



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
17 August 2021

Original: English

---

## Human Rights Council Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

### **Communications transmitted, cases examined, observations made and other activities conducted by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances\***

**124th session\*\* (17–21 May 2021)**

#### **I. Communications**

1. Between 20 February and 21 May 2021, the Working Group transmitted 17 cases under its urgent procedure, to Egypt (3), India (2), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1), Kenya (1), Myanmar (1), Pakistan (6), the Russian Federation (2) and Saudi Arabia (1).
2. At its 124th session, held from 17 to 21 May 2021, the Working Group decided to transmit 136 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance, to Afghanistan (7), Bangladesh (2), Cameroon (1), China (2), Egypt (9), India (8), Pakistan (37), the Russian Federation (4), Sri Lanka (50), the Syrian Arab Republic (15) and the United Arab Emirates (1).
3. The Working Group clarified 122 cases, in Afghanistan (1), Bahrain (1), China (14), Egypt (4), India (1), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1), Libya (5), Pakistan (87), the Philippines (3), the Russian Federation (1), Saudi Arabia (1) and Ukraine (3). A total of 88 cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by Governments and 34 on the basis of information provided by other sources.
4. Between 20 February and 21 May 2021, the Working Group transmitted 32 communications jointly with other special procedure mechanisms. The communications consisted of one prompt intervention letter to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, nine joint urgent appeals, to the Comoros (1), Egypt (1), India (1), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1), Iraq (1), Madagascar (1), Morocco (1), Saudi Arabia (1) and the United Arab Emirates (1); and 22 joint allegation letters, to Bangladesh (2), Burundi (1), the Central African Republic (1), China (1), Colombia (2), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1), El Salvador (1), Guatemala (1), Honduras (1), Mexico (2), Nepal (1), Pakistan (2), the Russian Federation (1), Turkey (1), Uganda (1) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (1), as well as to "other actors" (Lobaye Invest and the de facto authorities in Sana'a (2)).<sup>1</sup>

---

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

\*\* In view of the travel restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Working Group met by videoconference.

<sup>1</sup> The Working Group transmits prompt intervention letters in cases of intimidation, persecution or reprisal against relatives of disappeared persons, witnesses or members of relevant organizations. Furthermore, past human rights violations can be the object of allegation letters; ongoing or potential human rights violations can be the object of urgent appeals; and concerns relating to bills, laws, policies and practices that do not comply with international human rights law and standards are categorized as "other letters". All such communications are made public 60 days after their



5. At its session, the Working Group reviewed and adopted one general allegation concerning Nepal (see annex II). It also held discussions on its methods of work and on its upcoming reports to be presented to the Human Rights Council, notably the annual report, which would include a thematic study on enforced disappearances in the context of transnational transfers, and the follow-up reports to previous visits to Albania and the Gambia.

6. The full list of press releases and statements issued by the Working Group during the reporting period is contained in annex III.

## **II. Other activities**

7. At its session, the Working Group held virtual meetings with relatives of disappeared persons and with non-governmental organizations working on the issue. The Working Group also met with the heads of the national search mechanisms of Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru.

8. Also at its session, the Working Group held meetings with representatives of the Governments of Armenia, Cyprus, the Gambia, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan and Portugal.

9. On 3 March 2021, the Working Group, together with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances, held a webinar to promote universal ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.<sup>2</sup>

10. On 15 March 2021, Bernard Duhaime participated on behalf of the Working Group in a Security Council briefing on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

11. On 26 March 2021, the Working Group held an informal private meeting with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to exchange information and views and discuss matters of mutual concern.

12. On 22 April 2021, the Working Group participated, with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in a joint meeting on enforced disappearance in the context of migration and the contribution of international human rights mechanisms, hosted by the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.

13. A list of other activities conducted by the Working Group during the reporting period is contained in annex IV.

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

### **Afghanistan**

#### **Standard procedure**

14. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted seven cases to the Government concerning:

(a) A 33-year-old national of Afghanistan, allegedly arrested in mid-August 2019, near the bazaar area in Panjwa'i District, Kandahar, by the police;

---

transmission to the State, along with any responses received from the Government, and are available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/Tmsearch/TMDocuments>.

<sup>2</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/CED-Joint-Webinar-2021.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/CED-Joint-Webinar-2021.aspx).

(b) A 31-year-old national of Afghanistan, allegedly arrested in the last week of February 2020 in the Najogano Masjid area, Kandahar, by officials of the National Directorate of Security;

(c) A national of Afghanistan born in 1986, allegedly arrested in August 2019 in the Pashmol area, Zharey District, Kandahar, by officials of the National Directorate of Security;

(d) A 29-year-old national of Afghanistan, allegedly arrested in early April 2020, in Police District 7, Panjwa'i District, Kandahar, by men in a grey uniform;

(e) A 33-year-old national of Afghanistan, allegedly arrested in August 2019, in Loy Wyala, District 9, Kandahar, by the Afghan National Police;

(f) A national of Afghanistan born in 1986, allegedly abducted in February 2019, on the Kandahar-Helmand highway;

(g) A national of Afghanistan born in 1996, allegedly arrested in March 2020, in the Spin Boldak District, Kandahar, by the Afghan Border Police.

### **Clarification**

15. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Haji Naim Kuchi, which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 122nd session.<sup>3</sup> The person was reportedly released in 2005 and is now deceased.

## **Bangladesh**

### **Standard procedure**

16. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted two cases to the Government, concerning Farid Ahmmud Syed and Alamgir Hossain Hossain, both nationals of Bangladesh, who were allegedly abducted on 12 January 2014 from Laksam Road, Comilla District, Bangladesh, by members of a law enforcement agency.

### **Joint allegation letters**

17. On 31 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged torture and ill-treatment while in detention of Mushtaq Ahmed and Ahmed Kabir Kishore, the subsequent death in custody of Mr. Ahmed and the alleged recording of a false date of arrest for Mr. Kishore, resulting in his enforced disappearance during a 3-day period.

18. On 13 May 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged dispersal by law enforcement authorities and members of the ruling party, Awami League, of a series of peaceful demonstrators and the ensuing arbitrary arrest and detention of protesters and political opponents, in some cases amounting to enforced disappearances.

## **Bahrain**

### **Clarification**

19. On the basis of information provided by the Government and other sources, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Mohamed Ramadhan Issa, who is currently in detention and was sentenced to capital punishment. The Working Group is concerned about the seeming absence of conclusive investigation into the ill-treatment and enforced disappearance of Mr. Ramadhan following his initial arrest, and reiterates the concerns

<sup>3</sup> A/HRC/WGEID/122/1, para. 15.

expressed in the joint urgent appeal transmitted by the Working Group together with other special procedure mechanisms on 29 July 2020.<sup>4</sup>

## **Burundi**

### **Joint allegation letter**

20. On 1 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and detention, ill-treatment or torture and possible killing of Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania and the alleged arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance in Burundi of forcefully returned refugees. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

### **Observation**

21. The Working Group is alarmed at consistent reports of a policy of forced repatriation of Burundian refugees with the cooperation of the Government of Burundi and neighbouring countries hosting Burundian refugees. The Working Group is concerned that refugees are not only forcefully returned to Burundi, but also subjected to reprisals once in Burundi, including arbitrary and incommunicado detention and enforced disappearance.

## **Cameroon**

### **Standard procedure**

22. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government concerning Ernest Tikum Dinga, a national of Cameroon, allegedly abducted by members of the Cameroonian security forces on 12 September 2020 at a checkpoint located near Upstation Blue Moon in Bamenda.

### **Information from sources**

23. Sources provided information on two outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

## **Central African Republic**

### **Joint allegation letter**

24. On 26 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the recruitment and use of private military and security personnel to support the Central African Armed Forces. Those personnel are allegedly involved in human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture in the context of ongoing hostilities in the Central African Republic. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

## **China**

### **Standard procedure**

25. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted two cases to the Government concerning:

- (a) Abuduaini Maimaitiyiming, a national of China of Uighur ethnicity allegedly arrested in September 2017 in Yepuhu County by members of the local police;

---

<sup>4</sup> BHR 4/2020.

