

Committee on Enforced Disappearances

Newsletter n°23 – August 2023

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances



30 August: **International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances.**

To draw attention to the brutal fate of the disappeared individuals and the consequences of their disappearances on their loved ones. The Committee reaffirms its solidarity with all the victims of enforced disappearances.

The Committee recalls that the protection and promotion of the rights of the victims of enforced disappearances are priority and reiterates its full commitment to support all disappeared individuals and any person who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance.

On August 29th, **the Committee, the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances, the Interamerican Commission on Human Rights, the Chairperson of the Working Group on Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Representative of Indonesia and Malaysia to the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights**, released a joint statement urging all States to provide effective access to justice for victims of enforced disappearance. They warned that ensuring adequate access to justice and proper accountability of perpetrators at all levels is critical to convey a strong message that enforced disappearance is not permitted or tolerated under any circumstance. Read the full statement [here](#).

If you would like to find out more about Enforced Disappearances, do not miss the 25th Session of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. You can access all public meetings live via the [UN TV](#) website.

New Developments

The fight against enforced disappearances remains an ongoing priority. Each positive development must be underlined. In this way, the Committee welcomes [Maldives' ratification](#) of the Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearances in order to fight this heinous crime.

As of 30 August 2023, there are 72 State parties to the Convention.

25th Session



The Committee on Enforced Disappearances will hold its 25th session from 11 to 29 September 2023 in Geneva. It will review the first reports of [Mauritania](#) and [Nigeria](#), the report on additional information of the [Netherlands](#), and the [report on additional information and follow-up to the visit report](#) of Mexico.

All dialogues will be held in person, in public meetings. You can follow them online at [UN TV](#).

As indicated on the [webpage of the session](#), the agenda includes the following activities (Geneva time):

Public Meetings

1. Opening of the Session and Space of Tribute for victims of enforced disappearance

Monday, 11th September, 10-11am

This session, for the Space of Tribute for victims of enforced disappearances, we will have the honour of listening to the testimony of a victim from Sudan, whose brother has been disappeared since May 2023.

2. Examination of first reports (article 29(1) of the Convention)

- **Dialogue with Mauritania**

Part 1: Monday 11 September, 3-6pm

Part 2: Tuesday 12 September, 10am-1pm

- **Dialogue with Nigeria**

Part 1: Monday 18 September, 10am-1pm

Part 2: Tuesday 19 September, 10am-1pm

3. Examination of the reports on Additional Information (article 29(4) of the Convention)

- **Dialogue with Mexico** (report on additional information and follow-up to the visit report, art. 33)

Part 1: Wednesday 13 September, 3-6pm

- Priority issues to be addressed: National policy for the prevention and eradication of enforced disappearances; Investigation and justice.

Part 2: Thursday 14 September, 3-6pm

- Priority issues to be addressed: Effective search and coordination; Identification and restitution.

- **Dialogue with the Netherlands** (report on additional information)

Friday 15 September, 10am-1pm

- Priority issues to be addressed: Harmonization of national legislation with the Convention; Prosecution, investigation and cooperation in relation to enforced disappearances; Prevention of enforced disappearance.

4. Annual meetings with stakeholders

Note: Interpretation for these meetings will be provided only for English, French and Spanish

- **Meeting with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)**

Tuesday, 26 September, 3-4.30pm, Palais Des Nations (Room XXIII)

Issues to be addressed: Joint project of CED and the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances (WGEID) on the notion of “short term enforced disappearance”; NHRIs projects related to enforced disappearance, and strengthening of the cooperation between NHRIs and the Committee.

To register, please follow the instructions below.

- **Meeting with States**

Wednesday, 27 September, 10am – 12:00, Palais Des Nations (Room XXIII)

Issues to be addressed: Joint project of CED and the WGEID on the notion of “short term enforced disappearance”; 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights : monthly spotlight on access to justice for victims of enforced disappearances and push for pledges.

To register, please follow the instructions below.

- **Meeting with civil society actors and intergovernmental organizations**

Wednesday, 27 September, 3 – 5pm, Palais Des Nations (Room XXIII)

Issues to be addressed: Joint project of CED and the WGEID on the notion of “short term enforced disappearance”; 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: monthly spotlight on access to justice for victims of enforced disappearances and push for pledges.

To register please follow the instructions below

Please note that each intervention will have a duration of 3 to 5 minutes. The order and duration of interventions will be confirmed shortly before the respective meetings to all those who have expressed their interest to take part.

How to register to participate in the annual meetings

All partners who are interested to take part to the annual meetings **must register on Indico** at the following link [CED - 25th session: Registration - Indico \(un.org\)](#) AND send an email to the CED Secretariat at the following email address: ohchr-ced@un.org

In your email, please kindly communicate:

- The name of the person(s) who will attend the meeting
- The State, institution or organisation represented (if any)
- Issues that you wish to address
- Contact details

Additional information can be found in the [Information note for Victims, CSOs, and NHRIs](#) for the 25th session.

5. Events

First anniversary of the joint statement on illegal intercountry adoptions (20 September 2023)

In September 2022, a [joint statement on illegal intercountry adoptions](#) was adopted by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteurs on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence; on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children; on Trafficking in Persons, and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

On 20 September from 3-5pm at Palais des Nations Room XXI, the five human rights mechanisms involved in this process organize a joint event to raise awareness about the statement and its implications. Speakers will include victims (adoptees and biological parents' victims of illegal intercountry adoptions), civil society organizations who support them, States and UN experts.

All those interested are cordially invited to participate. The event will be webcast on [UN TV](#).

Launching of the General Comment on Enforced Disappearances in the context of migration (28 September 2023)

During the 25th session, the Committee will adopt its first General Comment on "Enforced Disappearances in the context of migration". The unedited version of this document will be launched in a **public event on 28 September, 3-6pm, Palais des Nations, Room XXIII**.

This event will be opened with a message by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, and will count with the participation of victims, other civil society representatives, States, the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

All those interested are cordially invited to participate. The event will be webcast on [UN TV](#).

6. Closing of the Session

Friday, 29th September, 5 – 6pm.

Closing remarks by rapporteur

Presentation of the book "Recetario para la Memoria" (Mexico)

Launching on the Practical Guide for the Ratification of the Convention

Closing remarks by the Chair

Closed Meetings

In closed meetings, the Committee will carry out the following activities:

1. Meetings with **civil society representatives and NHRIs** of the States parties to be examined (Mauritania, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Nigeria).
2. Meetings with other States and civil society actors.
3. Annual meeting with UN agencies.
4. Meetings to address issues related to its **methods of work**.
5. Joint meetings with other **international and regional Human Rights Mechanisms**.
6. Consideration of the following documents:
 - **Lists of Issues:** Samoa and Sri Lanka
 - **List of Issues in absence of a report:** Central African Republic
 - **Project of Joint Statement with the WGEID on the notion of short-term enforced disappearance**

