**Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances concludes its 128th session**

**Geneva, 29 September 2022**

The [United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-disappearances) (WGEID) concluded its 128th session, which took place between 19 and 28 September in Geneva, Switzerland.

During the session, the Working Group examined 304 reported cases of enforced disappearances it had transmitted under its urgent action procedure since 13 May 2022, concerning El Salvador, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan.

It also reviewed 397 cases, including newly reported cases outside the urgent action procedure and updated information on previously transmitted cases concerning Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Colombia, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Honduras, Lebanon, Mexico, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine (State of), Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syria, Türkiye, Uganda, and Venezuela.

The Working Group also reviewed responses from various Governments to prompt intervention letters, general allegations and urgent appeals. It adopted new general allegations, discussed its future and potential country visits and follow-up reports on previous country visits, and held discussions on a number of projects, including the forthcoming thematic report on new technologies and enforced disappearances, with regard to which the Working Group will soon launch a call for submissions from different stakeholders. Furthermore, the Working Group agreed to initiate consultations in view of a future thematic study on enforced disappearances and elections, and it made substantial progress to review and update its methods of work.

The experts also met with relatives of disappeared persons, non-governmental organizations, State representatives and other stakeholders. To enhance cooperation with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Working Group held a joint meeting during which ongoing and future projects were discussed, including the intention to develop a joint in-depth analysis on the issue of the temporal element of enforced disappearance and the corresponding obligations of States.

On 21 September 2022, the Working Group adopted a [joint statement](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/ced/2022-09-29/JointstatementICA_HR_28September2022.pdf) on illegal intercountry adoptions, together with the UN [Committee](https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crc) [on the Rights of the Child](https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/crc), the [Committee on Enforced Disappearances](https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced), the [Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice and Reparation](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-truth-justice-reparation-and-non-recurrence), the [Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-sale-of-children), and the [Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-trafficking-in-persons).

The session coincided with the presentation of the Working Group’s [annual report](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FHRC%2F51%2F31&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False) to the 51th session of the Human Rights Council as well as the report on the [country visit to Cyprus](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5131add1-visit-cyprus-report-working-group-enforced-or-involuntary) and a stocktaking [study on the 1992 Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5131add3-thirtieth-anniversary-declaration-protection-all-persons). On Friday, 23 September 2022, the Working Group held [a public event](https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2022/wgeid-public-event-present-its-thematic-study-1992-declaration-protection-all) to mark the 30th anniversary of the Declaration. On such occasion, [a video](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-disappearances/videos) on the history and importance of the Declaration was also presented.

During the session, Ms. Aua Baldé (Guinea-Bissau) was elected as the new Chair Rapporteur of the Working Group and Ms. Gabriella Citroni (Italy) as the Vice-Chair.

The Working Group will hold its 129th session from 6-10 February 2023 in Santiago, Chile.

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***The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*** is comprised of five independent experts from all regions of the world. The Chair-Rapporteur is **Ms. Aua Baldé** (Guinea-Bissau) and the Vice-Chair is **Ms. Gabriella Citroni** (Italy). The other members are **Ms. Gra*ż*yna Baranowska** (Poland), **Mr. Luciano Hazan**(Argentina) and **Ms. Angkhana Neelapaijit** (Thailand).

The Working Group was established by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1980 to assist families in determining the fate and whereabouts of disappeared relatives. It endeavours to establish a channel of communication between the families and the Governments concerned, to ensure that individual cases are investigated, with the objective of clarifying the whereabouts of persons who, having disappeared, are placed outside the protection of the law. It continues to address cases of disappearances until they are resolved. The Working Group also provides assistance in the implementation by States of the United Nations Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

More [information on the Working Group](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/DisappearancesIndex.aspx)

Watch and learn more about the [history of the Working Group](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6609050/video/389269013), and on [how to submit a case](https://vimeo.com/359262861/6b0b6281da) to the Working Group.

Read the [*Working Group's 2022 report*](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5131-report-working-group-enforced-or-involuntary-disappearances)to the UN Human Rights Council and [*post-sessional documents*](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/Sessions.aspx)

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