(b) Maimaiti Abulaiti, a national of China of Uighur ethnicity allegedly arrested on 20 January 2018 by members of the Wensu Tuo Feng Community Police Station.

### **Clarification**

26. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify 10 cases, which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 122nd session,<sup>5</sup> concerning Adudureyimu Ruxianguli, Gulinuer Tuoheti, Xirenai Yasheng and Aihemaiti Hujia, as well as two boys and four girls. The individuals concerned are reportedly at liberty.

### **Clarification based on information from sources**

27. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify four cases concerning Ke Chengbing, Wei Zhili and Yang Zhengjun, who are reportedly at liberty, and Norsang, who reportedly died while in custody.

### **Information from sources**

28. Sources provided information on 41 outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases. On the basis of the new information received from one source, the Working Group decided to suspend the six-month rule<sup>6</sup> it had applied at its 123rd session to the case concerning Saidoula Tuoheti.

### **Joint allegation letter**

29. On 28 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the detention, and in some cases, enforced disappearance, of 17 human rights defenders, for the alleged commission of crimes against the State.

### **Observation**

30. The Working Group remains concerned at the continued allegations of enforced disappearances targeting nationals of China of Uighur ethnicity, as well as the continued use of residential surveillance in a designated location. It reiterates that accurate information on the detention of persons deprived of liberty and their place or places of detention, including transfers, should be made promptly available to their family members, to their counsel or to any other persons having a legitimate interest in the information (Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, art. 10 (2)) and that failure to do so amounts to an enforced disappearance.

## **Colombia**

### **Joint allegation letters and replies**

31. On 12 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning reported interventions carried out in the cemetery of El Copey, and the lack of protection of the remains of the victims of forced disappearances and extrajudicial executions who are buried there.

32. On 11 May 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the excessive use of force and firearms by police and members of the Mobile Anti-Riot Squad, against demonstrators and human rights defenders protesting against tax reforms in Colombia since 28 April 2021. The letter included allegations regarding the arbitrary detention and enforced disappearances of some of the protestors. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/WGEID/122/1, para. 45.

<sup>6</sup> For information on the application of the six-month rule, see paragraph 25 of the methods of work of the Working Group.

33. On 30 April 2021, the Government provided a reply to the joint allegation letter sent on 12 March 2021.

### **Observation**

34. The Working Group remains concerned about the violent crackdown on peaceful protests in Colombia since 28 April 2021, including several allegations of enforced disappearances. It reiterates its call to the Government to swiftly disclose the whereabouts of all detained persons, to seriously investigate those responsible and to engage in dialogue to de-escalate tensions.

## **Comoros**

### **Joint urgent appeal**

35. On 9 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning Inssa Mohamed, alias Bobocha, a political opponent who has allegedly been forcibly returned twice to the Comoros from Madagascar, despite his refugee status, and who has reportedly been subjected to enforced disappearance since his alleged arrival in Moroni on 27 January 2021. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

### **Joint allegation letter**

36. On 12 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning new information relating to the murders of human rights defender Floribert Chebeya and his colleague Fidèle Bazana in 2010. In particular, the new allegations regard the circumstances of the killings and the identity of the alleged perpetrators.

## **Egypt**

### **Urgent procedure**

37. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted three cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Karim Sayed Mahrous Attya, a national of Egypt arrested at his home on 27 January 2021 by police officers wearing black uniforms and accompanied by four individuals in civilian clothes;

(b) Khaled Anwar Mohamed Abdel Hafez, a national of Egypt arrested on 17 February 2021 at his workplace together with his son Akram Khaled Anwar Mohamed Abdel Hafez, by Egyptian police officers;

(c) Akram Khaled Anwar Mohamed Abdel Hafez, a national of Egypt arrested on 17 February 2021 at his workplace together with his father Khaled Anwar Mohamed Abdel Hafez, by Egyptian police officers.

### **Standard procedure**

38. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted five cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Abdel Hindi, a national of Egypt arrested on 5 April 2019 by members of the State security forces;

(b) Omar Raouf Mohamed Mohamed el-Sayed, a national of Egypt last seen in March 2019 at the National Security premises in Abbasiya;

(c) Abdelnabi el-Saadawi, a national of Egypt abducted at 6 p.m. on 14 June 2019 by National Security Agents;

(d) Mohamed Gharib Foila, a national of Egypt abducted on 18 August 2018 along with his brother Ayman Taha Mahmoud Foila by National Security officers at a police checkpoint at the entrance of Port Said Governorate;

(e) Ayman Taha Mahmoud Foila, a national of Egypt arrested on 18 August 2018 along with his brother Mohamed Gharib Foila by National Security officers at a police checkpoint at the entrance of Port Said Governorate.

#### **Application of the six-month rule**

39. The Government provided information, on the basis of which the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to one case, concerning Hussein Mohamed Meshrif.

#### **Clarification**

40. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Sara Fathi Ibrahim, who is reportedly at liberty.

#### **Clarification based on information from sources**

41. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify three cases concerning Adel Abdullah Wazeer Abdul al Maqsood, Akram Khaled Anwar Mohamed Hafez and Khaled Anwar Mohamed Abdel Hafez.

#### **Joint urgent appeal**

42. On 4 May 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning Abdulrahman Gamal Metwally Ibrahim and Omar Gamal Metwally Ibrahim, two brothers who were reportedly arbitrarily arrested in connection with the military coup of 2013 and subjected to torture and ill-treatment by security officials while in custody.

### **El Salvador**

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

43. On 23 February 2021, the Government transmitted information concerning six cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

#### **Information from sources**

44. Sources provided information on two outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

#### **Joint allegation letter**

45. On 16 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the systematic lack of effective investigations and regional cooperation between Central American countries and Mexico to address the numerous cases of disappearances of migrants, including enforced disappearances, and to inform family members, preserve forensic data, repatriate human remains and provide adequate reparations to victims. Similar letters were sent to Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

### **Guatemala**

#### **Joint allegation letter**

46. See paragraph 45 above.

## **Honduras**

### **Joint allegation letter**

47. See paragraph 45 above.

## **India**

### **Urgent procedure**

48. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted two cases to the Government, concerning Mujahid Ashraf Khan Sehrai and Rashed Ashraf Khan Sehrai, who were allegedly arrested on 15 May 2021 at their home in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, by members of the Indian Army.

### **Standard procedure**

49. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted eight cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Malik Nasir Ahmed, who allegedly disappeared on 7 July 1995 in Akingam, Anantnag District, Jammu and Kashmir. It is believed that he was detained by officers of the Indian Army;

(b) A 17-year-old boy, allegedly abducted on 1 October 1999 in Kupwara District, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian Army;

(c) Tariq Lone, allegedly abducted on 15 August 2000 in Kupwara District, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian Army;

(d) Abdul Hameed Chaudhry, allegedly abducted on 6 October 1999 from his home in Ramban District, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian Army;

(e) A 16-year-old boy, allegedly abducted on 15 July 1994 from his home in Bandipora District, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian Army;

(f) Abdur Rahim Rather, allegedly abducted on 22 December 1995 from his home in Baramulla District, Jammu and Kashmir, by armed gunmen. It is suspected that Mr. Rather was taken by Indian paramilitary forces;

(g) Nisar Ahmad Khanday, allegedly arrested on 14 January 1996 in Baramulla District, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian Army;

(h) Abdul Aziz Bhat, allegedly abducted on 21 September 1999 from his home in Ramban District, Jammu and Kashmir, by armed gunmen. It is suspected that he was taken by the Indian Army.

### **Information from sources**

50. Sources provided information on two outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

### **Clarification based on information from sources**

51. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Mohammad Ashraf Khan Sehrai, who reportedly died while in custody.

### **Joint urgent appeal**

52. On 31 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning allegations of arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance and torture and ill-treatment committed in Jammu and Kashmir, against human rights defender Waheed Para and against Irfan Ahmad Dar and Naseer Ahmad Wani.



