Questionnaire

Contact details

Please provide your name (if applicable, title of your organization) and contact details, including your email address in case we need to contact you in connection with this survey.

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Confidentiality
Please note that all inputs received will be published on the website of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, unless it is expressly indicated that the submission should be kept confidential.

Questions

Feel free to answer only the questions that are relevant for you.

1. **1.1)** Can you kindly illustrate what are the main risks posed by the use of new technologies vis-à-vis the work of human rights defenders and, in particular, of relatives of disappeared persons?
    Ans; introduction of new technologies such as ICT has made it possible that people who are being persecuted cannot hide from those after them. Mostly they need to get in contact with their relatives but all communication means have been taped trying to get to them by all means mean one compromising his or her whereabouts.
    1.2) How can these risks be mitigated?
    This risk can be motivated by UN Human Right making available a secure link which cannot be taped for genuine cases to be filed. All self Determination seeking frontliners should be provided with this quick information through the UNPO to be made available for easy assess.
    1.3) Can you provide concrete examples on how new technologies have been used as a tool to hinder the families of disappeared persons and human rights defenders in their struggle for truth and justice (including through cyber bullying, sexual harassment, etc.)?
    On cyber bullying, we of Homeland Study Group Foundation representing the interest of Western Togoland have on countless occasions been restricted, our website has been shutdown in 2017 by the government of Ghana, our bank account blocked, all our telephone numbers have all been placed on cyber surveillance. The Radio station in our region have been stopped from broadcasting anything about our predicament. Journalist have been openly threatened by government officials of our region. Example the Volta Regional Minister openly warned in a press soiree any Media House that will published anything about Western Togoland will have their license revoked.
    1.4) How can the judicial system offer effective protection from this kind of harassment?
    The judicial system especially the judges sitting on cases brought before them must be won off the whims and caprices of the executive arm, Human Rights must give some autonomy and immune the judges against any threat from the government. This way the judges will feel very safe on delivering justice.
    Example, in the case pending before the various courts of Ghana where pro Western Togoland independence members have been held, it's very clear the government who is prosecuting them do not have any case, because for the past four and more years that they were arrested the prosecution has not gather any vital evidence to warrant they being kept in detention. On each adjourned date they prosecution beg for more time to gather evidence.
    Another case aside the Western Togoland is the Biafran situation where their IPOB leader Mr Nnamdi Kanu is still in the DSS custody even though the federal high Court has ruled in his favor.
    Such government should be reprimanded seriously by UN.
2. **2.1)** How do you think that new technologies are being /can be used to facilitate the commission of an enforced disappearance (e.g.by tracing prospective victims or exercising surveillance on their relatives) and to cover-up the commission of enforced disappearance (if possible, provide concrete examples)?
    Please refer to response on cyber bullying.
    2.2) What are the preventive measures that have been put (or can be put) in place?

All Self Determination group at UNPO must be given some protection by the UN Human Rights group. Various Frontline defenders should be provided some form immunity.

UN must come out quickly to response to issues of Self Determination and demand from each party to report their issues to a committee to sit on within a time frame to come out with proposals which both parties should discuss among themselves.

3. *3.1*) Can you kindly illustrate the applicable legal framework (regulations and policies) – if any – in your country (or countries in focus) to deal with, in particular, (a) internet shutdowns and access restrictions; (b) cyber-surveillance and attacks, (c) disinformation campaigns; and (d) the use of spyware? *3.2*) Can you provide concrete examples on the use of the mentioned tools/techniques in practice?

4. What are the applicable rules in your country (or countries in focus) to regulate the import/export and use of surveillance technologies?

5. Is there in your country (countries in focus) any independent oversight mechanism mandated to monitor the offensive security sector (cyber-security)?
   There is non in our case

6. Is there any concrete example where the misuse of new technologies to harass human rights defenders, including relatives of disappeared persons, or to facilitate the commission of an enforced disappearance or to cover it up, has been subjected to investigation and prosecution and those responsible have been held accountable? Kindly illustrate the main obstacles encountered in this realm, as well as the lessons learned and the good practices.
   Please refer to previous response

7. How can new technologies (and which new technologies) facilitate the search for forcibly disappeared persons (if possible, providing concrete examples and illustrating how such technologies operate)? What should be considered the "indispensable" tools in this realm? Are such tools easily accessible and affordable or are there specific obstacles in their purchase and use?
   If new technologies are available for frontliners and are taught, I think they can help . But in this case there's non available for us to assess.

8. What are the new technologies that have brought the most significant results in terms of search for forcibly disappeared persons and how do they operate? Are there significant practical differences in terms of the technologies to be employed when searching for the person alive or dead?
   N/A

9. Can obstacles to the search linked to the passing of time be overcome through the use of new technologies? If so, how?
   New technologies can help speed up time of searching for disappeared persons if they are made available to them to assess. They can quickly contact those that matter using the new technologies.

10. Can you kindly indicate good practices, as well as the main obstacles – practical and legal – encountered by you/your country (or countries in focus)/ institution/organization in the use of new technologies to investigate on cases of enforced disappearances (if possible, providing concrete examples)?
    The main obstacle is the impediment placed on new technologies by States, such as secretly taping of information from frontliners and working with various telecommunications service providers to be assessing information without any legal approvals. The legal system is skewed to favor the ruling government.
    What are the tools that you would consider more effective for such purposes? Are such tools easily accessible and affordable or are there specific obstacles in their purchase and use?
    Mobile devices for tracking and gathering information on disappeared persons are not that expensive but the difficult is to acquire a subscriber account or call card you need information that will at the end expose your hiding for easy tracking.

11. What are the "evidences" that you would regard as essential to prove the crime of enforced disappearance and that can be retrieved through the use of new technologies? Do you see any specific problem in the preservation of the chain of custody here and in the admissibility of some specific pieces of evidence of this crime collected through the use of new technologies?

12. Can obstacles to the identification of the perpetrators of an enforced disappearance linked to the passing of time be overcome through the use of new technologies? If so, how?

13. What are the main issues related to the subject of "new technologies and enforced disappearances" that should be covered in the findings and recommendations included in the thematic study of the Working Group?

The working group should have a secure link and if possible a dial up code to be easily accessible to anyone who's facing repression and are forced to disappear.

14. Is there any other information that you deem relevant for the purposes of the thematic study?

No