United Nations A/HRC/WGEID/117/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 May 2019

Original: English

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*

117th session (11–15 February 2019)

I. Introduction

1. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances conducted its 117th session in Sarajevo from 11 to 15 February 2019.

2. The Working Group thanks the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the invitation to hold one of its sessions in Sarajevo. It is also grateful to the Office of the Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the support provided.

II. Communications

3. Between its 116th and 117th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 51 cases under its urgent action procedure, to: Bangladesh (1), Burundi (1), Egypt (34), Pakistan (6), Rwanda (1), Saudi Arabia (4), Sudan (1), United Arab Emirates (2) and Viet Nam (1).

4. At its 117th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 261 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to 19 States: Algeria (13), Bangladesh (1), Burundi (12), China (1), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (16), Egypt (10), El Salvador (2), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (6), Kenya (11), Lebanon (1), Libya (1), Morocco (24), Pakistan (64), Russian Federation (40), Saudi Arabia (1), Sri Lanka (6), Syrian Arab Republic (48), Ukraine (2) and United Arab Emirates (2).

5. The Working Group also clarified 217 cases, in: Argentina (3), Egypt (97), Libya (1), Morocco (14), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (93), Saudi Arabia (6), Syrian Arab Republic (1) and Turkey (1). Twenty-seven cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by the Governments and 190 on the basis of information provided by sources.

6. Between its 116th and 117th sessions, the Working Group also transmitted 18 communications, either individually or jointly with other special procedure mechanisms: six urgent appeals, to China (1), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1), Israel (1), Saudi Arabia (1) and United Arab Emirates (2); two prompt intervention letters, to Iraq (1) and Turkmenistan (1); four allegation letters, to Eritrea (1), Ghana (1), Gambia (1) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (1); and six "other letters", to China (1), Mexico (2),

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

the European Union (1), the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (1) and the Economic Community of West African States (1).

7. On 9 October 2018, a press release was issued together with other special procedure mechanisms welcoming the decision by the Supreme Court in Peru to overturn the pardon of former president Alberto Fujimori.[1]

8. On 9 October 2018, a press release calling for a prompt independent and international investigation into the case of Saudi journalist and government critic Jamal Khashoggi was issued together with other special procedure mechanisms.[2]

9. On 18 October 2018, in the context of its reporting to the General Assembly, the Working Group issued a press release expressing concern about the new and very worrying practice of extraterritorial abductions by States.[3]

10. On 22 October 2018, a press release welcoming a court ruling in Guatemala concerning violations against Ixil Mayans was issued together with other special procedure mechanisms.[4]

11. On 31 October 2018, a press release on the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists was issued together with other special procedure mechanisms.[5]

12. On 26 November 2018, the Working Group issued a press release welcoming a new law against enforced disappearances in Lebanon.[6]

13. On 28 November 2018, a press release welcoming a ruling by the Supreme Court of Mexico regarding a problematic internal security law was issued together with other special procedure mechanisms.[7]

14. At its 117th session, the Working Group also reviewed and adopted four general allegations concerning reported obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in India, Pakistan, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

III. Other activities

15. During the session, the Working Group met with relatives of victims of enforced disappearances and with non-governmental organizations working on the issue. The Working Group also had the opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of human rights violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Srebrenica-Potočari and the Spomen Kosturnica memorials.

16. During the session, the Working Group held meetings with representatives of the Governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt and the Philippines.

[1] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23700&LangID=E.
[2] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23701&LangID=E.
[3] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23736&LangID=E.
[4] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23746&LangID=E.
[5] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23803&LangID=E.
[6] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23931&LangID=E.
[7] See www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23942&LangID=E.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Standard procedure

38. The Working Group transmitted 16 cases to the Government concerning:

(a) Taebong Kim, allegedly arrested from Gangwon-do on 5 August 1950 by members of the Korean People's Army;

(b) Youngchuk Park, allegedly abducted from Yongsan-gu, Seoul, on 2 June 1950 by members of the Korean People's Army;