## **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

### **Urgent procedure**

53. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government concerning Manouchehr Bakhtiyari, a national of the Islamic Republic of Iran who was abducted on 29 April 2021 by members of the Iranian security forces. The case of Mr. Bakhtiyari was previously transmitted to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 23 July 2020 in a first instance of enforced disappearance following his arrest on 13 July 2020. Mr. Bakhtiyari had been actively demanding justice for the extrajudicial killing of his son during the November 2019 street protests.

### **Clarification**

54. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one case concerning Hedayat Abdollahpour, who is regrettably confirmed to have been executed following a death sentence.

### **Joint urgent appeal**

55. On 22 February 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning the risk of imminent execution of Hossein Silawi, Ali Khasraji and Naser Khafajian, members of the Ahwazi Arab minority, and a series of executions of members of the Baluch minority. It also addressed information regarding the critical health condition of Behnam Mahjoubi, a member of the Gonabadi Sufi religious minority, while in State custody. The alleged violations form part of what appears to be an escalation of a systematic crackdown on minority groups, particularly since mid-December 2020.

### **Observation**

56. The Working Group expresses its grave alarm about reprisals against relatives who demand justice for their loved ones who have been subjected to grave human rights violations, such as the case of Manouchehr Bakhtiyari who has been demanding justice for the extrajudicial killing of his son during the November 2019 street protests (see para. 53 above).

57. The Working Group is also concerned about continued reports of reprisals against human rights defenders who are members of ethnic minorities such as the Iranian Ahwazi Arabs, the Kurdish and the Baluch minorities. The reprisals often take the form of arbitrary arrest followed by a significant period of incommunicado detention and enforced disappearance during which the victims are subjected to torture before reappearing in detention following sentencing.

## **Iraq**

### **Joint urgent appeal**

58. On 23 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning the alleged extrajudicial killing by individuals linked to the Iraqi armed forces of Jasib Hattab Abboud al Heliji, father of the human rights defender Ali Jasib Hattab al Heliji, who remains forcibly disappeared. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

## **Kenya**

### **Urgent procedure**

59. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government concerning Selahaddin Gülen, a national of Turkey arrested on 3 May 2021 and disappeared from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Kiambu Road, Nairobi.

## **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

### **Joint prompt intervention letter**

60. On 27 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, a prompt intervention letter concerning alleged reprisals by the military forces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic against the relatives of four individuals who were forcibly disappeared in March 2020 and who were the subject of an earlier communication.<sup>7</sup> The apparent reprisals include the reported extrajudicial killing of Chue Youa Vang, an elderly man, on 21 March 2021 and further intimidation against the community.

## **Libya**

### **Clarification**

61. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify five cases concerning Al Raquoubi Abdelatif (Abdelatif al Raquoubi Salem Muhammad), Salem Said al Judran (Salem Saeed Salem Awad Jadran al-Mughrabi), Ali Dbie Salah al Talhi (Ali al-Dabea Saleh al-Talhi) and Almanafi Ahmed Abdessalam Hassane (Ahmed Abdel-Salam Abdel-Mawla al-Menfi), who are reportedly at liberty.

## **Madagascar**

### **Joint urgent appeal**

62. On 9 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning Inssa Mohamed, alias Bobocha, a political opponent who had allegedly been forcibly returned twice to the Comoros from Madagascar, despite his refugee status, and who has reportedly been subjected to enforced disappearance since his alleged arrival in Moroni on 27 January 2021 (see para. 35 above).

## **Mexico**

### **Information from sources**

63. Sources provided information on three outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

### **Joint allegation letters and replies**

64. On 26 February 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearance of at least 19 people, mostly migrants, in the municipality of Camargo, Tamaulipas, in northern Mexico.

65. On 16 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the systematic lack of effective investigations and regional cooperation between Central American countries and Mexico to address the numerous cases of disappearances of migrants, including enforced disappearances, and to inform family members, preserve forensic data, repatriate human remains and provide adequate reparations to victims. Similar letters were sent to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

66. On 15 April 2021, the Government provided a reply to the joint allegation letter sent on 26 February 2021.

---

<sup>7</sup> LAO 3/2020.

## **Morocco**

### **Joint urgent appeal**

67. On 19 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning Osama Talal Abbas al-Mahruqi, a dual national of Australia and Saudi Arabia, who was reportedly extradited from Morocco to Saudi Arabia despite interim measures ordered by the Committee against Torture based on the potential risk of torture and other ill-treatment. Since his extradition on 13 March 2021, no information on his fate or whereabouts has been available.

## **Mozambique**

### **Information from sources**

68. Sources provided information on one outstanding case, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

### **Observation**

69. The Working Group regrets the absence of information on any investigation into the case of the enforced disappearance of Américo António Melro Sebastião, a national of Portugal who was abducted on 29 July 2019 by State agents in uniform. The Working Group calls on the Government of Mozambique to submit information on progress made in searching for Mr. Melro Sebastião and information on the investigation conducted.

## **Myanmar**

### **Urgent procedure**

70. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government concerning Mya Aye, who was allegedly arrested on 1 February 2021 during a raid on his home in Yangon and then taken to an undisclosed location.

### **Observation**

71. The Working Group continues to be seriously alarmed by allegations of enforced disappearances of journalists, protesters, political figures and human rights defenders since the coup d'état on 1 February 2021, as reflected in a press release issued on 26 February (see annex III). The Working Group recalls article 7 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It urges the military to restore democratic institutions and ensure that all those detained for exercising their human rights are immediately released and not subjected to any harm while in custody.

## **Nepal**

### **Joint allegation letters and replies**

72. On 19 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the appointment of new members to the National Human Rights Commission, which is not in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and severely undermines the Commissions's independence, thereby restricting the ability of the people of Nepal to access remedies for alleged human rights violations, including enforced disappearances. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

73. On 29 April 2021, the Government provided a reply to the joint allegation letter sent on 19 April 2021.

**General allegation**

74. The Working Group received information from credible sources alleging difficulties encountered in Nepal in implementing the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It sent the Government a general allegation, contained in annex II, focusing on alleged loopholes in domestic legislation to address the enforced disappearances perpetrated by State forces that occurred in Nepal throughout the 1996–2006 civil war.

**Pakistan****Urgent procedure**

75. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted six cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Rabnawaz Khan, allegedly abducted on 11 December 2020 in front of a school in Ashar Kot, Tehsil Makeen, South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by agents of the Pakistani military secret services;

(b) A 14-year-old girl, allegedly abducted on 24 January 2021 outside her home in the Zaraj Housing Society, Raina Heights, Islamabad, by unidentified individuals believed to be State agents;

(c) A 12-year-old boy, allegedly arrested on 20 December 2020 at a shop located in Tir Mor Haza Khel, Tehsil Datta Khel, North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by agents of the Pakistani army;

(d) Abid Noor, allegedly abducted on 8 March 2021 at Kot Qasim, Karachi, Sindh, by agents of the Pakistani military secret services;

(e) Sattar Khan, allegedly abducted on 3 March 2021 at Manji Wala, Bannu District, by agents of the Pakistani military secret services;

(f) Sadiq Ameen, allegedly abducted on 10 March 2021 from his home at Adyalla Road, Rawalpindi, by the police.

**Standard procedure**

76. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted 37 cases to the Government (see annex I).

**Application of the six-month rule**

77. On 14 April 2021, the Government provided information on eight outstanding cases, to which the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule.

