



# General Assembly

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## 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\***

111th session (6-10 February 2017)

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The present document reflects the communications and cases examined and other activities carried out by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances at its 111th session held in Seoul.
2. The Working Group thanks the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting and facilitating the successful development of its 111th session.

#### **II. Communications**

3. Between its 110th and 111th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 71 cases under its urgent action procedure to: Bahrain (1); Bangladesh (2); China (1); Egypt (48); Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2); Libya (2); Mozambique (1); Nigeria (1); Pakistan (10); the Sudan (1); Turkey (1); and the United Arab Emirates (1).
4. At its 111th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 348 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to 15 States. It also clarified 40 cases, in Bahrain (1), Egypt (27), Jordan (1), Libya (1), Mexico (3), Pakistan (3), Turkey (1), Ukraine (1) and the United Arab Emirates (2). Twenty-one cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by the Governments and 19 on the basis of information provided by sources.
5. Between its 110th and 111th sessions, the Working Group also transmitted 18 communications jointly with other special procedure mechanisms: nine urgent appeals to Bangladesh (1), China (2), Ethiopia (1), the Sudan (3), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1) and Pakistan (1); two joint allegation letters to Algeria (1) and Argentina (1); six prompt intervention letters to India (2), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2), Mexico (1) and Morocco (1); and an "other letter" to Sri Lanka.
6. At its 111th session, the Working Group also reviewed and adopted four general allegations concerning Bangladesh, Eritrea, Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

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\* The annexes to the present document are reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.



### **III. Other activities**

7. At its 111th session, the Working Group met with relatives of victims of enforced disappearances, and with non-governmental organizations working on the issue. The Working Group also held formal meetings with representatives of the Governments of Iraq, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

8. On 5 February 2017, the Working Group held an expert consultation on enforced disappearances in the context of migration, receiving inputs and contributions to inform a report to be presented at the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2017.

9. During its sessions, the Working Group also participated in an academic event on enforced disappearances in the context of transitional justice. The Working Group also discussed the drafting of the country visit report to Albania, other internal matters and activities including future visits.

### **IV. Information concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances in States reviewed by the Working Group during the session**

#### **Albania**

##### **Information from the Government**

10. On 2 December 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**

11. The Working Group transmitted six cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) El Hacène Nait Djoudi, allegedly arrested on 17 July 1996 as he was leaving his place of work, the regional service of Algiers, by police officers;

(b) Lofti Rahim, allegedly arrested on 25 August 1995 on the road to Barbissa, in Koléa, by communal guards;

(c) Abdelkrim Ibziz, allegedly arrested on 18 July 1996 in the street on his way to the beach;

(d) El Hadi Oudina, allegedly arrested on 22 August 1996 at his home, by military officials;

(e) Brahim Hadj Kouider, allegedly arrested on 1 November 1994 at his home, by gendarmes of Oued El Alleug (*wilaya* of Blida);

(f) Benyoucef Hacine, allegedly arrested on 23 March 1995 at the military roadblock situated between Haouch El Gros and Boufarik, by the military and gendarmes from Bouinane.

##### **Information from the Government**

12. On 18 August 2015, the Government of Algeria provided information on nine outstanding cases. The information provided was considered insufficient to lead to a clarification.

women. In its reply the Government refers to the measures taken by the Search Commission for Disappeared Persons to combat the enforced disappearance of women in Colombia and to determine their whereabouts while applying a differential approach. It also refers to measures adopted by other institutions to ensure the provision of reparations from a gender perspective. The reply, in Spanish, is reproduced in full in annex III.

### **Observations**

35. The Working Group thanks the Government of Colombia for the information received on 6 September 2016 in relation to the general allegation. The Working Group recalls its general comment on women affected by enforced disappearances (A/HRC/WGEID/98/2), which stresses that a gender perspective should be incorporated in all measures, including legislative, administrative, judicial and others, taken by States, when dealing with enforced disappearance. Gender equality requires that all individuals — regardless of their sex or gender — enjoy without discrimination the rights enshrined in the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

### **Standard procedure**

36. The Working Group transmitted 34 cases to the Government. A summary of these cases is included in annex I.

37. In accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group, the Government of the Republic of Korea also received a copy of the cases involving its nationals.

