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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances*

Summary

The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances was the first United Nations human rights thematic mechanism to be established with a universal mandate. The original mandate derives from Commission on Human Rights resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980. The mandate was most recently extended by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 16/16 of 24 March 2011.

The total number of cases transmitted by the Working Group to Governments since its inception is 53,986. The number of cases under active consideration that have not yet been clarified, closed or discontinued stands at 42,889 in a total of 84 States. The Working Group has been able to clarify 298 cases over the past five years.

The present report reflects the communications and cases examined by the Working Group during its three sessions in 2012, covering the period 12 November 2011 to 9 November 2012. It includes, in annex I, sections on 96 States and territories. The report also contains a thematic section on reparation for enforced disappearances and includes information on other activities carried out by the Working Group.

* The annexes to the present report are circulated as received, in the languages of submission only.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Number of outstanding cases at the beginning of the period under review	Cases transmitted to the Government during the period under review: 4		Cases clarified during the period under review: 0		Number of outstanding cases at the end of the year under review
	Cases sent under the urgent action procedure	Cases sent under the standard procedure	Government	Non-governmental sources	
12	0	4	0	0	20 ^c
Number of cases on which the Government has replied		Multiple replies on some cases		Number of cases of possible clarification by Government (6-month rule)	
12	Yes		0		
Urgent Appeal	N/A		Government response		N/A
General allegation	Yes		Government response		No
Prompt intervention letter	N/A		Government response		N/A
Working Group request for a visit	N/A		Invitation extended		N/A

Standard procedure

102. The Working Group transmitted four newly-reported cases to the Government.

103. The first two cases concerned Mr. **Won-mo Choi**, and Mr. **Kyeong-shik Moon** who were allegedly arrested on a fishing boat near Yeonpyeong Island, to the west of the Korean Peninsula, by members of the Coast Guard of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 5 June 1967. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of the Republic of Korea received copies of these cases.

104. The third case concerned Mr. **Susumu Fujita**, a Japanese university student at Tokyo Gakugei University, who was allegedly detained in Nishiarai Hospital, 5-7-14 Nishiarai-honcho, Adachi-ku, 123-0845 Tokyo, Japan, on 7 February 1976, and subsequently taken to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of Japan received a copy of this case.

105. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Jang-Geun Choi**, who was allegedly abducted on the South Sea near Samcheonpo, two to three miles from the south coast of the Republic of Korea by state agents from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 10 May 1977. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of the Republic of Korea received a copy of this case.

General allegations

106. On 3 October 2012, the Working Group, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, transmitted a general allegation to the Government concerning the alleged use of labour camps, also known as *kwan-li-so*, for political prisoners. It was reported, inter alia, that prisoners detained at these labour camps, which have allegedly been in operation since the 1950s, are not given a trial, and are held incommunicado without notice of the charges against them, nor information on the length or place of detention. It was further reported that no information regarding prisoners' whereabouts is provided to friends,

^c In accordance with paragraph 15 of its Methods of Work, the Working Group decided, at its 97th session to transfer four cases from the statistics of Japan to those of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

neighbours, co-workers or more distant family relatives not sent to the camps who inquire about them.

Information from the Government

107. The Government transmitted three communications to the Working Group, dated 29 February 2012, 9 May 2012 and 20 September 2012.

108. The first communication concerned nine outstanding cases as well as general information regarding allegations of enforced disappearances in the country. The information provided was not considered sufficient to clarify these cases.

109. The second communication concerned 12 outstanding cases. The information provided was not considered sufficient to clarify these cases.

110. The third communication concerned 12 outstanding cases. The information provided was not considered sufficient to clarify these cases.

Information from sources

111. Sources provided information on eight outstanding cases.

Total cases transmitted, clarified and outstanding

112. Since its establishment, the Working Group has transmitted 20 cases to the Government; all remain outstanding.

Observations

113. The Working Group expresses serious concern regarding the allegations concerning the alleged use of labour camps for political prisoners, transmitted in the general allegation on 3 October 2012. The Working Group hopes to receive information from the Government in relation to these allegations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

<i>Number of outstanding cases at the beginning of the period under review</i>	<i>Cases transmitted to the Government during the period under review: 0</i>		<i>Cases clarified during the period under review: 0</i>		<i>Number of outstanding cases at the end of the year under review</i>
	<i>Cases sent under the urgent action procedure</i>	<i>Cases sent under the standard procedure</i>	<i>Government</i>	<i>Non-governmental sources</i>	
44	0	0	0	0	44
<i>Number of cases on which the Government has replied</i>	<i>Multiple replies on some cases</i>		<i>Number of cases of possible clarification by Government (6-month rule)</i>		
0	N/A		0		
<i>Urgent Appeal</i>	N/A		<i>Government response</i>	N/A	
<i>General allegation</i>	N/A		<i>Government response</i>	N/A	
<i>Prompt intervention letter</i>	N/A		<i>Government response</i>	N/A	
<i>Working Group request for a visit</i>	N/A		<i>Invitation extended</i>	N/A	