**Information from the Government**

78. On 14 April 2021, the Government transmitted information concerning seven cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

**Clarification**

79. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify 68 cases concerning Muhammad Bilal, Sultan Mehmood, Tanzeem Ahmed Khan Bashir Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Ameen Khan, Muhammad Zubair and Azeem Khan, who are reportedly deceased; Muazzam Ali, Muhammad Umair, Gul Zaman, Jameel Yaqoob, Ahmed Dad Baloch, Kashif Muhammad, Rizwan Asghar Butt and Talhat Khalid Talhat, who are reportedly in detention; and Raghieb Hashami, Qari Muhammad Alam, Sayed Jamil Zaidi, Naeem Muhammad Naeem, Mirza Arsalan Baig Kausar, Hussain Baig, Shakeel Nabi Buksh, Wasi Haider Hassan Raza, Aalam Wahab, Imran Naseem, Fawad Ahmed Hussain, Ali Raza Jaweed, Aslam Rehman, Aamir Sheikh, Jaffrey Jahanzeb Abdul, Fareed Ahmed Yameen Ahmed, Latif Abdul, Azra Baloch Siraj Uddin, Mohammad Azum, Muhammad Farooq, Ghulam Rasool, Zojan Khan, Noor Nabi, Mian Shaukat Bacha, Qaisar

Ali, Ahmad Said Khan, Abdul Jabbar, Shahid Hussain, Qaisar Ali, Dilshad Ali, Syed Ameen Nil, Mukhtiar Almani, Saqib Ali Saqib Ali, Khan Momin Khan Momin, Momin Khan Mohsin, Shahid Nizam Nizam Uddin, Amir Nizam Nizam Uddin, Khurram, Sarfarz Ahmed, Jan Khair, Yaseen Muhammad, Wahid Abdul, Anees, Faiz Muhammad, Aqueel Ahmed, Arif Muhammad, Haneef, Hameed, Mohsin Khan, Muhammad Ameen Khan, Dil Nawaz, Jan Muhammad, Faiz-Ur-rehman, Akmal Waheed, Kaleri Baloch Imran Khan Kaleri Baloch, who are reportedly at liberty.

#### **Clarification based on information from sources**

80. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify 19 cases concerning Shadi Soomro, Yousaf, Shahid Ali Junejo, Abdul Hay Kurd, Zubair Ahmed, Muhammad Azum, Gulab Ahmed Ghulam Rasool, Aurang Zaib, Noor Dad Nil, Mohammad Hassaan, Salman Ali Saleem, Zakir Balochzahi, Hizbullah, Jahanzaib, Doda, Usman, Arif Ullah and Noor Abid, who are reportedly at liberty; and Sana Ullah Baloch, who is reportedly in detention.

#### **Information from sources**

81. Sources provided information on seven cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

#### **Joint allegation letters**

82. On 1 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning what appeared to be a steady increase in the number of enforced disappearances of political activists, journalists and human rights defenders belonging to minorities, especially Sindhi minorities, in the province of Sindh.

83. On 1 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged arbitrary arrests, torture, in some cases inadequate access to medical care while in detention, and prosecution of several human rights defenders and persons associated with them.

#### **Observation**

84. The Working Group remains concerned about the consistently high number of new allegations of enforced disappearances of political activists, journalists and human rights defenders in Pakistan, which are reportedly carried out with the direct involvement of State agents, notably targeting persons belonging to minorities, especially Sindhi minorities.

85. The Working Group recalls articles 2, 3, 7 and 10 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

### **Philippines**

#### **Clarification**

86. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify three cases concerning Larry Aparato, Andres Awid and Pablo Awid, who are reportedly deceased.

### **Republic of Korea**

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

87. On 6 May 2021, the Government transmitted information concerning 25 cases registered under the Russian Federation, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

## **Russian Federation**

### **Urgent procedure**

88. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted two cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Magomed Gadaev, who was allegedly abducted on 11 April 2021 from Novy Ourengoy, in the north of Siberia, by agents in plain clothes presumably affiliated with the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. On 9 April 2021, Mr. Gadaev was reportedly expelled from France to the Russian Federation. A copy of the case was communicated to the Government of France;

(b) Numagomed Mamuev, who was allegedly abducted on 26 March 2021 from Shalazhi village, Chechnya, by agents in plain clothes presumably affiliated with the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. On 24 March 2021, Mr. Mamuev was reportedly expelled from Germany to the Russian Federation. A copy of the case was communicated to the Government of Germany.

### **Standard procedure**

89. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted four cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Yakub Dzhabrailov, allegedly arrested on 15 December 2001 by a group of 20 officers of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in a raid on his family home in Argun;

(b) Rustam Kagiroy, allegedly abducted on 17 May 2009 near the village administration building in Zakan-Yurt by three armed men dressed in black military uniforms, presumably affiliated with the Russian security services;

(c) Zalina Yelkhoroyeva, allegedly arrested on 22 December 2010 by a group of armed men in camouflage uniforms affiliated with the Russian security services, after being stopped by the traffic police in the vicinity of the Chermenskiy Krug checkpoint in Novoe Selo;

(d) Rustam Aliyev, allegedly abducted on 7 July 2003 by masked individuals associated with the Russian security services in a raid on his family home in Belgatoy.

### **Information from the Government**

90. On 13 May 2021, the Government transmitted information concerning two cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

91. On 20 May 2021, the Government of Germany provided information on the case of Numagomed Mamuev, which had already been clarified by the source.

### **Clarification based on information from sources**

92. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Numagomed Mamuev, who is reportedly at liberty.

### **Information from sources**

93. Sources provided updated information on seven outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

### **Joint allegation letter**

94. On 19 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the role of Russian private military and security personnel in the Central African Republic. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

## **Observation**

95. The Working Group reminds the Russian authorities that acts constituting enforced disappearance shall be considered continuing offences as long as the perpetrators continue to conceal the fate and the whereabouts of persons who have disappeared and the facts remain unclarified. In that context, the Working Group reiterates its previous requests for information on mechanisms with jurisdiction to search for the disappeared or their remains at both the federal and regional levels, particularly in the North Caucasus.

## **Saudi Arabia**

### **Urgent procedure**

96. Under its urgent procedure, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government concerning Samir Sfeir, a national of Lebanon arrested on 19 April 2021 by Saudi security agents.

### **Clarification based on information from sources**

97. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Abdulrahman al-Sadhan, who is currently in detention. The Working Group notes with grave concern the long period of enforced disappearance and incommunicado detention to which Mr. Al-Sadhan was subjected between October 2019 and March 2021. The Working Group reiterates its request to the Government of Saudi Arabia to conduct an investigation into his enforced disappearance and afford him an appropriate remedy and reparation.

### **Information from sources**

98. Sources provided updated information on three outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

### **Joint urgent appeal**

99. On 19 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning Osama Talal Abbas al-Mahruqi, a dual national of Australia and Saudi Arabia, reportedly extradited from Morocco to Saudi Arabia, despite the provisional measures ordered by the Committee against Torture due to the potential risk of torture and other ill-treatment. Since his extradition on 13 March 2021, there has been no information on Mr. Al-Mahruqi's fate or whereabouts.

## **Sri Lanka**

### **Standard procedure**

100. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted 50 cases to the Government (see annex I).

### **Information from sources**

101. Sources provided updated information on two outstanding cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

### **Standard procedure**

102. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted 15 cases to the Government concerning:

- (a) Ayham al Ahmad, allegedly arrested in July 2012 by the Syrian military police at military barracks in Izra city;

(b) Hamza Musa al Maksour, allegedly arrested on 13 August 2012 by the Syrian Armed Forces at a checkpoint near Morek, while he was travelling by bus from Aleppo;

(c) Ahmet Köse, a national of Turkey, allegedly arrested on 8 November 2012 by soldiers in military uniform affiliated with the Palestine branch at a checkpoint near the Yarmouk Camp in Damascus. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group transmitted a copy of the case to the Government of Turkey;

(d) Majd Kholani, allegedly arrested on 8 August 2011 by agents associated with the Air Force intelligence in Daraya;

(e) Mohamad Kholani, allegedly arrested on 22 April 2013 by military security forces in a raid on his house in Daraya;

(f) Abdulsattar Kholani, allegedly arrested on 22 July 2011 by the Syrian Armed Forces when he was returning to Daraya after participating in a peaceful assembly;

(g) Yehya Shurbaji, allegedly arrested on 6 September 2011 by Air Force intelligence agents in a raid on his house in Damascus.;

(h) Mohamed Shurbaji, allegedly arrested on 6 September 2011 by Air Force intelligence agents in a raid on his friend's house in Daraya;

(i) A minor, allegedly arrested on 3 January 2014 by the Syrian Armed Forces in a raid on his family home in Dar'a;

(j) Osama Hosen Salim, allegedly arrested on 24 February 2013 by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine affiliated with the Syrian Armed Forces at Nisreen checkpoint nearby the Yarmouk Camp in Damascus;

(k) Hassan al Hamwi, allegedly arrested on 5 April 2015 by members of the political security branch of the Syrian Armed Forces at a checkpoint in the city of Homs;

(l) Tark Alhaj, allegedly arrested on 7 January 2013 at a warehouse in Homs by military and security services;

(m) Basel Iskaif, allegedly arrested on 5 November 2012 by the Syrian Armed Forces at his workplace in a customs clearance company in the Al Hariqa area in Damascus, following the arrest of a number of his relatives in Damascus;

(n) Khaled al Jammal, allegedly arrested on 1 July 2012 by the Syrian Armed Forces while he was passing through one of the checkpoints in Idlib city;

(o) Mahmoud al Malla, allegedly arrested on 10 May 2012 by the Syrian Armed Forces while he was receiving treatment in a hospital in Mayadin city in Dayr al-Zawr governorate.

