**Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances concludes its 131st session**

**Geneva, 28 September 2023**

The [United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-disappearances/sessions-working-group) (WGEID) concluded its 131st session, which took place between 18 and 27 September 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

At the session, the Working Group examined 413 reported cases of enforced disappearances it had transmitted under its urgent procedure since 12 May 2023, concerning Algeria, Bahrain, China, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Lao People´s Democratic Republic, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, as well as acts tantamount to enforced disappearances to the *de facto* authorities in Afghanistan and Libya.

It also reviewed 3,232 cases, including newly reported cases outside the urgent procedure and updated information on previously transmitted cases concerning Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Greece, Iran, Lao People´s Democratic Republic, Libya, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Syria, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Thailand, Türkiye, Uzbekistan as well as acts tantamount to enforced disappearances to the *de facto* authorities in Syria.

The Working Group also reviewed responses from various Governments to general allegations and urgent appeals. It adopted new general allegations, discussed its future and potential country visits - including the forthcoming visit of the Working Group to a number of regional judicial, human rights and legal Organs in Arusha, in October 2023 - as well as follow-up reports on previous country visits. The experts also held discussions on several projects, including the forthcoming thematic focus on elections and enforced disappearances, with regard to which the Working Group held an expert consultation on 26 September 2023 and will soon launch a call for submissions. The Working Group further identified enforced disappearances in the context of land and environment-related disputes as a thematic issue that it plans to explore.

During the session, the experts met with relatives of disappeared persons, non-governmental organizations, State representatives and other stakeholders. They also had a meeting with representatives from the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), to exchange views on good practices and challenges in the region.

The 131st session coincided with the presentation of the Working Group’s [annual report](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5422-enforced-or-involuntary-disappearance-report-working-group) to the 54th session of the Human Rights Council on 19 September 2023 as well as of the reports on country visits to [Honduras](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5422add2-visit-honduras-report-working-group-enforced-or-involuntary) and [Uruguay](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5422add1-visit-uruguay-report-working-group-enforced-or-involuntary) and a thematic report on [new technologies and enforced disappearances](https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc5422add5-new-technologies-and-enforced-disappearances-report-working). On 27 September 2023, the Working Group held a [public event](https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2023/side-event-present-thematic-study-new-technologies-and-enforced-disappearances) to launch its thematic report.

On 20 September 2023, the Working Group held its yearly joint meeting with the [Committee on Enforced Disappearances](https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced) (CED) to discuss respective activities and common projects, including the consideration of the submissions received in response to the [call for inputs](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2023/call-inputs-view-issuing-joint-statement-notion-short-term-enforced) and they continued discussing the phenomenon of so-called “short-term” enforced disappearances. Furthermore, on 21 September 2023, the Working Group participated in a [public event](https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/09/committee-enforced-disappearances-marks-first-anniversary-joint-statement-illegal) organized by the CED to mark the first anniversary of the [joint statement](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/ced/2022-09-29/JointstatementICA_HR_28September2022.pdf) on Illegal Intercountry Adoption.

On 25 September 2023, Ms. Baldé participated in the "[Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms"](https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1iykj8et8).

During the session, Ms. Aua Baldé was re-elected Chair Rapporteur of the Working Group and Ms. Gabriella Citroni as the Vice-Chair.

The Working Group will hold its 132nd session from 29 January to 2 February 2024 in Geneva.

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