

**Enforced disappearances:**

**Balance of the 19th session of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances**

**as of 25 September 2020**

**and online dialogue with Iraq on 5 and 7 October 2020**

GENEVA (1 October 2020)

1. **Welcome to the Newsletter of the** [**UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances**](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/CEDIndex.aspx) **(CED).**

You are receiving this newsletter because you have, at least on one occasion, interacted with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). This newsletter has two aims: (i) to strengthen the links and interaction of the Committee with victims, civil society organizations, experts, State authorities and other stakeholders, and (ii) to inform about the Committee’s work and the way to contribute to it. It reflects information about the activities of CED, its sessions and the decisions and recommendations adopted in that context, and about all relevant developments related to the Committee’s work. In order to facilitate accessibility, recent statements and decisions will be linked directly in the newsletter (please click on the underlined words).

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know sending an email to [ced@ohchr.org](mailto:ced@ohchr.org), and we will proceed accordingly.

In case of interest, do not hesitate to share this newsletter with your respective networks.

1. **Short presentation of the Committee and the Convention**

The year 2020 marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force, on 23 December 2010, of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ([ICPPED](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CED/Pages/ConventionCED.aspx)). The Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) is the body of independent experts which monitors the implementation of the Convention by the States parties.

To this end, the CED examines the reports submitted by States parties on the measures they have taken to implement their conventional obligations. The CED can also receive individual complaints, inter-State communications and urgent actions. For further information on urgent actions, please consult [this leaflet](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CED/CED_leaflet_A4_EN.pdf).

1. **Balance of the 19th session as of 25 September 2020**

In view of the precautionary measures adopted to face the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee has hold its [19th session online](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2420&Lang=en). The public meetings of the Committee have been webcast on UNTV. The videos of the [opening statement](http://webtv.un.org/live-now/watch/opening-of-session-2471st-meeting-19th-session-committee-on-enforced-disappearances/6188513253001/?term=), as well as the [2481st Meeting](http://webtv.un.org/search/consideration-of-iraq-2481st-meeting-19th-session-committee-on-enforced-disappearances/6190610991001/?term=Committee%20on%20Enforced%20Disappearances&sort=date&page=4) can still be viewed online.

During the 19th Session, the Committee adopted lists of issues (LOIs) in relation to the reports of: [Greece](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CED/Shared%20Documents/GRC/CED_C_GRC_Q_1_43398_E.pdf), the [Czech Republic](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CED%2fC%2fCZE%2fQ%2f1&Lang=en), and [Niger](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CED%2fC%2fNER%2fQ%2f1&Lang=en), and a list of issues in the absence of a report was adopted for [Mali](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CED%2fC%2fMLI%2fQAR%2f1&Lang=en).

Due to the limitations imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the review of the initial reports of Mongolia and Switzerland, and of the additional information submitted by Colombia had to be postponed. The Committee however maintained its dialogue on the additional information submitted by Iraq (see further information below), and adopted its report [on follow-up to Concluding Observations](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CED%2fC%2f19%2f4&Lang=en)

The Committee also examined an individual complaint submitted under article 31 of the Convention, and adopted its report on Urgent Actions. These documents can be consulted at the following link: <https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2420&Lang=en>

On 18 September, the CED and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances adopted joint [Key Guidelines on Enforced Disappearances in the context of COVID 19](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CED/Guidelines_COVID-19_Enforced_Disappearance.pdf)

On the occasion of their respective anniversaries, the Working Group and the Committee also hold joint public webinars on the search for disappeared persons and the investigation of their disappearances ([Part I](http://webtv.un.org/watch/joint-event-with-the-wgeid-search-and-investigation-of-enforced-or-involuntary-disappearances-part-i-2495th-meeting-19th-session-committee-on-enforced-disappearances/6193812356001/)), and on the way to tackle impunity for cases of enforced disappearance and promote victim centred approaches ([Part II](http://webtv.un.org/watch/joint-event-with-the-wgeid-search-and-investigation-of-enforced-or-involuntary-disappearances-part-ii-2498th-meeting-19th-session-committee-on-enforced-disappearances/6194562832001/?term=)). These events are available online. They counted with the participation of speakers from States (Argentina, France, Japan and Morocco), experts and ex-members of the two mechanisms, regional mechanisms (IAHRC and ACHPR), and with victims and representatives of NGOs and NHRIs that support them.

The 19th session was suspended on 25th September 2020 and will be resumed on 5 October 2020 for the Committee’s dialogue with Iraq.

1. **Dialogue with Iraq**

The Committee will hold its interactive dialogue on the additional information submitted by Iraq in compliance with article 29(4) of the Convention. The dialogue will take place online on 5 October from 12:30 to 2:30 pm Geneva time, continuing on 7 October from 4 to 6 pm. It will be publicly accessible on [UN Web TV](http://webtv.un.org/) in English and Arabic.

Iraq ratified the [International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/ced/pages/conventionced.aspx) (ICPPED) in 2010. The Committee examined Iraq’s first [report](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CED%2fC%2fIRQ%2f1&Lang=en) in 2015 and issued a set of [recommendations](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CED%2fC%2fIRQ%2fCO%2f1&Lang=en) for the State party. In the upcoming dialogue, the Committee will discuss with Iraq the implementation of its obligations under the Convention. Specific subjects include the evolution of Iraq’s strategies to prevent enforced disappearances, the search for disappeared persons and the investigation of alleged enforced disappearances.

Details of the upcoming dialogue, including information submitted by Iraq, are available [online](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2420&Lang=en). Information about the adopted concluding observations will be shared through this newsletter.

1. **Preparation of the Committee’s 20th session**

The 20th session of the Committee is planned from 12 to 23 April 2021. Information about the programme of work will be sent through this newsletter shortly.

***Learn more with our animations on the***[***Treaty Body system***](https://youtu.be/2zpjb6ht0EA)***and on the***[***Committee on Enforced Disappearances***](https://youtu.be/soFJNEj0vhw)***!***

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