#### **Information from sources**

103. Sources provided updated information on one outstanding case, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

#### **Observation**

104. The Working Group continues to observe with great concern that multiple members of the same family have been forcibly disappeared by the Syrian authorities or their proxies in a deliberate manner in order to sow fear and stifle dissent. Their whereabouts and fates remain unknown. The Working Group wishes to express concern about the specific vulnerability of children, as highlighted in its general comment.<sup>8</sup>

105. The Working Group requests information from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on the steps taken to search for the disappeared persons or their remains. Should their deaths be confirmed, the Working Group reiterates its request with regard to the steps taken to identify and return the remains to their relatives.

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/WGEID/98/2.



## Turkey

### Information from sources

106. Sources provided updated information on one outstanding case, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

### Information from the Government

107. On 22 April 2021, the Government transmitted information concerning seven cases, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

### Joint allegation letter

108. On 12 May 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning criminal charges brought against peaceful participants in gatherings of Saturday Mothers/People (Curmatesi Anneleri/İnsanları). Saturday Mothers/People is a group of relatives and human rights defenders who gather every Saturday at noon for half an hour on Galatasaray Square in Istanbul, holding photographs of their loved ones who were victims of enforced disappearance or political killings in the 1980s and 1990s. They demand the disclosure of the fate and whereabouts of their relatives and an end to impunity for those crimes.

### Observations

109. The Working Group reiterates its request for detailed information from the Turkish authorities on the steps taken in the context of the search for disappeared persons or their remains.

110. Concerning the case of Huseyin Galip Kucukozigit,<sup>9</sup> the Working Group requests the Government to provide information on his fate and whereabouts and ensure that an investigation into his alleged enforced disappearance is conducted independently, impartially and effectively. It also requests information on the measures implemented by the Prosecutor's Office to grant his relatives and lawyer full access to the pertinent case files.

## Uganda

### Joint allegation letter

111. On 31 March 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions and arrests, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, torture, impediments to the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression and obstacles to freedom of peaceful assembly that have been reported in the context of the 2020–2021 electoral process. The communication was followed by a press release (see annex III).

## Ukraine

### Information from sources

112. Sources provided updated information on one outstanding case, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

### Clarification

113. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify three cases concerning Andrey Slabous, Dmitriy Ruban and Oleg Nerevenko, who are reportedly deceased.

<sup>9</sup> A/HRC/WGEID/123/1, para. 146.

## **United Arab Emirates**

### **Standard procedure**

114. Under its standard procedure, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government concerning Abd al-Rahman Abdo Abu al-Ghaith Suleiman Mustafa, who was allegedly transferred from the Guantanamo Bay detention camp to the United Arab Emirates to undergo a reintegration programme. However, he was reportedly further detained in an unknown location in the United Arab Emirates and, since then, his fate and whereabouts remain unknown.

### **Joint allegation letter**

115. On 1 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance and continued incommunicado detention of Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum.

## **Uzbekistan**

### **Information from the Government**

116. On 16 March 2021, the Government transmitted information concerning one case, but the information was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

## **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**

### **Application of the six-month rule**

117. On 14 April 2021, the Government provided information on one outstanding case, to which the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule.

### **Joint allegation letter**

118. On 20 April 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention of Guillermo José Zárraga Lázaro, Antonio José Sequea Torres, Oreste Alfredo Schiavo Lavieri, Eliant Felipe Cesar Carballo and Carlos Arturo Rosario Pimentel.

## **Yemen**

### **Joint allegation letter**

119. On 10 May 2021, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning a fire at the Immigration, Passports and Naturalization Authority compound in Sana'a, controlled by Ansar Allah, which led to the deaths of at least 44 migrants held in the detention facility and injured over 200 others.

## Annex I

### Standard procedure cases

#### Pakistan

1. The Working Group transmitted 37 cases to the Government, concerning:
  - (a) A 14-year-old boy, allegedly abducted on 1 January 2016 during a search operation at his home, by members of the Pakistani Military;
  - (b) Rehmat Ullah, allegedly abducted on 24 February 2012 in Karkhano Market, Karkhanay Peshawar, Peshawar District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, by members of the Secret Services in the Pakistani Military;
  - (c) Muhammad Yasir Khan, allegedly abducted on 28 January 2018 in Khanmast Colony, Peshawar District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, by members of the Secret Services in the Pakistani Military;
  - (d) Ismail Khan, allegedly abducted on 4 March 2016 on Kandi Pul's bridge in Mardan District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, by members of the Secret Services in the Pakistani Military;
  - (e) Janan Janan, allegedly abducted on 6 October 2008 in Hazar Gangi Lorri Adda, Quetta District, Balochistan Province, by members of the Secret Services in the Pakistani Military;
  - (f) Fazal Hadi, allegedly abducted on 3 December 2015 at the Dargai Military Check Post, Malakand District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, by members of the Pakistani Military;
  - (g) Mir Shah Khan, allegedly abducted on 18 September 2019 in Caltex Station, Askar Mall Road, Rawalpindi District, Punjab Province, by members of the Secret Services in the Pakistani Military;
  - (h) Daud Khan, allegedly abducted on 1 January 2011 in Caltex Station, Askar Mall Road, Rawalpindi District, Punjab Province, by members of the Secret Services in the Pakistani Military;
  - (i) Sailab Mehsood, allegedly abducted on 30 August 2009 at the Dosli Army Check-Post, Miranshah Tehsil, North Waziristan District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, by members of the Pakistani Military;
  - (j) Irfan Ullah Khan, allegedly abducted on 10 April 2012 on Link road, Tehsil, Bannu District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, by members of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) or the Military Intelligence (MI);
  - (k) Shoaib Lal Mohammad, allegedly abducted on 24 May 2013 while he was travelling from Goburd to Gayab, and was crossing the Manding River, by members of the Frontier Corps;
  - (l) Ullah Hafeez, allegedly abducted on 13 October 2020 while he was at the Military Check Post in Tochi Bridge, Baka Khel Wazir, Post Office Baka Khel, District Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Military;
  - (m) Abdul Wahid, allegedly abducted on 10 June 2020 in District Tank, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Military Secret Services;
  - (n) Abdur Rehman, allegedly abducted on 3 May 2014, while he was in Bannu road, near the Police Station Saddar, in District Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Military Secret Services;
  - (o) Muhammad Ibrar Ali Khan, allegedly abducted on 15 May 2014 from his home in Majid Abad Post Office, Zafar Abad Colony, District Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Military;

