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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.

taken to ensure that all involved in the investigation, including the complainant, counsel, witnesses and those conducting the investigation, are protected against ill-treatment, intimidation or reprisal".

Congo

Standard procedure

20. The Working Group transmitted one case to the Government, concerning Mr. Melvin Tchamba Ngassam, a citizen of Cameroon, who was allegedly abducted on 8 April 2011 by security agents and the Congolese Police in Pointe Noire. In accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group, a copy of the case was sent to the Government of Cameroon.

Cuba

Clarification

21. On the basis of information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one outstanding case following the expiration of the period prescribed by the six-month rule. The individual is reportedly in detention (see A/HRC/WGEID/104/1, para. 49).

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Standard procedure

22. The Working Group transmitted two cases to the Government, concerning Ms. Shin Seong Sim and her husband, Mr. Kim Cheol Hun, both citizens of the Republic of Korea, allegedly abducted in April 2003 in Jilin Province, China, by personnel from the National Security Agency of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

23. In accordance with the methods of work of the Working Group, the Government of China and the Government of the Republic of Korea received a copy of these cases.

Ecuador

Information from sources

24. A source provided information on one outstanding case.

Egypt

Urgent action

25. During the reporting period, the Working Group transmitted 19 cases to the Government under its urgent action procedure.

26. On 2 April, the Working Group transmitted six cases to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning:

(a) A person below the age of 18, allegedly arrested on 22 March 2015 in Damanhur Province;