



Human Rights Council
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**Communications transmitted, cases examined, observations made and other activities conducted by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances******119th session (16–20 September 2019)****I. Communications**

1. Between its 118th and 119th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 60 cases under its urgent action procedure, to: Bangladesh (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Cameroon (1), China (2), Egypt (31), Pakistan (9), Rwanda (1), Saudi Arabia (2), Syrian Arab Republic (2), Thailand (1), Turkey (1), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (6) and Viet Nam (1).
2. At its 119th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 222 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to nine States: Burundi (37), China (24), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (34), Egypt (12), Libya (2), Pakistan (35), Sri Lanka (36), Syrian Arab Republic (41) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (1).
3. The Working Group also clarified 110 cases, in: Bangladesh (1), China (1), Colombia (20), Egypt (55), India (1), Pakistan (16), Saudi Arabia (5), Thailand (4), Turkey (6) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (1). A total of 87 cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by the Governments and 23 on the basis of information provided by sources.
4. Between its 118th and 119th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 16 communications, either individually or jointly with other special procedure mechanisms: five urgent appeals, to China (3), India (1) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1); two prompt intervention letters to Pakistan; seven allegation letters, to China (1), Brazil (1), Cameroon (1), Egypt (2), Tunisia (1) and Paraguay (1); and two "other letters", to Guatemala (1) and Nepal (1).¹
5. On 4 June 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release condemning attacks on reintegrated former combatants

* Reissued for technical reasons on 24 March 2020.

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¹ Such communications are made public 60 days after their transmission to the State, along with responses received from the Government, if any, and are available from <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/Tmsearch/TMDocuments>.



in Colombia and urging the Government of Colombia to honour the security guarantees provided through the 2016 peace process.²

6. On 18 June 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling for the liberation from detention of Mauritanian blogger and human rights defender Cheikh Ould Mohamed M'kheitir.³

7. On 21 August 2019, for the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on States to do more to stop hate crimes and to promote interfaith initiatives.⁴

8. On 22 August 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on the Government of India to end the crackdown imposed in India-administered Kashmir on freedom of expression, access to information and peaceful protests, while expressing concern that the measures would exacerbate tensions in the region.⁵

9. On 27 August 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release expressing serious concern at the appointment of Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva as the chief of the army of Sri Lanka, and urging the Government to advance long overdue reforms of the security sector and to investigate past abuses.⁶

10. On 29 August 2019, to commemorate the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the Working Group, together with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, issued a press release calling on States to act urgently to search for migrants who had been subjected to enforced disappearance, and to investigate such crimes.⁷

11. On 11 September 2019, the Working Group issued a press release after presenting its annual report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/42/40), urging States to stop turning a blind eye to States that orchestrate enforced disappearances.⁸

12. At its 119th session, the Working Group reviewed and adopted three general allegations, concerning Brazil, China and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see annex I).

II. Other activities

13. During the session, the Working Group met with relatives of victims of enforced disappearance and with non-governmental organizations working on the issue.

14. Also during the session, the Working Group held meetings with representatives of the Governments of Israel, Japan, Libya, Morocco, the Philippines and Portugal.

² See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24673&LangID=E.

³ See www.ohchr.org/FR/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24705&LangID=F.

⁴ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24906&LangID=E.

⁵ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24909&LangID=E.

⁶ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24923&LangID=E.

⁷ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24927&LangID=E.

⁸ See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=24973&LangID=E.

education and training institutions in Xinjiang, and the note verbale received on 20 September 2019, which indicates that individuals held in such facilities go home regularly, may make video or telephone calls to their relatives after seeking approval and can receive their relatives in the institutions. Further to the receipt of such information, the Working Group has requested additional information, including on the frequency of visits and calls, the leave required, whether calls can be made internationally, their confidentiality and how individuals in the facilities are made aware of this entitlement.

40. The Working Group reminds the Government of China that the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance recognizes the right to be held in an officially recognized place of detention and to be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention in order to challenge the legality of the detention (art. 10 (1)). The same Declaration establishes the obligation of the detaining authorities to make available accurate information on the detention of persons and their place of detention to their family, counsel or other persons having a legitimate interest (art. 10 (2)). The Declaration also establishes the obligation to maintain in every place of detention an official up-to-date register of detained persons (art. 10 (3)) and provides that no circumstances whatsoever, whether a threat of war, a state of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked to justify enforced disappearances (art. 7).

41. The Working Group also notes information contained in the reply received from the Government of China on 20 September 2019 indicating that many envoys have visited the country, including the aforementioned facilities. In this sense, the Working Group wishes to reiterate its interest in undertaking a visit to China, as expressed in several communications transmitted since 2013.

Colombia

Application of the six-month rule

42. On 2 August 2019, the Government provided information on six outstanding cases. On the basis of the information provided, the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to the cases.