- (p) Muhammad Noor Syed, allegedly abducted on 16 February 2019, in District Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Military Secret Services.
- (q) Hafiz Ullah, allegedly abducted on 25 September 2005 from his home in Basti Sargani, Tehsil Krorh, District Layya, Punjab, by members of the Pakistan Military Secret Services;
- (r) Habib Ur Rehman, allegedly abducted on 8 February 2016, from his home at Village Terhi, Kulachi, District Derra Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI) or the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI);
- (s) Ayub Muhammad, allegedly abducted on 27 May 2014, from District Hangu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan by the Pakistani Military;
- (t) Haseeb Ahmad, allegedly abducted on 18 June 2013, from Mc Plaza Bekatganng, District Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI) or the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) along with members of an Anti-terrorism Squad in civil clothing;
- (u) Kaleem Ullah, allegedly abducted on 11 May 2013, from Sheen Talab, Chaman, District Qila Abdullah, Balochistan, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI) or the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI);
- (v) Iqbal Muhammad, allegedly abducted on 26 February 2009, from Abdullah Shah Ghazi Shrine, at Clifton, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan by the Pakistani Military Secret Services;
- (w) Ameer Bakhsh, allegedly abducted on 4 August 2014 from his home in Ambi Daak, Kulanch Belaar, district Gwadar, by members of the Frontier Corps and Inter Service Intelligence;
- (x) Farid Ullah, allegedly abducted on 24 December 2019 in Bannu Township, District Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Armed Forces;
- (y) Abdul Aziz, allegedly abducted on 19 October 2009, in Peshawar Airport, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Armed Forces;
- (z) Ashgar Khan, allegedly abducted on 10 October 2010, in Haisura, Shin Ghwandai, District South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Armed Forces;
- (aa) Bakhan Ullah, allegedly abducted on 27 June 2014, while he was at the Kajuri Military Check Post, Mir Ali, District North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistan Armed Forces;
- (bb) Wali Zaman, allegedly abducted on 13 April 2009 at 11 p.m., while he was travelling between Hangu and Kohat, by members of the Pakistan Military Secret Services;
- (cc) Yasir Yasir, allegedly abducted on 14 July 2017 at Sherin Jinah Colocy, Clifton, Karachi, Sindh, by members of the Pakistani Military Secret Services;
- (dd) Zardali Khan, allegedly abducted on 22 January 2020 at Baraner Dam, District of Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, by members of the Pakistani Military Secret Services;
- (ee) Muhammad Lateef, allegedly abducted on 11 September 2009, in a house at Bara Kahu Col., Aman Ullah Road, Islamabad, by members of the Pakistani Military Secret Services;
- (ff) Azeem Movia, allegedly abducted on 11 September 2009, in a house at Bara Kahu Col., Aman Ullah Road, Islamabad, by members of the Pakistani Military Secret Services;
- (gg) Shair Ali Khan, allegedly abducted from Dili gate Multan by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA);

(hh) Khalid Haider, allegedly abducted on 25 September 2019, from Chaman border by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA);

(ii) Osama Khalid, allegedly abducted on 25 September 2019, from Chaman border by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA);

(jj) Ashraf Khalid, allegedly abducted on 20 December 2017, while he was on his way from Karachi to Islamabad by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA);

(kk) Mir Taj Muhammad Sarparah, allegedly abducted on 19 July 2020, while on his way to Karachi Airport in Baloch Colony, Karachi, by agents of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

## Sri Lanka

2. The Working Group transmitted 50 cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) Navajeevan Navaratnam, allegedly abducted on 18 January 2007, from his home in Katchilaimadu in Oddusuddan in the Mullaithivu District, by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and last seen on 30 May 2009 at the Omanthai School, which was entirely under the control of the Sri Lankan authorities;

(b) Krishayini Rasu, allegedly abducted in February 2009, while she was at her residence in Kankambigaikulam, Kilinochchi District, by members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and last seen on 26 April 2009 at MulliVaiykal, Mullaithivu District, which was under the control of the Sri Lanka Army;

(c) A 17-year-old girl, allegedly abducted on 14 May 2009, at the Omanthai Military Check Post, Vavuniya District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;

(d) Keeshan Richard Amalathas, allegedly disappeared on 20 March 2009 in Mathalan, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province. It is believed that members of the Sri Lankan Army are responsible for his disappearance;

(e) Murukananthan Murugesu, allegedly disappeared on 7 July 2008 at Vellankuman near the Mullaitivu sea, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province Sri Lanka. It is believed that members of the Sri Lankan Army are responsible for his disappearance;

(f) Karunakaran Ganeshan, allegedly disappeared on 4 February 2009 in Suthanthirapuram, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, Sri Lanka. It is believed that members of the Sri Lankan Army are responsible for his disappearance;

(g) Senthoran Ramamoorthy, allegedly abducted on 27 April 2009 while he was in Mullivaikkal, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;

(h) Mohanathas Sinniah, allegedly abducted on 16 May 2009 in Mullivaikkal Village, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;

(i) Vijekanth Shanmugam, allegedly arrested on 1 February 2009 in Piranmanthanaru Village, Chundikulam City, Kilinochchi District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;

(j) Selvanayagam Kandiah, allegedly abducted on 16 May 2009 in Maaththalan, Mullaitivu City, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army (SLA);

(k) Kaantharuban Kantharasa, allegedly abducted on 21 April 2009 in the zone of Maaththalan, Mullaitivu City, Northern Province, Sri Lanka, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;

- (l) Wijayaraj Theiventhiram, allegedly arrested on 1 April 2009 in Ananthapuram City, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lanka Army;
- (m) Manoharan Thirunamam, allegedly abducted on 15 August 2007 near the Jaffna Hospital in Jaffna City, Jaffna District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;
- (n) Arulan Suntharalingam, allegedly disappeared on 3 May 2009 in the zone of Iraddaivaikkal, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province. It is alleged that the Sri Lankan Army is responsible for his disappearance;
- (o) Thasikumar Kurukularajah, allegedly abducted on 16 October 2008 in Vallipunam, Puthukkudiyiruppu City, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;
- (p) Nageswaran Nadesu, allegedly arrested on 24 April 2009 in the zone of Maaththalan, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;
- (q) Bhakirathan Ponnuthurai, allegedly disappeared on 7 April 2009, in Pokkanai, Jaffna District, Northern Province. It is alleged that the Sri Lankan Army is responsible for his disappearance;
- (r) Yogasuntharam Thevarasa, allegedly disappeared on 14 January 2009 in the zone of Suthanthirapuram, Puthukkudiyiruppu City, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, after surrendering himself to the Sri Lanka Army.
- (s) Pirashanthan Ramalingham, allegedly disappeared on 25 April 2009 in the zone of Mullivaikkal, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province. It is alleged that the Sri Lankan Army is responsible for his disappearance;
- (t) Sujeeban Kanthasamy, allegedly disappeared on 15 May 2009 in the zone of Mullivaikkal, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province. It is alleged that members of the Sri Lankan Army are responsible for his disappearance;
- (u) Jeevamahan Kumarasamy, allegedly abducted on 2 January 2009, in the zone of Maaththalan, Mullaitivu City, Mullaitivu District, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;
- (v) A 16-year-old girl, disappeared on 17 March 2009 in Maththalan, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu district, Northern Province, Sri Lanka, after having fled into the army-controlled area at the end of the war;
- (w) Jhanesh Thavaranjah, allegedly abducted on 29 March 2009 from Maththalan, Mullaitivu District, Sri Lanka, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;
- (x) Sivajini Balachandran, allegedly abducted on 21 February 2009, from Valaignar Madam, Mullaitivu District, Sri Lanka, by members of the Sri Lankan Army;
- (y) Rirakash Sivarajah, allegedly abducted on 23 April 2009 near Kaali Kovil, Mullivaikkal, Mullaitivu District, Sri Lanka by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (z) Kamaleswaran Uthayaruban, allegedly abducted on 26 June 2008 in Pallamadu, Mannar District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (aa) A 16-year-old girl, allegedly abducted on 20 March 2009, from Valaignar Madam, Puthukkudiyiruppu, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (bb) A 13-year-old boy, allegedly abducted on 27 March 2009 in Ananthapuram, Mullaitivu District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (cc) Shanmugan Sureshkumar, allegedly abducted on 17 May 2009 in Vaddauvakal, Mullaitivu District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (dd) Anishton Ilankeswaran, allegedly abducted on 14 August 2008 in Kilinochchi, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (ee) Sivapathasuntharam Rajeen, allegedly disappeared on 20 April 2009 from Maaththalan, Mullaitivu. It is believed that he was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;