(c) Inwon Yoon, allegedly abducted from Jongno-gu, Seoul, in July 1950 by members of the Korean People's Army;

(d) Jong-mu Do, allegedly abducted from navy vessel I-2 in the Yellow Sea on 5 June 1970, by individuals from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(e) Hyo-geun Yang, allegedly abducted from the fishing boat *Gilyong-ho* in open water of the Yellow Sea on 22 January 1966 by individuals from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(f) Hyo-geun Yang, allegedly abducted from the fishing boat *Gilyong-ho* in open water of the Yellow Sea on 22 January 1966 by individuals from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(g) Jong-sik Lee, allegedly abducted from Chunseong-gun, Gangwon-do, on 20 September 1950 by police officers from the Internal Affairs Bureau of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(h) Soon-geon Kim, allegedly abducted from Seongbuk-gu District, Seoul, on 7 August 1950 by Internal Security agents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(i) Seong-bok Choi, allegedly abducted from the vessel *Manbok*, in Goseong-gun District, Gangwon, on 10 July 1968 by officers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(j) Eung-kwon Kim, allegedly abducted from a boat near the Fishery Boundary Line on 2 July 1968 by crew members of a small armed ship of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(k) Hong-gyun Kim, allegedly abducted from the vessel *Daeseong-ho* off the coast of Sokcho on 23 May 1968 by officers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(l) Jong-yun Lee, allegedly abducted from the vessel *Boseung 2* near Baekryeong Island, Republic of Korea, on 20 March 1964 by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(m) Yang-su Park, allegedly abducted from the vessel *Odaeyang 61-ho* in the Yellow Sea near the Northern Limit Line by individuals from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(n) Sang-jun Kim, allegedly abducted from the vessel *Haeyang-ho*, near the Fishery Boundary Line, on 3 November 1967 by officers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(o) Tae-gil Park, allegedly abducted from the vessel *Boseung 2* near Baekryeong Island, Republic of Korea, on 20 March 1964 by soldiers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(p) Yeong-jun Choi, allegedly abducted from the vessel *Myeongdeok-ho*, near the Fishery Boundary Line, on 20 November 1965 by officers of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

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

Information from the Government

40. On 18 October 2018, the Government transmitted information concerning 12 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

Observation

41. The Working Group continues to be disappointed regarding the standard replies provided by the Government. The Working Group wishes to draw 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

42. On 21 December 2018, the Government transmitted information concerning one outstanding case. The information provided was considered insufficient to clarify it.

Information from the Government of Colombia

43. On 21 December 2018, the Government of Colombia transmitted information concerning one outstanding case under the records of Ecuador. The information provided was considered insufficient to clarify it.

Information from sources

44. Sources provided information on one outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify it.

Egypt

Urgent action

45. The Working Group, under its urgent action procedure, transmitted 34 cases to the Government (see annex II).

Standard procedure

46. The Working Group transmitted 10 cases to the Government under its standard procedure, concerning:

(a) Abdurrahman Karim Fattouh Hamed, allegedly abducted from Al-Salam City, Cairo Governorate, on 12 March 2018 by police officers and individuals in plainclothes;

(b) Asmaa Saied Ahmed Mahmoud Ahmed, allegedly abducted from Cairo Airport on 15 April 2018 by members of the National Security forces in plainclothes;

(c) Youssef Taha Ahmed Mohamed Taha, allegedly abducted at the Al-Masry Club on 10 February 2016 by members of the National Security forces in plainclothes;

(d) Ahmed Magdi Abdelazim Ryiad Ismail, allegedly abducted from Salem Hussein Street, Beni Suef Governorate, on 21 December 2017 by officials of the National Security Forces in plainclothes;

(e) Mohamed Ali Gharib Mosallam, allegedly abducted from Cairo Airport on 5 October 2017 by members of the National Security Forces;

(f) Assem Mohammed Mohammed Mohammed Mashaheet, allegedly arrested in Nasr City on 25 June 2018 by police forces in civilian clothes and in uniform;

(g) Mosaab Kamal Tawfik, allegedly last seen in Tora Prison in November 2018;