



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*****115th session (23 April–2 May 2018)****I. Communications**

1. Between its 114th and 115th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 50 cases under its urgent action procedure, to: Azerbaijan (1), China (1), Egypt (39), Libya (2), Pakistan (3), Russian Federation (1), Saudi Arabia (2) and United Arab Emirates (1).
2. At its 115th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 135 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to 17 States: Algeria (12), Bangladesh (1), China (2), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (23), Egypt (4), India (4), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1), Iraq (1), Israel (1), Libya (8), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (34), Saudi Arabia (1), Sri Lanka (28), Syrian Arab Republic (12), United Arab Emirates (1) and Ukraine (1).
3. The Working Group also clarified 45 cases, in: China (2), Egypt (25), Mauritania (1), Pakistan (8), Peru (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Sudan (1), Turkey (3), Turkmenistan (1), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (1) and Viet Nam (1). Seventeen cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by the Governments and twenty-eight on the basis of information provided by sources.
4. Between its 114th and 115th sessions, the Working Group also transmitted seven communications, either individually or jointly with other special procedure mechanisms: three urgent appeals, to Azerbaijan (1), Iraq (1) and Sudan (1); three prompt intervention letters, to Egypt (2) and India (1); and one "other letter" to Guatemala.
5. On 30 April 2018, a press release concerning Bahrain was issued together with other special procedure mechanisms.
6. At its 115th session, the Working Group also reviewed and adopted two general allegations, concerning China and Thailand.

II. Other activities

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

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Working Group also held meetings with representatives of the Governments of Egypt, Japan, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, the Sudan and Thailand.

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

Algeria

Standard procedure

8. The Working Group transmitted 12 cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) Mohamed Bouazza El Jazmi, allegedly abducted on 11 March 1981 by members of the Algerian army and the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y de Río de Oro (Frente Polisario) in the village of Bouirat, south of Tan-Tan, southern Morocco;

(b) Hamdani Aba Ali, allegedly abducted on 18 April 1976 by members of the Algerian army and the Frente Polisario in the village of Bouirat, south of Tan-Tan, southern Morocco;

(c) Jilali Bouchan, allegedly abducted on 14 April 1975 by members of the Algerian army and the Frente Polisario in the village of Bouirat, south of Tan-Tan, southern Morocco;

(d) Ali Akacem, allegedly arrested on 23 February 1994 by military security officers near his home on the Essenia University campus, Oran;

(e) Tayeb Azzouz, allegedly arrested on 14 December 1994 by military security agents at his workplace in Ain El Biya, Oran;

(f) El Mechri Bouchiba, allegedly arrested on 2 January 1996 by members of the military at his home in Laghouat;

(g) Larbi Bounadja, allegedly arrested on 16 November 1994 by security guards and members of the gendarmerie in Emir Abdelkader, Sidi Chami, Oran;

(h) Abderrahmane Daoudi, allegedly arrested on 20 January 1995 by police officers from the Ras El Aioun police station at his home in Ras El Aioun, Batna;

(i) Mohamed Mechali, allegedly arrested on 1 May 1995 by security forces from Chateaufort at his home in Baraki, Algiers;

(j) Abdellah Ras El Gourab, allegedly arrested on 19 February 1997 by soldiers sent by the military security authorities, at his home in Algiers;

(k) Omar Ras El Gourab, allegedly arrested on 22 May 1995 by the police at Laaquiba market in Belcourt, Algiers;

(l) Zidane Yassaa, last seen on 3 March 1996, after he left his home in Sidi Moussa, Baraki, Algiers, to go to his workplace. It is alleged that the military security authorities are implicated in his disappearance. Reportedly, in the 1990s, arrests were very frequent and inhabitants had to cross a multitude of checkpoints occupied by the military security authorities before arriving at their destination.

9. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group transmitted a copy of three of the case files to the Government of Morocco.

Information from sources

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

Information from sources

26. Sources provided updated information on two outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

Information from the Government of Sweden

27. On 23 March 2018, the Government of Sweden transmitted information concerning one outstanding case under the records of China, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

General allegation

28. The Working Group received information from credible sources alleging obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in China. A general allegation was transmitted to the Government of China on 25 May 2018 (see annex I), focusing primarily on the reportedly very high number of enforced disappearances of Uighurs, which had escalated dramatically in 2017 with the introduction by the Government of China of “re-education” camps in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

Observation

29. The Working Group wishes to recall article 10 (1) and (2) of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, according to which any person deprived of liberty shall be held in an officially recognized place of detention and, in conformity with national law, be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention. Accurate information on the detention of such persons and their place or places of detention, including transfers, shall be made promptly available to their family members, their counsel or to any other persons having a legitimate interest in the information unless a wish to the contrary has been manifested by the persons concerned.

Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

Standard procedure

30. The Working Group transmitted 23 cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Gwang Ho Park, allegedly disappeared in February 2010 on his way to the hospital in Chongjin city, North Hamgyong Province, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. It is believed that the National Security Agency was involved in his disappearance, as he has reportedly been the subject of numerous inspections by this institution since 2006;

(b) Juhyeon Kim, allegedly abducted on 20 September 1950 by the internal police from his home at 147 Seonhaeng-ri, Seonwon-myeon, Ganghwa-gun, Gyeonggi-do, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

(c) Nak-Young Kim, allegedly abducted at the end of July 1950 by officials of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea from his home in Bukahyun-dong 5-2, Sudaemun-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;

(d) Sun Geum Lee, allegedly last seen in May 2013 when she was detained at Ryanggang county detention house by the National Security Agency of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea;

(e) Bong-yeol Ahn, allegedly abducted on 20 September 1950 by soldiers of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea from the house of a person associated with him, in Doryumdong, Seoul, Republic of Korea;

(f) Ki-chang Kim, allegedly abducted between the end of June and the beginning of July 1950, by members of the army of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea from his home in Migeun-dong 9 Seodaemunon-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;

- (g) Ki-myung Kim, allegedly abducted on 8 September 1950 by three soldiers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from the hospital in Yeji-dong 276-1 Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (h) Jinhyeong Kim, allegedly abducted on 20 July 1950 by communist partisans from Hajang Elementary School, before being turned in to the Hajang police station, Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
- (i) Heetae Choi, allegedly arrested in August 1950 by members of the army from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea after a town meeting in Bugi village, Shinwang-ri, Yeongok-myeon, Gangneung-shi, Republic of Korea;
- (j) Yeonsu Gang, allegedly arrested on 5 August 1950 by soldiers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and two neighbourhood communist sympathizers dressed in civilian clothes, at his residence at 123, Insa-dong, Jinju-shi, Kyungnam, Republic of Korea;
- (k) Jeong-yong Gwon, allegedly arrested on 3 August 1950 by soldiers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at his residence at 492 Iho-ri, Gangcheon-myeon, Yeosu-gun, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea;
- (l) Byung-soo Kim, allegedly arrested on 19 August 1950 by a police officer from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at his house at Supyo-dong 89 Jung-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (m) Chang-won Kim, allegedly arrested on 28 June 1950 by members of the Korean People's Army in the vicinity of his residence at 393, Donam-dong, Seongbuk-gu, Republic of Korea;
- (n) Dae-young Kim, allegedly abducted in August 1950 by members of the Korean People's Army, from Chungwon Primary School, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (o) Haese Kim, allegedly arrested between August and September of 1950 by members of the Korean People's Army, when he was hiding in Gunbok-myeon, Haman-gun, Republic of Korea;
- (p) Jang-yeol Kim, allegedly arrested on 13 July 1950 by agents of the State Security Department of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the street of Wonhyo-ro 3-ga in Mapo-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (q) Myeong-sang Cha, allegedly abducted in July 1950 by soldiers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, from the watch shop where he was working at 8 beonji, Namdaemun-ro 4-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (r) Ok Hwa Kim, allegedly abducted in April 2012 by the National Security Agency after being repatriated to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from China;
- (s) Yeop Gu, allegedly arrested on 17 July 1950 by agents of the internal police of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at his official residence at Seoul National University in Dongsung-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (t) Hee-suk Kang, allegedly abducted on 22 July 1950 by two officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from the Central People's Committee from his home in Tong-in dong, Jongnogu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (u) Hyeongu Kim, allegedly arrested on 14 August 1950 by internal policemen from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at his house at 153-94 Donam-dong, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea;
- (v) Sang-ik Kim, allegedly abducted on 20 May 1950 by agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from his home at 715 Shimgok-ri Shinbuk-myeon Pochyun-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea;
- (w) Sang-yong Kim, allegedly abducted on 18 May 1950 by members of a local communist organization from his home at 715 Shimgok-ri Shinbuk-myeon Pochyun-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea, before being transferred to Pocheon local police station in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

31. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group also transmitted a copy of 20 of the case files to the Government of the Republic of Korea and a copy of 2 of the case files to the Government of China.

Information from the Government

32. On 19 March 2018, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea transmitted information concerning 17 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

Observation

33. The Working Group wishes to express its disappointment regarding the standard replies provided by the Government. The Working Group wishes to bring the Government's attention to Human Rights Council resolution 21/4, in which the Council urged States to cooperate with the Working Group to help it to carry out its mandate effectively.

Ecuador

Information from the Government

34. On 29 March 2018, the Government of Ecuador transmitted information concerning five outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

35. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group transmitted a copy of the case of Jorge Vásquez Durand to the Government of Peru; and copies of the cases of Jeremías Ramirez and José del Carmen Molano Ríos to the Government of Colombia.

Egypt

Urgent action

36. The Working Group, under its urgent action procedure, transmitted 39 cases to the Government (see annex II).

Standard procedure

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

(a) Essam Kamal Abdulgalil Abdulalim, allegedly arrested on 24 August 2016 in front of the 6th of October city development authority by plain-clothed members of the State Security force;

(b) Mohamed Gamal Ahmed Abdulmaguid Ali, disappeared on 20 December 2017, presumably arrested by law enforcement authorities, as they had previously been looking for him;

(c) Hassan Sayed Sayed Soliman, allegedly arrested on 17 December 2017 at his home by National Security agents in uniform;

(d) Mohamed Abdel Aziz El-Sayed Ismail, allegedly abducted on 10 November 2017 from outside Sheikha Salameh Mosque by men in civilian clothes who identified themselves as members of the security forces.

Clarification based on information from sources

38. On the basis of the information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify 16 cases, concerning Hussein Abdel Fattah Khalaf, Mohamed Mohsen Ibrahim Sweidan, Mohamed Ali Hassan Barakat, Hussain Mohammed Youssr, Osama Mohamed Ibrahim El Sayed Mohamed, Daa Tarek Ali Ibrahim, Shaban Mohamed Sayed, Al Sayed Mahmoud Ali Al Ghandour, Mohamed Mustafa Mahmoud Mohamed, Ezzeldin Ahmed