



Human Rights Council
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**Communications, cases examined, observations, and other activities conducted by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances****108th session (8 – 12 February 2016)****I. Introduction**

1. The present document reflects the communications and cases examined, the observations made and other activities carried out by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances at its 108th session, held in Rabat, from 8 to 12 February 2016.
2. The Working Group thanks the Government of Morocco and the National Council of Human Rights of Morocco for hosting the Working Group, and for facilitating the successful conduct of its 108th session.

II. Communications

3. Between its 107th and 108th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 214 cases under its urgent action procedure, to Argentina (1), Bahrain (2), Burundi (1), China (3), Egypt (40), Indonesia (1), Kuwait (1), Libya (1), Pakistan (158), South Sudan (1), the Syrian Arab Republic (1) and the United Arab Emirates (4).
4. At its 108th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 85 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to 16 States. The Working Group also clarified 42 cases, in Argentina (1), Bangladesh (1), China (2), Egypt (24), Pakistan (6), Sri Lanka (7) and the United Arab Emirates (1). Twenty-four cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by Governments and 18 on the basis of information provided by sources.
5. Between its 107th and 108th sessions, the Working Group, following its prompt intervention procedure, transmitted jointly with other special procedure mechanisms five communications to China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India and Serbia.
6. At its 108th session, the Working Group reviewed three general allegations concerning Bangladesh, Colombia and Kenya.

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III. Other activities

7. On the margins of its 108th session, the Working Group held an expert consultation co-organized with the Moroccan National Council for Human Rights, on enforced disappearances and non-State actors. The event brought together experts on enforced disappearances and on the issue of non-State actors and human rights, from different regions. The consultation provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the different legal regimes applicable and the increasing instances of abductions carried out by non-State actors, which may be tantamount to enforced disappearances, and to reflect on ways and means in which the Working Group can address the issue. The Working Group will continue its discussion on this issue, and calls upon all stakeholders to provide information and views thereon.

8. During the session, the Working Group met with non-governmental organizations working on the issue of enforced disappearances in Morocco, and in other States. The Working Group also held formal meetings with representatives of the Governments of Burundi, Japan, Morocco and Ukraine.

9. The Working Group also discussed the reports following its visits to Peru and Sri Lanka, and the preparation of its visit to Turkey from 14 to 18 March 2016 and future visits. It also reviewed the progress report on the study on migration and enforced disappearances.

10. On the last day of the session, the Working Group held a press conference and concluded its session with a visit to the former detention centre and memorial site of Derb Moulay Cherif, and to the cemetery of the enforced disappeared of the events of 1981, in Casablanca.

IV. Information concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances in States reviewed by the Working Group

Albania

Information from the Government

11. On 18 January 2016, the Government of Albania provided information on one outstanding case. The information provided was considered insufficient to lead to a clarification.

Algeria

Standard procedure

12. The Working Group transmitted 10 cases to the Government of Algeria, concerning:

(a) Ameer Bouzid, allegedly last seen in January 1997 at Châteauneuf barracks, Algiers;

(b) Safia Bouzid (born Ould Azouz), allegedly last seen in January 1997 at Châteauneuf barracks, Algiers;

(c) Hamid Bouzid, allegedly arrested in February 1997 at the Great Post Office of Algiers by military security officers;

(d) Smail Bouzid, allegedly arrested in February 1997 at the Bab Azzoun pension fund in Algiers by military security officers;

Colombia

Standard procedure

36. The Working Group transmitted one case to the Government of Colombia concerning Borja Lazaro Herrero, allegedly abducted from a hotel in Guajira, Colombia, on 7 January 2014, by a paramilitary group operating with the acquiescence of State officials. In accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group, a copy of the case was also sent to the Government of Spain.

Information from Sources

37. A source provided information on two outstanding cases.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Standard procedure

38. The Working Group transmitted 14 cases to the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, concerning:

(a) Baek Cheol Beom, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency in a house in Hoiryung, North Hamkyung Province, in May 2014;

(b) Han Chul-Ju, allegedly arrested on 2 June 2003 at a refugee mission centre in Nanjing City, China, and repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(c) Han Hye Ok, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency in her home in Hoiryung City, in early October 1995;

(d) Hong Won-Chul, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency in Pyongyang in June 1999;

(e) Jeon Myeong Hee, allegedly last seen in the summer of 2014 at the Hoiryung City Safety Agency, in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(f) Jeon Gwang-Gook, allegedly arrested on 2 June 2003 at a refugee mission centre in Nanjing City, China and repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(g) Kim Geun Cheol, allegedly arrested on 2 June 2003 at a refugee mission centre in Nanjing City, China and repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(h) Lee Chung Seong, allegedly arrested on 2 June 2003 at a refugee mission centre in Nanjing City, China and repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(i) Choi, Hong-Sik, allegedly abducted from Seoul by North Korean forces between 28 and 30 June 1950;

(j) Choi, Jun, allegedly abducted from his home in Seoul on 13 September 1950 by North Korean forces;

(k) Jeong, Kyung-sook, allegedly abducted to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Korean Airline airplane YS-11, hijacked on 11 December 1969;

(l) Kim, Jeong-gyu, reportedly taken from his home in Pyongyang by his co-workers of the Liaison Department of the Central Party, in August 2011;

(m) Kim, Kyung Ae, allegedly arrested on 3 April 2014 by two agents from the Onsung Security Agency;

(n) Lee, Chang-Hyeok, allegedly arrested at Yanji Station in China on 15 December 2010 and repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Information from the Government

39. On 4 January 2016, the Government transmitted information concerning 14 outstanding cases. The information provided was considered insufficient to lead to a clarification. Nine out of the 14 cases had been originally registered under the records of China; however, on the basis of information indicating that these persons were in the custody of the authorities in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the cases were re-registered under the statistics of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Observations

40. With regard to the nature of the replies received from the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea concerning the cases outstanding before it, the Working Group recalled Human Rights Council resolution 21/4, in which the Council urged States to cooperate with the Working Group to help it to carry out its mandate effectively.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Prompt intervention letter

41. On 10 December 2015, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other four special procedure mechanisms, a prompt intervention letter concerning alleged human rights violations, including cases of enforced disappearances, perpetrated in the framework of Operation Likofi (15 November 2013 to 15 February 2015), and on the discovery of a mass grave in Maluku, Kinshasa on 19 March 2015.

Ethiopia

Prompt intervention letter

42. On 28 December 2015, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other four special procedure mechanisms, a prompt intervention letter concerning the alleged repression of peaceful protests since mid-November 2015 in the Oromia region.

Ecuador

Information from the Government

43. On 17 September 2015, the Government of Ecuador transmitted information concerning five outstanding cases. The information provided was considered insufficient to lead to a clarification.

44. In accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group, a copy of one of the cases was sent to the Government of Colombia.