### **Information from the Government**

38. On 21 October 2016, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea transmitted information concerning 16 outstanding cases. The information provided was considered insufficient to lead to a clarification.

### **Observation**

39. The Working Group is concerned about the fact that the Government, instead of cooperating with the Working Group in relation to very serious allegations of grave and systematic enforced disappearances in the country, accuses it of being partial and being involved in an alleged political plot against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Working Group would like to firmly reiterate that it operates with the highest levels of objectivity, independence and impartiality.

## **Egypt**

### **Urgent action**

40. During the reporting period, the Working Group transmitted 48 cases to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning:

(a) Ali Abdul Rahman Hussein, allegedly arrested on 4 October 2016 in Matariyia District, Cairo, by police officers;

(b) Salih Hussein, allegedly arrested on 4 October 2016 in Matariyia District, by police officers;

(c) Ahmed Abdelrahim Hanafi Abdelrahim, allegedly abducted on 7 September 2016 while travelling from his house in Al Wardian to the Sidi Gaber neighbourhood in Alexandria, by Homeland Security officers or police forces of the Ministry of Interior;

(d) Ahmed Atef Ahmed Abdelrahim Baghdadi, allegedly abducted on 30 August 2016 in New Cairo, by Homeland Security officers;

## Annex I

### Standard procedure cases

#### Democratic People's Republic of Korea

1. The Working Group transmitted 34 cases to the Government, concerning:
  - (a) Kim Kwang Bok, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency (NSA), from her house in Okcheon, Baegam County, Yangkang Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in 2011;
  - (b) Kim Gwang Jae, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency (NSA) from his home in Roha-ri, Kwaksan County, North Pyongan Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in August 1999;
  - (c) Lee Dong Cheol, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency (NSA) from his home in Hamheung, South Hamkyung Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 9 May 1980;
  - (d) Lee Hye Gyeong, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency (NSA) from her house in Hoiryong, North Hamkyung Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in May 1996;
  - (e) Myeong-hwan Choi, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while on a fishing boat on Incheon Port, on 12 April 1967;
  - (f) Cheol-gyu Kim, a national from the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while fishing on the "Changmyeong" boat, on 2 July 1968;
  - (g) Gil-yun Park, a national from the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while out on the "Huiyoung 37" fishing boat, on 6 January 1971;
  - (h) Gwan Su Oh, a national from the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while out on the "Geumgangsán" fishing boat, on 22 June 1970;
  - (i) Jang-woon Park, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while out on the "Gilyong" fishing boat, 22 January 1966;
  - (j) Kyeon-hwa Shin, allegedly abducted together with three other persons, from her home in Chongjin, North Hamkyung Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, by security agents of the National Security Agency (NSA);
  - (k) Jong-ho Kwak, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while out on the "Boseung 2" fishing boat, on 20 March 1964;
  - (l) Kim Byeong Jae, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency (NSA) from a tractor manufacturing factory in Kwaksan County, North Pyongan Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in August 1999;
  - (m) Jae-dong Lim, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while on the "Youngchang" fishing boat, on 30 October 1968;
  - (n) Sung-mahn Kim, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while on the "Myeongduk" fishing boat, on 20 November 1965;