Clarification

43. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify 20 cases, which had been placed under the six-month rule at the 117th session (A/HRC/WGEID/117/1, para. 35). Three of the individuals were reportedly found alive, while 17 individuals had reportedly died and their remains had been identified.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Standard procedure

44. The Working Group transmitted 34 cases to the Government (see annex III).

45. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group also transmitted a copy of 28 of the case files to the Government of the Republic of Korea and a copy of 3 of the case files to the Government of China.

Information from sources

46. Sources provided information on one outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

Information from the Government

47. On 27 March 2019, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea transmitted information concerning 14 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

Observation

48. The Working Group remains concerned about the lack of cooperation demonstrated by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the identical replies received in relation to the transmitted cases. The Working Group is concerned in particular by the fact that the Government, instead of cooperating with the Working Group in relation to the very serious allegations of grave and systematic enforced disappearances in the country, has accused the Working Group of being partial and of being involved in an alleged political plot against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The Working Group firmly reiterates that it operates while maintaining the highest levels of objectivity, independence and impartiality.

Ecuador

Information from the Government

49. On 15 August 2019, the Government of Ecuador transmitted information concerning four outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

Egypt

Urgent action

50. The Working Group, under its urgent action procedure, transmitted 31 cases to the Government (see annex II).

Standard procedure

51. The Working Group transmitted 12 cases to the Government under its standard procedure, concerning:

(a) Diyaa Osam Mostafa Ali El Boraey, a citizen of Egypt born on 25 August 1996, allegedly arrested on 17 October 2018 from his home in the Dowieka area of Cairo by national security agents and taken to an unknown destination;

(b) Mohamed Hassan Mohamed Ezzat Hassan, a 31-year-old citizen of Egypt, allegedly abducted on 6 March 2018 by members of the Egyptian police forces in Izbat al-Nakhl, Cairo Province, Egypt;

(c) Maysara Mahmoud Fouad Abdelmoniem, a citizen of Egypt born on 12 December 1992, allegedly arrested on 27 December 2018 from his home by masked security forces in plain clothes;

(d) Shrief el-Sayed el-Mohamady el-Sayed, a citizen of Egypt, born on 29 November 1985, allegedly abducted on 12 December 2018 at 12.30 p.m., by members of the police and national security officers in Beltan village, Toukh Centre, Qalubia Governorate, Egypt;

(e) Mohamed Ali Hassan Seoudy, a citizen of Egypt born on 5 December 1975, last seen on 9 January 2019 at the Al-Khanka police station as he was awaiting release;

(f) Omar Abdelhamid Abul Naga, a citizen of Egypt born on 18 October 1993, allegedly abducted on 9 March 2019 by the police from his home, along with his wife and one-year-old child;

(g) Manar Abel Abul Naga, an Egyptian woman born on 10 December 1993, allegedly abducted on 9 March 2019 by the police from her home, along with her husband and one-year-old child;

(h) Al-Baraa Omar Abul Naga, an Egyptian boy born on 11 March 2018, allegedly abducted on 9 March 2019 by the police from his home, along with his mother and father;

(w) A seven-year-old child and Chinese national of Uyghur ethnicity, allegedly disappeared in February 2018. Her father was arrested in 2016. Her mother and her sister allegedly also disappeared in February 2018.

(x) A five-year-old child and Chinese national of Uyghur ethnicity, allegedly disappeared in February 2018. Her father was arrested in 2016. Her mother and her sister allegedly also disappeared in February 2018.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

1. The Working Group transmitted 34 cases to the Government, concerning

(a) Hye Yeong Gang, allegedly abducted in Hoeryong City State, North Hamgyong Province on 1 October 2005 by DPRK forces.

(b) an individual, allegedly abducted from Hamyong Province in 2000 by DPRK forces.

(c) an individual, allegedly abducted in DPRK in 2004 by DPRK forces.

(d) an individual, allegedly abducted in DPRK in 2003 by DPRK forces.

(e) an individual, allegedly abducted in DPRK in 2006 by DPRK forces.

(f) Wonsam Park, allegedly abducted from his home in Jung-gu in Seoul on 14 July 1950 by DPRK security agents.

(g) Chi-heon Yang, allegedly abducted from Pocheon-gun, Gyeonggi-do on 5 July 1950 by Namnodang party.

(h) Gyu-seol Lee, allegedly abducted from Banwol-myeon, Hwaseong-gun on 14 July 1950 by DPRK agents.

(i) Hee-yong Lee, allegedly abducted from his home in 80-90 Shindang-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul on 3 July 1950 by DPRK Police.

(j) Yong-Gyu Oh, allegedly abducted outside of the Scala cinema in Jung-gu, Seoul on 20 August 1950 by DPRK agents.

