**Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances concludes its 130th session** 

**Geneva, 12 May 2023**

The [United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-disappearances/videos) (WGEID) concluded its 130th session, which took place between 8 and 12 May in Geneva.

This was the first session of Ms. Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez as a new member of the Working Group. Her appointment represents a historic moment for the mandate, as it is the first time in more than 40 years that the mechanism counts on five women as experts. MS. Delgadillo Pérez takes the place of Mr. Luciano Hazan, who made a remarkable contribution to the activities of the Working Group.

During the session, the Working Group examined 11 reported cases of enforced disappearances it had transmitted under its urgent action procedure since 10 February 2023, concerning China, Egypt, Iran, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Tajikistan.

It also reviewed 318 cases, including newly reported cases outside the urgent procedure and updated information on previously transmitted cases concerning Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Colombia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Yemen.

In the spirit of its humanitarian mandate, the Working Group continued to document and discuss acts tantamount to enforced disappearance perpetrated by non-State actors exercising government-like functions or *de facto* control over territory and population. In this context, the Working Group decided to transmit 22 cases to *de facto* authorities in Afghanistan and Yemen.

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 planned visits as well as potential ones. The experts also met with relatives of disappeared persons, non-governmental organizations, State representatives and other stakeholders.

During the session, the Working Group adopted its thematic report on “New Technologies and Enforced Disappearances” and discussed its annual report, both to be presented at the 54th session of the Human Rights Council, jointly with reports on the country visits conducted in the reporting period in Honduras and Uruguay. The members also held an internal consultation on the issue of enforced disappearances in the context of elections, subject of the next thematic report in 2024.

The Working Group will hold its 131st session from 18 to 27 September 2023 in Geneva.

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#### The [Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/DisappearancesIndex.aspx) 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); other members are **Ms. Grażyna Baranowska** (Poland); **Ms. Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez** (Mexico); and **Ms.** **Angkhana Neelapaijit** (Thailand).

*The Working Group was established by the then 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 also provides assistance in the implementation by States of the* [*UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance*](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/EnforcedDisappearance.aspx)*.*

*The Working Groups are part of what is known as the*[*Special Procedures*](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx)*of the Human Rights Council. Special Procedures, the largest body of independent experts in the UN Human Rights system, is the general name of the Council’s independent fact-finding and monitoring mechanisms. Special Procedures mandate-holders are independent human rights experts appointed by the Human Rights Council to address either specific country situations or thematic issues in all parts of the world. They are not UN staff and are independent from any government or organization. They serve in their individual capacity and do not receive a salary for their work.*

*Learn*[*how to submit a case*](https://vimeo.com/359262861/6b0b6281da) *to the Working Group.*

*Learn* [*more about the work*](https://vimeo.com/showcase/6609050/video/389269013) *of the Working Group.*

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