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Human Rights Council
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Communications, cases examined, observations and other activities conducted by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

106th session (6 – 15 May 2015)

I. Introduction

1. The present document reflects the communications and cases examined and other activities carried out by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances at its 106th session, in Geneva.

II. Communications

2. Between its 105th and 106th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 45 cases under its urgent action procedure to Bahrain (1), Bangladesh (1), Egypt (19), Honduras (1), Jordan (1), Pakistan (21) and Zimbabwe (1).

3. At its 106th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 62 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to 11 States. The Working Group also clarified 25 cases, in Cuba (1), Egypt (4), Georgia (1), Guatemala (1), Pakistan (7), Saudi Arabia (2), Sri Lanka (6), the Syrian Arab Republic (1), Tajikistan (1) and Uruguay (1). Fifteen cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by the Governments and 10 on the basis of information provided by sources.

4. Between its 105th and 106th sessions, the Working Group, following its prompt intervention procedure, transmitted, jointly with other special procedures mechanisms, three communications, to Colombia (1), El Salvador (1) and Mexico (1). The Working Group also transmitted two other letters, to Morocco (1) and Spain (1).

5. At its 106th session, the Working Group reviewed one follow-up general allegation, concerning El Salvador.

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III. Other activities

6. At its 106th session, the Working Group met with representatives from Asia-Pacific States, the President of the Human Rights Council, and staff from the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

7. The Working Group finalized its study on enforced or involuntary disappearances and economic, social and cultural rights and decided to conduct a new study on enforced disappearances in the context of migration.

IV. Information concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances in States reviewed by the Working Group during the session

Algeria

Standard procedure

8. The Working Group transmitted 11 cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) Mr. Rabah Hadjaz, allegedly arrested on 26 June 1995 by members of the gendarmerie in the town of Ain M'lila, Skikda;

(b) Mr. Fateh Touati, allegedly abducted on 1 July 1996 by agents of the gendarmerie in Ain Naadja, Oued El Karma, Wilaya of Algiers;

(c) Mr. Youcef Nouah, allegedly abducted on 17 October 1994 by officers from Mountain Bourouba;

(d) Mr. Abderrahmen Habhoub, allegedly abducted on 5 July 1994 by agents of the military security in Wilaya of Medea;

(e) Mr. Omar Nedjoum, allegedly abducted on 18 January 1996 by police officers from Cavignac;

(f) Mr. Khalfallah Nail, allegedly arrested in April 1996 by uniformed police from the town of El Feidh Botma;

(g) Mr. Seddik Kebbabi, reportedly arrested on 5 June 1995 by plain-clothed agents from the Department of Investigation and Security Services, at the cafeteria of Gerta;

(h) Mr. Abderrahmane Ghoul, allegedly arrested on 20 November 1995 by police officers at a taxi station in Barbessa Haouch Telly;

(i) Mr. Habib Khiati, allegedly abducted on 1 October 1997 by uniformed and masked members of the national security forces (*Sûreté nacionale*) in the village of Ain Zergua Rabaihia, Wilaya of Saida;

(j) Mr. Mohamed El Heit, allegedly abducted on 12 October 1994 by police and military officers of the Bourouba;

(k) Mr. Hatem Rabah, allegedly arrested on 26 February 2011 by agents from the anti-terrorist brigade of Bouyahia, Beni Doula, Tizi-Ouzou.

Information from sources

9. Sources provided information on four outstanding cases. The information was considered to be insufficient to lead to a clarification.

Argentina

Duplication

10. The Working Group decided to consider one case as a duplicate of an existing case. The duplicate was subsequently deleted from the Working Group's records.

Bahrain

Urgent action

11. On 15 April 2015, the Working Group, following its urgent action procedure, transmitted a case to the Government concerning Mr. Mohamed Sharaf, who was allegedly arrested on 2 April 2015 by security officers in the village of Al-Eker.

Bangladesh

Urgent action

12. On 18 March 2015, the Working Group, following its urgent action procedure, transmitted one case to the Government concerning Mr. Salah Uddin Ahmed, allegedly arrested on 10 March 2015 at his residence in Dhaka by a group of 20 plain-clothed men who identified themselves as police members of the Detectives Branch.

Standard procedure

13. The Working Group transmitted 10 cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) Mr. Md. Selim Reza Pintu, allegedly arrested in Dhaka on 11 December 2013 by three men in civilian clothes who identified themselves as government administrators;

(b) Mr. Md. Ashadsuzzaman Rana; Mr. Karim Jahidul, also known as Tanvir; Mr. Md. Mazharul Islam, also known as Rusel; Mr. Al-Amin Al-Amin; Mr. Islam Shajedul, also known as Sumon; and Mr. Mohammad Abdul Quder Bhuiyan, also known as Masum, allegedly abducted on 4 December 2013 by officers of the Rapid Action Battalion in the Bashundhara residential area of Dhaka;

(c) Mr. Md. Kawsar Hossain and Mr. A M Adnan Chowdhury, allegedly abducted on 5 December 2013 by officers of the Rapid Action Battalion in Dhaka;

(d) Mr. Mohammad Fakrul Islam, allegedly abducted on 11 May 2013 by officers of the Rapid Action Battalion in Dhaka;

China

Standard procedure

14. The Working Group transmitted four cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) Ms. Kang Hye Yeong, a national of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, allegedly arrested on 18 March 2004 in Inner Mongolia, near the China-Mongolia border, by the Chinese police;

(b) Ms. Park Ryeon Ha, a national of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, allegedly arrested in September 2007 at the China-Mongolia border by Chinese soldiers;

(c) Mr. Song Yong-guk and Mr. Song Yong-su, nationals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, allegedly arrested in October 2001 by the Chinese police from a boat in the Yellow Sea heading towards the Republic of Korea.

15. In accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a copy of the abovee four cases.

Information from the Government

16. On 30 March 2015, the Government replied to a joint urgent appeal dated 27 January 2015 regarding the alleged arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention and disappearance of human rights defenders Messrs. Huang Kaiping, Xia Lin, He Zhengjun, Liu Jianshu and Ms. Kou Yanding, between October and November 2014. In its reply, the Government stated the following:

> On 10 October 2014, Mr. Huang Kaiping was detained in accordance with criminal compulsory measures on suspicion of the crime of creating disturbances and stirring up trouble. On 28 January 2015, he was allowed bail and is now waiting for the trial with restricted liberty of movement; Mr. Kou Yanding was detained in accordance with criminal compulsory measures on suspicion of crime of creating disturbances and stirring up trouble. On 26 November 2014, Mr. He Zhengjun was detained in accordance with criminal compulsory measures on suspicion of engaging in unlawful business operations; on 3 January 2015, a warrant was issued for him by a people's procurator's office and he was arrested. On 9 November 2014, Mr. Xia Lin was detained in accordance with criminal compulsory measures on suspicion of committing the crime of gambling; on 3 January 2015, a warrant was issued for him by a people's procurator's office and he was arrested.

17. On 22 August 2013, the Government transmitted information concerning 27 outstanding cases. On the basis of the information, the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to one of the cases. The information provided on the other 26 cases was considered insufficient to lead to a clarification.

Colombia

Prompt intervention letter

18. On 18 May 2015, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with another special procedures mechanism, a prompt intervention letter concerning the alleged intimidation and harassment of and death threats against Ms. Rocío Campos Perez, member of – the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) (section Barrancabermeja) and of the Colectivo 16 de mayo, organizations of families of disappeared persons.

Observations

19. With regard to investigations into cases of enforced disappearances, the Working Group recalls article 13, paragraph 2 of the Declaration, which states- that "steps shall be