(k) Jeong-yeon Choi, allegedly abducted from his home in 250-10, Chungjeong-ro 3-ga Seodaemun-gu, Seoul on 1 July 1950 by DPRK Internal Police.

(l) Eunhye Nam, allegedly abducted from the south of her residence in 338 Jinseo Myeon- Jangdan-gun on 15 September 1950 by the DPRK army.

(m) Geumju Nam, allegedly abducted from the south of her residence in 338 Jinseo Myeon- Jangdan-gun on 15 September 1950 by the DPRK army.

(n) Jabeom Shin, allegedly abducted from his workplace in Bo-in Commercial High School on 20 September 1950 by DPRK soldiers.

(o) Jangseo Park, allegedly abducted from his home in Eu-you-ji-ri, Jeokseong-myeon, Paju-gun, Gyeonggi-do on 20 September 1950 by DPRK policemen.

(p) Jinhyu Shin, allegedly arrested near his residence in 87 Sejong-ro, Jongno-gu, Seoul on 20 September 1950 by armed forces.

(q) Jinmoon Ha, allegedly abducted from his home in 26-19, Hyehwa-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul on 31 July 1950 by the State Political Security Department.

(r) Jinyong Ha, allegedly abducted from his home in 257, Daejang-dong, Ojeong-myeon, Bucheon-gun on 31 July 1950 by Korean People's Army.

(s) Chae-hong Lee, allegedly abducted from his home in 1-3 Samchung Seobu-dong Jongro-gu, Seoul on 10 August 1950 by DPRK forces.

(t) Chul-joo Lee, allegedly arrested at his home in Donam-dong Sungbuk-gu, Seoul on 1 July 1950 by an unknown assailant.

- (u) Hak-bae Lee, allegedly abducted from Taebong-ri Sang-myeon, Gapyeong-gun, Gyeonggi-do on 30 July 1950 by the local communist group of Gapyeong.
- (v) Hwa-sil Lee, allegedly arrested at his home in 104-5 Palpan-dong Seoul on 28 January 1922 by the DPRK Army.
- (w) In-bum Lee, allegedly arrested at his home in 269 Jeongu-ri Punggi-yeup Yeongju-si, Gyeongsangbuk-do on 1 August 1950 by five soldiers from the DPRK Army.
- (x) Jae-choon Lee (female), allegedly abducted from Incheon Girls' High School in Songhyun-dong Incheon-si on 1 August 1950 by her teacher.
- (y) Jae-choon Lee (male), allegedly abducted from his home in 15-27 Hyeohwa-dong Jongno-gu Seoul on 4 July 1950 by State agents.
- (z) Hae-ok Lee, allegedly from his home in 427 Mubong-ri Sohol-myeon Pocheon-gun, Gyeonggi-do on 15 September 1950 by the DPRK Army.
- (aa) Yeun-dal Lee, allegedly abducted from Yongsan Middle School, Seoul on 1 June 1950 by unknown assailants.
- (bb) Yeun-shik Lee, allegedly abducted from his home in 156 majeon-ri Shinseo-myeon Yeoncheon-gun, Gyeonggi-do on 1 March 1951 by members of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea workers party.
- (cc) Young-do Lee, allegedly was abducted from 378-12 Gongduck-dong, Mapo-gu on 1 July 1950 by two soldiers from the DPRK Army and two civilians.
- (dd) Mooseong Choi, allegedly abducted from his home in 23 Dangju-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul on 2 July 1950 by the DPRK Police.
- (ee) Han-seob Noh, allegedly abducted from his home in 534 Hyeosung-dong, Incheon on 30 August 1950 by North Korean State Agents.
- (ff) Pyeong-ki Oh, allegedly abducted from his home in 145 Myeongnyun-dong 4-ga, Seoul on 7 August 1950 by unknown assailants armed with guns.
- (gg) Yeonghoon Huh, allegedly abducted from his inn in the Downtown of Dongducheon, 2, Yegwan-dong, Jung-gu on 1 August 1950 by two DPRK Police officers.
- (hh) an individual, allegedly arrested in 2014 by DPRK security agents.

Pakistan

1. The Working Group transmitted 35 cases to the Government, concerning
 - (a) Shakirullah, allegedly abducted from his home in Upper Dir District, on 22 April 2010, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
 - (b) Bakht Sher, allegedly abducted from his home in Swat District, on 26 March 2011, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
 - (c) Rasool Nawaz, allegedly abducted from his home in Rawalpindi, on 24 October 2012, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
 - (d) Khan Laali, allegedly abducted from his home in Swat District, in September 2008, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
 - (e) Sabir Khan, allegedly abducted from his home in Swat District, on 21 October 2009, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).