- (o) Il Joo, a national of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by officials from the National Security Agency (NSA), in May 2001;
- (p) Baek Yang Guen, allegedly arrested by the National Security Agency (NSA) from his workplace at a hospital in North Pyongan Province, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in August 1999;
- (q) Soo-young Ahn, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly arrested by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea near the Northern Limit Line, while on his fishing boat, on 28 December 1972;
- (r) Kwang-won Park, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea near the Northern Limit Line, from the "Suwon-ho 32" fishing boat, on 15 February 1974;
- (s) Sang-yoon Kim, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea near the Northern Limit Line, from the "Gadeok-ho" fishing boat, on 10 July 1968;
- (t) Jong-up Park, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea near the Northern Limit Line, from the "Gadeok-ho" fishing boat, on 10 July 1968;
- (u) Wan Chae Han, allegedly abducted by agents of the National Security Agency (NSA) on 16 September 2000, after being repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from Yanji, China;
- (v) Gwang Jung, who allegedly turned himself in to the National Security Agency (NSA) on 5 August 1997, after his plan to leave the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was reported to the authorities;
- (w) Eui Do Lee, allegedly arrested at his house by agents of the National Security Agency, on 15 November 1977, and allegedly last seen on 25 May 1981 in "Camp 18", before being transferred to an unknown location;
- (x) Bong Soon Park, allegedly arrested by officials from a security agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in March 2007, and imprisoned in "Camp 22" in Hoiryung;
- (y) Kyung Min Nam, allegedly arrested by officials from a security agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in March 2007, and imprisoned in "Camp 22" in Hoiryung;
- (z) Tae Bong Lee, allegedly abducted by officers from the National Security Agency when he was repatriated from China, in November 2001;
- (aa) Dong-myeong Lee, allegedly arrested on the streets in Pyongyang by agents of the National Security Agency on 4 July 1970;
- (bb) Im-bok Kim, allegedly arrested by agents of the National Security Agency when she was reportedly repatriated from China on 2 August 1994, and last seen on 13 February 1995 at the Yoduk Political Prison Camp;
- (cc) Ji-yong Yoo, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the "Cheonwang-ho" fishing boat on 8 August 1975;
- (dd) Kwang-won Lee, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the "Heungduk-ho" fishing boat, in May 1969;
- (ee) Jin-young Kim, a national of the Republic of Korea allegedly abducted by state agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the "Taeyang-ho", fishing boat, on 10 July 1968, and allegedly last seen working at a mine in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1986;

(ff) Cheon-hyang Park, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea near the Northern Limit Line, while on the "Huiyoung 37" fishing boat, on 6 January 1971;

(gg) Geon-pyo Hong, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from a beach on Hongdo Island, in August 1978;

(hh) Hae-joon Lee, a national of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea near the Northern Limit Line, while on his fishing boat in July 1968.

2. In accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group, the Government of the Republic of Korea received a copy of the cases involving nationals of the Republic of Korea.

## Pakistan

3. The Working Group transmitted 48 cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) Jawad Ali, allegedly abducted from his home by Elite force personnel from the police department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on 22 September 2015;

(b) Ghulam Dastagir Hamid, allegedly abducted from his home by officers suspected to belong to the Military Intelligence, the Inter-services Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency, on 15 September 2015;

(c) Bahadur Sher Syed, allegedly arrested in his home by officers belonging to the Army, on 27 February 2016;

(d) Hameedullah Beg, allegedly abducted by army personnel while leaving the Talha Mosque after Friday prayers, on 9 October 2015;

(e) Shah Zareen, allegedly abducted from the High School in Peshawar, Swat district, by officers suspected to belong to the Military Intelligence, the Inter-services Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency, on 9 July 2009;

(f) Jahanzeb, allegedly abducted from the High School in Peshawar, Swat district, by officers suspected to belong to the Military Intelligence, the Inter-services Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency, on 9 July 2009;

(g) Hussain Hazrat, allegedly abducted from the High School in Peshawar, Swat district, by officers suspected to belong to the Military Intelligence, the Inter-services Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency, on 9 July 2009;

(h) Hussain Iqbal, allegedly abducted from the High School in Peshawar, Swat district, by officers suspected to belong to the Military Intelligence, the Inter-services Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency, on 9 July 2009;

(i) Muhammad Madani, allegedly abducted from his house by two officers from an intelligence state force of Pakistan, on 29 November 2012;

(j) Hafiz Ejaz Ahmad, allegedly abducted from the Muslim commercial College, Gujranwala Road, Hafizabad, by officers from an intelligence state force of Pakistan, on 30 August 2012;

(k) Fazal Raheem, allegedly abducted from his home by officials believed to be from an intelligence state force of Pakistan, on 13 November 2009;

(l) Manzaray, allegedly arrested from his home by officials believed to be from an intelligence state force of Pakistan, on 17 January 2010;

(m) Luqman, allegedly abducted by officials believed to be from an intelligence state force of Pakistan, on 29 November 2012;

(n) Muhammad Asif, allegedly abducted by officials believed to be from an intelligence state force of Pakistan, on 4 August 2015;