- (ff) Chandrasekaram Mohan, allegedly disappeared on 18 November 2006 in Kathlaveli, Batticaloa District. It is believed that he was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (gg) Ramu Kuganeswaran, allegedly disappeared on 29 January 2009 in Suthanthirapuram, Mullaitivu. It is believed that he was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (hh) Muthulingam Kabilan, allegedly disappeared on 14 January 2009, while travelling from Kanagambikaikulam to Bharathipuram, in Kilinochchi district. It is believed that he was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (ii) Yogeswaran Juganthan, allegedly disappeared on 15 December 2008 in Kandawalai, Kilinochi District. It is believed that he was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (jj) Shanmugarajah Sukirthan, allegedly disappeared on 21 February 2009 in the Military controlled area in Mullivaikal, Mullaitivu District. It is believed that he was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (kk) A 16-year-old girl, allegedly abducted on 21 April 2009 in Maththalan, Puthukkudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (ll) Sinniah Prashanthan, allegedly disappeared on 19 April 2009, while fleeing military attacks in Maththalan, Puthukkudiyiruppu, in Mullaitivu District. It is believed that he was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (mm) Yogarajah Amalan, allegedly abducted on 2 March 2009 in Anandapuram, Mullaitivu District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (nn) Veeran Mohanadevi, allegedly disappeared on 9 February 2009 in Kepapilavu, Mullaitivu District. It is believed that she was abducted by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (oo) Edward Ruban, allegedly abducted on 23 December 2008 at the Omanthai Check Post, in the Vavuniya District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (pp) Ledchumanan Sivakumar, allegedly abducted on 28 April 2021, in the Pokkanai area, Mullaitivu District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (qq) James Jeyamathy, allegedly abducted on 15 March 2009 in Maththalan, in Puthukkudiyiruppu, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (rr) Thangavelu Theepa, allegedly abducted on 21 March 2009 in the army dominating area at Pokkanai, Mullaitivu, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (ss) Rasaratnam Kugathanan, allegedly abducted on 29 April 2009 at Mullivaikkal, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (tt) Rajaratnam Sritharan, allegedly abducted on 5 April 2009 in Valaignarmadam, Mullaitivu District, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (uu) Thamotheeram Sujenthiran, allegedly disappeared on 1 March 2009, in the army dominating area at Pokkanai, Mullaitivu, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (vv) Thevarajah Thayaparan, allegedly abducted on 26 February 2009 in the army dominating area at Pokkanai, Mullaitivu, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (ww) Jacob Yogarajah Shanthakumar, allegedly abducted on 25 September 2007 at Thampanai village in Mullikulam, Mannar, by the Sri Lankan Army;
- (xx) Thirugnanasampanthamoorthy Thavakumar, allegedly abducted on 22 April 2009 at Puthukkudiyiruppu in the Maththalan district, by the Sri Lankan Army.

## Annex II

### General allegation

#### Nepal

1. The Working Group received information from credible sources alleging difficulties encountered in Nepal in implementing the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The general allegation mainly focuses on alleged loopholes in the domestic legislation to address the enforced disappearances perpetrated by State forces that occurred in Nepal throughout the 1996–2006 civil war.

2. Nepal underwent a civil war from 1996 to 2006, during which gross human rights violations were reported to be committed on a widespread and systematic scale by all parties involved, including extrajudicial killings, sexual violence and torture. In particular, the widespread practice of enforced disappearances of persons taken in control or arrested by the State forces was documented.

3. Although the conflict ended in 2006, to date the Nepalese authorities have been allegedly unable or unwilling to make substantial progress in dealing with the related gross human rights violations, including the enforced disappearances that occurred during the conflict. The conflict ended formally on 21 November 2006 with the signing of a Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA), which included a provision on the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There was also a constitutional provision and an order of the Supreme Court in 2007, directing the government to form an independent commission to investigate on and elucidate the fate and whereabouts of disappeared persons, and to prosecute those responsible. However, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission was only established by the government on 10 February 2015.

4. The Parliament of Nepal, on 21 April 2014, adopted the Enforced Disappearances Inquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act (“TRC Act”), subsequently establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (“TRC”) and the Commission on the Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons (“CIEDP”) in 2015. However, the Supreme Court of Nepal deemed several provisions of the TRC Act to be unconstitutional and in conflict with international standards. The Supreme Court expressed its concern regarding, amongst others, the provisions that would allow amnesties for crimes under international law and gross human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, and the lack of adequate guarantees of the independence and impartiality of the two commissions. Subsequently, the Supreme Court ordered the amendment of the TRC Act. The Government of Nepal then filed a petition in the Supreme Court to review its decision, but it was rejected by the Court on 27 April 2020. Nevertheless, the TRS Act has not yet been amended, remaining, thus, at odds with the international standards, and inadequate to address the gross human rights violations occurred during the conflict, including enforced disappearances.

5. Initially, both commissions were entrusted with a 2-year mandate to receive and examine complaints on the gross human rights violations perpetrated during the conflict, bring about reconciliation, and to recommend legal action and reparation. The Government of Nepal has renewed both commissions’ 2-year mandate three times in order to complete the remaining work: on 9 February 2017 for one year, on 6 February 2018 for one additional year and on 8 February 2019 for a third time.

6. According to sources, the last extension came amidst the growing frustration and discomfort among victims vis-à-vis the incapacity to deliver of the two commissions. The victims and civil society organizations for a long time have been flagging that extending the mandate of the commissions without an amendment of the laws was meaningless. According to the information received, the TRC and the CIEDP have fallen short of international standards, both in constitution and operation, despite repeated orders by the Supreme Court. Moreover, when a draft to amend the TRC Act was presented by the Nepal Government, it was reportedly insufficient, and it seemed to weaken even further the transitional justice process and be at odds with international human rights standards.



7. On 25 March 2019, the government reportedly formed a recommendation committee to appoint new commissioners, who were only officially nominated on 18 January 2020. According to sources, it is alleged that the appointments were politically influenced, and that they disregarded the victims' sentiments, the opinions of the national stakeholders, and the concerns expressed by the international community, including those in a joint communication sent to the Government of Nepal by the Working Group, together with a group of Special Procedures mandate holders, on 12 April 2019.

8. In February 2020, the CIEDP announced to have performed detailed investigations into 2000 cases. However, the Commission would have merely called the families of the disappeared persons to verify a second time the facts in their initial complaints, rather than for other enquiries.

9. According to the information received, victims' groups and civil society organizations are still demanding the amendment of the TRC Act to bring it in compliance with international law. However, and despite its public commitment, the government has not taken any concrete steps to amend it. The government claims to be working on the amendment, but the preparatory work is reportedly not transparent. Victims' groups are called for consultations at the last minute, with a limited number of stakeholders being convened and without adequate preparation. The government's call for consultations to amend the TRC Act (conducted on 13 January 2020) was reportedly denounced by various victims' groups for these reasons.

10. On 4 February 2021, the government extended for an additional six months the mandate of the two commissions. The information received underscores, however, the ineffectiveness and the lack of independence of the commissions during the past six years, and the unlikelihood that they will efficiently contribute to expose the truth, guarantee access to justice and provide reparation to the victims, especially in the absence of a reform of the applicable legal framework and without ensuring a truly transparent and participative process. The sources argue that the mere extension of the mandate of transitional justice mechanisms "and in particular the CIEDP" without a genuine reform of the applicable legal framework and without ensuring a truly transparent and participative process, may hinder the victims' rights and does not fulfil Nepal's international human rights obligations.

11. The Working Group also received information on how the socioeconomic situation of the relatives of the disappeared, and particularly women, has been affected. Officially determining the status of their loved ones is a step that most relatives must undertake in order to resolve a wide range of administrative issues arising from the enforced disappearance. Those may include regulating the status of marriage for the remaining spouse, implementing rights to inheritance, and dealing with management of property.

12. According to the information received, in the absence of a legal framework providing for situations of absence due to enforced disappearance, the sole provisions available are found in laws regulating the presumption and the recording of death, in particular, the Evidence Act of 2031 (1974) and the Birth, Death and Other Personal Event Registration Act of 2033 (1976). In accordance with these pieces of legislation, after 12 years during which a person has not been heard of, the burden of proving that the person is alive transfers to the person making the claim. The sources claim that, de facto, Section 32 of the Evidence Act has been interpreted as establishing the presumption of death after 12 years of absence.

