**Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances concludes its 132nd session**

**Geneva, 2 February 2024**

The [United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances](https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/wg-disappearances/videos) concluded its 132nd session, which took place from 29 January to 2 February in Geneva.

During the session, the Working Group examined 113 reported cases of enforced disappearances it had transmitted under its urgent action procedure since 27 September 2023, concerning Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Comoros, Cyprus, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

It also reviewed 2,030 cases, including newly reported cases under its standard procedure and updated information on previously transmitted cases concerning Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrein, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Chile, China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Thailand, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

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, under its urgent action procedure, the Working Group examined 10 reported cases of acts tantamount to enforced disappearances it previously transmitted to the *de facto* authorities in Palestine (State of). While under its standard procedure, the Working Group decided to transmit 25 newly reported cases to the *de facto* authorities in Libya, Palestine (State of), Northeast Syria 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 visit to Lithuania (20 to 27 November 2024) as well as potential ones, and follow-up reports on previous country visits to Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The follow-up reports will be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2024 and concerned stakeholders are invited to submit information on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations concerned in the country visit reports. The Working Group continued its work on the statement on the notion of so-called “short-term enforced disappearances, to be adopted jointly with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. The experts also met with relatives of disappeared persons, non-governmental organizations, State representatives and other stakeholders.

During the session, the Working Group continued to discuss its thematic report on “[enforced disappearances in the context of elections](https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2024/call-contributions-thematic-study-working-group-enforced-or-involuntary)” to be presented at the 57th session of the Human Rights Council and deliberated about its next report on “enforced disappearances in the context of the defence of land, territory and natural resources”. The Working Group continued its work on the statement on the notion of so-called “short-term enforced disappearances, to be adopted jointly with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances. The Working Group further decided to undertake a research on the use of universal criminal jurisdiction in cases of enforced disappearance. The experts also previewed the outcome deck of the ongoing project on “New Technologies and Enforced Disappearances”.

The decisions made by the Working Group during the 132ndsession will be reflected in its next [post-sessional report](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/Sessions.aspx).

The Working Group will hold its 133rd session from 6 to 10 May 2024 in Warsaw, Poland.

ENDS

#### 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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