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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 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. This resolution followed General Assembly resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978, in which the Assembly expressed concern at reports from various parts of the world relating to enforced disappearances and requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of missing or disappeared persons. 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 53,778. The number of cases under active consideration that have not yet been clarified, closed or discontinued stands at 42,759 in a total of 82 States. The Working Group has been able to clarify 448 cases over the past five years.

The present report reflects communications and cases examined by the Working Group during its three sessions in 2011, covering the period 13 November 2010 to 11 November 2011. It includes, in annex I, sections on 95 States and territories; the Working Group's latest general comment on the right to recognition as a person before the law in the context of enforced disappearance; and the Working Group's revised methods of work.

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

** Late submission.

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: 3		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	
9	0	3	0	0	12
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)	
9		Yes		0	
Urgent Appeal		N/A	Government response		N/A
General allegation		N/A	Government response		N/A
Prompt intervention letter		N/A	Government response		N/A
Working Group request for a visit		N/A	Invitation extended		N/A

Standard procedure

143. The Working Group transmitted three newly-reported cases to the Government. The cases concerned Messrs. **Jeong-Woong Choi**, **Won Hwang** and **Dong-Ki Lee** who were allegedly abducted while on board of Korean Airlines flight YS-11, flying from Gangneung City to Seoul's airport on 11 December 1969. According to the information received, after the plane took off, the flight was hijacked and diverted from its original destination to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPKR). According to witnesses, they were last seen on the territory of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 14 December 1969.

Information from the Government

144. The Government transmitted three communications to the Working Group, dated 9 February, 9 May and 12 September 2011, in which it replied to nine outstanding cases. The information was considered insufficient to lead to the clarification of those cases.

Information from sources

145. Information was received from sources concerning eight cases.

Total cases transmitted, clarified and outstanding

146. Since its establishment, the Working Group has transmitted 12 cases to the Government; all remain outstanding.