13. The Working Group was also informed that "absence due to enforced disappearance" is not included among the personal events that can be officially registered by relatives under the Birth, Death and Other Personal Events (Registration) Act, 1976. Consequently, families of the disappeared have no choice but to request the provision of a death certificate upon the delivery of false information to the register concerning the supposed death of the disappeared. It is also reported that on 28 January 2021, the CIEDP started distributing identity cards to the relatives of the disappeared persons during the conflict. Nevertheless, the identity cards reportedly do not recognize the enforced disappearance nor the legal status of the victim and do not contain the name of the disappeared person.

14. As regards the criminalization of enforced disappearance, on 17 August 2018, the National Penal Code came into effect. Chapter 16 of the Code, based on the recommendations of national and international bodies, criminalizes enforced disappearance as a separate

autonomous crime. However, the rules contained in it, reportedly do not fully comply with international standards. Moreover, the application of the Code allegedly does not include the enforced disappearances that took place during the conflict.

15. It is also alleged that the following elements are in conflict with relevant international human rights standards:

(a) The definition of enforced disappearance, which refers to persons reported “missing” and not necessarily subjected to “enforced disappearances”, diluting the criminal scope of the provision (Section 206);

(b) The restriction of the potential perpetrators to “persons of security personnel having authority by law to make arrest, investigation or enforcement of law”, excluding various state agents who may be formally given different attributes, as well as persons or groups of persons acting with the tolerance, support or acquiescence of state agents (Section 206 (2) (a));

(c) The superior command responsibility in cases of enforced disappearances (Section 207(5));

(d) The sanctions envisaged for enforced disappearances, which consist of a maximum of 15 years and a fine up to 500.000 Nepalese Rupees, which reportedly not only fails to establish a minimum sentence for the offender, but also is not proportionate with the gravity of the crime (Section 206(7));

(e) The notion of reparation for victims of enforced disappearance, which provides that the disappeared is only entitled to a pecuniary compensation (indeterminate amount) from the perpetrator and does not recognize the relatives of the disappeared as victims (Section 208);

(f) The statute of limitations for criminal proceedings on enforced disappearance, which states that “no complaint may be taken into consideration after the expiry of six months from the date on which knowledge of the commission of the offence was obtained or from the date on which the missing person was found or made public” (Section 210);

(g) The failure to codify enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity when committed in the context of systematic attacks against any civilian population.

16. The Working Group would be grateful for your Excellency’s Government cooperation and observations on the following questions:

(a) Whether the facts reported in the allegation are accurate. If not, what are the true facts?

(b) What are the measures that your Excellency’s Government has taken, or intends to take, to bring Nepal’s legislation in conformity with international norms and standards, in particular in relation to the amendments to the TRC Act?

(c) Please indicate if and how the provisions of the National Penal Code criminalizing enforced disappearances recognize the continuous nature of the crime, allowing the prosecution of perpetrators who committed enforced disappearances during the conflict;

(d) What are the measures that your Excellency’s Government has taken or intends to take to enhance the effectiveness and implementation of the mandate and functions of the TRC and CIEDP Commissions?

(e) Please provide information on any measures that your Excellency’s Government has taken, or intends to take, to ensure the effective participation of victims in the design and implementation of transitional justice processes.

17. The Working Group requests your Excellency’s Government to provide a response to the above questions within sixty days.

## Annex III

### Press releases and statements

1. On 26 February 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on the Myanmar military to immediately end the violent crackdown on countrywide peaceful protests against its coup and allow free expression.<sup>1</sup>
2. On 3 March 2021, the Working Group, endorsed a press release issues by a group of special procedure mechanisms, urging Nigeria to prioritise specialised rehabilitation measures for hundreds of abducted children left deeply traumatised after their release, and to strengthen protection measures for those at risk.<sup>2</sup>
3. On 18 March 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on the Government of Comoros to immediately reveal the fate and whereabouts of Mr. Inssa Mohamed, better known as Bobocha, and demonstrate full commitment to international law.<sup>3</sup>
4. On 26 March 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release expressing alarm at the killing in Iraq of Mr. Jasib Hattab Abboud Al Heliji, father of human rights defender Mr. Ali Jasib Hattab Al Heliji, who remains forcibly disappeared.<sup>4</sup>
5. On 31 March 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release expressing alarm at the increased recruitment and use of private military and foreign security contractors by the Government of Central African Republic, and their close contacts with UN peacekeepers.<sup>5</sup>
6. On 13 April 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on the Government of Uganda to immediately stop the brutal crackdown on its political opponents which began in the lead-up to January's disputed general elections and continues to suppress opposition supporters.<sup>6</sup>
7. On 13 April 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on the governments of Tanzania and Burundi to respect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers who have fled Burundi, deploring reports of enforced disappearances, torture, forced returns and repression.<sup>7</sup>
8. On 20 April 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on the Government of the United Arab Emirates to provide meaningful information on the fate of Sheikha Latifa Mohammed Al Maktoum, as well as assurances of her safety and well-being.<sup>8</sup>
9. On 27 April 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release expressing serious concern for the independence of Nepal's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) after the appointment of new members that they regard as being inconsistent with international standards.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26808&LangID=E>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26830&LangID=E>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26912&LangID=E>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26951&LangID=E>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26961&LangID=E>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26988&LangID=E>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26990&LangID=E>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26990&LangID=E>.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27026&LangID=E>.



10. On 14 May 2021, the Working Group, together with other special procedure and OAS human rights experts, issued a press release condemning the violent crackdown on peaceful protests in Colombia, and calling on the Government to conduct a thorough and independent investigation into the reported killings, sexual violence, allegations of torture, and cases of alleged arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27093&LangID=E>.

## Annex IV

### Other activities

1. On 21 February 2021, Benrard Duhaime provided a specialized training on the judicial handling of transitional justice cases, organized by UNDP and the Ministry of Justice of Tunisia, and focusing on the contributions of the Working Group to transitional justice and criminal investigation standards.
2. On 24 March 2021, Bernard Duhaime participated in the conference “Truth and Justice First: Syrian victims and survivors demand action to realise their common vision”, organized by Impunity Watch and PAX, in Brussels Belgium, with an intervention focusing on principles to consider in the establishment of a future international mechanism on disappearances and the missing in Syria.
3. On 4 March 2021, Luciano Hazan participated in the dialogue “Reforma de la Fiscalía General de la República, visión de expertos y expertas internacionales”, organized by the *Consejo Nacional Ciudadano* of the National Search Commission of Mexico.
4. On 9 March 2021, Aua Balde participated in the International Policy Roundtable on Enforced Disappearances in Libya, organized by Lawyers for Justice in Libya.
5. On 12 March 2021, Luciano Hazan participated in the panel “The practice of enforced disappearances: new challenges”, in the context of the International Conference to recognize the 40th anniversary of Fedefam.
6. On 19 April 2021, Luciano Hazan delivered a conference on the “Universal mechanisms for the protection against enforced disappearances”, organized by AIDEF, the Interamerican Association of Public Defender Offices.
7. On 3 May 2021, Luciano Hazan participated in a panel on “Declaration of absence for enforced disappearances. Its emergence and implementation in Latin America”, organized by the *Instituto Mexicano de Derechos Humanos y Democracia*.
8. On 6 May 2021, Luciano Hazan participated in the presentation of the report “Informe desaparición forzada desde el exilio seguimos buscando”, organized by *Grupo Europa de Familiares de Personas Desaparecidas Forzadamente en Colombia*.
9. On 7 May 2021, Luciano Hazan participated in the panel “International standards for building state policies on enforced disappearances”, in the context of the National Day Against Institutional Violence, organized by the Human Rights Secretary of Argentina.
10. On 8 May 2021, Luciano Hazan participated in the panel “Determining the Fate of the Disappeared and Investigating Perpetrators”, in the International Conference Prohibition, Prosecution and Prevention of Enforced Disappearances, organized by the International Nuremberg Principles Academy and the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg.
11. On 13 May 2021, Luciano Hazan presented the Working Group’s thematic report on Standards and Public Policy for an Effective Investigation of Enforced Disappearance in a meeting with state and federal prosecutors specialized on enforced disappearances in Mexico.
12. On 14 May 2021, Luciano Hazan and Bernard Duhaime participated in the “Conference for Truth and Justice. 10 years since the discovery of 48 clandestine graves in San Fernando, Tamaulipas (Mexico)”, organized by *Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado de Derecho*.