychological group therapies with "Sinai survivors", separated into women and men. During these sessions the victims talk about their terrible experiences in Sinai for the first time

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within the ASSAF group therapy. The social workers give them a comfortable space where they can share their feelings, fears and worries. In addition, the participants receive practical help for dealing with their trauma in their already difficult daily life in Israel. We, from Desert Rose e.V., have met many "Sinai survivors" in Israel, who have confirmed to us that with ASSAF's help, they were able to regain trust in other people and find new courage to face life. On our website, you will find an interview which we have done during one of our recent trips to Israel, led and recorded with the program's director.

Unfortunately, the need for group therapy is far greater than what ASSAF can currently offer. But we would like to give other victims the opportunity to take advantage of this offer and to get help in dealing with their traumatic experiences. Therefore, in order to be able to offer a group therapy for 10-15 persons over a period of 15 weeks (15 sessions), about 1,500 Euro are needed.

100 €

cover the cost for a 15
weeks long **group therapy**
for

1 person

150 €

cover the cost of **group
therapy** for 10 persons
for

1 session

300 €

cover the cost for a 15
weeks long **group therapy**
for

3 persons

Please make a donation using the reference

„Group Therapy“ to:

Account holder: Desert Rose e. V.

Bank: Sparkasse KölnBonn

IBAN: DE20 3705 0198 1932 0461 52

Or: [Paypal.me/SOSSinai](https://www.paypal.me/SOSSinai)

Donation receipt: You will receive a donation confirmation from Desert Rose e.V. on request.



PayPal



More Information

We would like to say thank you for your trust and support.



SOS Sinai

"SOS Sinai" is an initiative of Desert Rose e. V. and it aims to raise awareness for the plight of people who have been deported to Sinai for many years, chained together in house cells, and brutally tortured to extort ransom money from their families. According to an official study, between 2009 and 2013 alone, about 30,000 people, mostly from Eritrea and Sudan, were victims of human trafficking to the Sinai. Estimates suggest that about 25% to 50% of the hostages died. As a result of the ransom demands, which averaged around \$ 30,000, at least \$ 600 million were transacted during the said period. About 4,000 known "Sinai survivors" are living at the moment since their release in Israel. Only a few of them are officially recognized by the state as victims of torture and / or human trafficking, so they are largely denied government assistance.

Desert Rose e.V.

"Desert Rose e.V." was founded in 2013 as a non-profit organisation (NGO) with the goal of publicizing the human and organ trafficking in North Africa and the Middle East in politics and public and to help the affected people by it. We are a group of activists with a partly Eritrean background, in whose own family and circle of acquaintances also people were victims of human trafficking, torture and extortion in the Sinai. We met through different individual activities in the public and later joined together in the form of this association to jointly pursue our goals more effectively.

Before the establishment of this NGO, individual members of the NGO were regularly on-site in Israel to speak with victims of trafficking in Sinai and to network with other NGOs who care for Sinai survivors stranded in Israel. From the very beginning, there was contact with the organisation *ASSAF* (Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) as well as with the women's empowering project „*Kuchinate*“, which has been further intensified in recent years.

In the beginning, Desert Rose e.V. had minimal financial resources of its own, so the support consisted of reporting on the work of the organisations in Germany and different countries, and best of all, to convey donations. For example, donations could be made to Kuchinate from parishes, and through good relationships, ASSAF could be brought into contact with Caritas international, the relief organization of the German Caritas Association, which now supports ASSAF with a larger annual amount of money.

During another visit in April 2016, Desert Rose e. V. and ASSAF talked for the first time on the possibility of direct financial support for two specific projects. One of the projects is the payment of health insurance for children in order to give them access to the Israeli health system and thus to professional health care. The second project is to provide financial support to ASSAF to extend the "group therapy" offer for men and women who have been victims of torture and trafficking in Sinai to those on a waiting list.



ASSAF

ASSAF (Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) was founded in 2007 due to the steep increase number of refugees and asylum seekers arriving in Israel. Tens of thousands of asylum seekers are living now in Israel without a regular status, without a work permit and access to the public health and welfare system. Others, especially young men, were imprisoned indefinitely in so-called "Open Detention Centers". The State of Israel refers here to the Law for the Prevention of Infiltration (Anti-Infiltration Law). ASSAF does a lot of lobbying for the asylum seekers and refugees, both in public and in politics. The organisation also helps those affected in concrete terms: With help from dozens of volunteers, the organization provides psychosocial support to families and individuals through a counseling and support center set up for refugees and asylum seekers living in Israel. In the "Youth Club", ASSAF staff members specifically look after the needs of boys and girls, including those who were tortured in Sinai.

In recent years, ASSAF has developed other special programs for torture victims from the Sinai, because it became clear that the plight of these people is particularly large and needs professional help. The vast majority of torture victims were released from the "open prisons" without officially classifying them as victims of trafficking and / or torture. These people are largely left to their own devices in Israel and somehow have to cope with the difficulties of living in a foreign country, which offers them no social support. ASSAF (and a few other NGOs) are taking care of these people and trying to develop a personalized support and rehabilitation program for each person.

Kuchinate

„Kuchinate“ (crochet in Tigrinya) is a collective of African asylum seeking women living in Tel Aviv, Israel. The project has started with a small group of women who design and create crochet products for the home, such as baskets, poufs, and rugs by utilizing the waste textile products of local textile companies.

Kuchinate is a socio-psychological project aimed at empowering these women who have found themselves in vulnerable situations - many are survivors of human trafficking, torture, and sexual abuse. The act of sitting together in a supportive and understanding environment whilst making creations rooted in African culture is therapeutic and helps the women cope with their difficult realities. The project also allows women to earn money, and interact with the Israeli public through workshops and events.

The founders of the project, Dr. Ing. Diddy Mymin Kahn, psychologist and trauma expert in Humanitarian Aid, and Sister Azezet Habtezghi Kidane, Eritrean-born sister of the Comboni Order, are convinced that the greatest help for these women is to empower them, even for themselves and others to be able to raise their children and thus preserve their dignity. The project is part of the umbrella organization A.R.T.S. (African Refugee Therapeutic Services), a registered non-profit that undertakes projects aimed at the rehabilitation of asylum-seeking women through a range of activities.