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**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\*****120th session (10–14 February 2020)****I. Communications**

1. Between its 119th and 120th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 27 cases under its urgent action procedure, to: China (1), Egypt (20), Pakistan (3), Syrian Arab Republic (1) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2).
2. At its 120th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 205 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to 13 States: Burundi (46), Belarus (1), China (7), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (7), Egypt (10), India (7), Pakistan (54), Sri Lanka (20), Syrian Arab Republic (33), Russian Federation (8), Turkey (1), Turkmenistan (1) and Yemen (10).
3. The Working Group also decided to transmit 11 newly reported cases of violations tantamount to enforced disappearances perpetrated by non-State actors in Ukraine (2), Yemen (5) and the State of Palestine (4).
4. The Working Group also clarified 43 cases in China (1), Colombia (2), Djibouti (1), Egypt (15), Jordan (1), Libya (1), Pakistan (13), Saudi Arabia (3), Syrian Arab Republic (1), Thailand (1), Turkey (2), Turkmenistan (1) and Viet Nam (1). A total of 25 cases were clarified on the basis of information provided by the Governments and 18 on the basis of information provided by sources.
5. Between its 119th and 120th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 34 communications, either individually or jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, 15 joint urgent appeals to: China (1), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1), Egypt (1), France (1), Iraq (1), Ireland (1), Lao People's Democratic Republic (1), Myanmar (1), Philippines (1), Saudi Arabia (1), Singapore (1), Thailand (1), Turkey (2) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (1); one allegation letter to Lebanon (1), 16 joint allegation letters to: Algeria (1), Bahrain (1), Belarus (1), Burkina Faso (1), China (1), Colombia (1), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (1), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (1), Libya (1), Mexico (2), Republic of Korea (1), Turkmenistan (1), United Republic of Tanzania (1), Venezuela

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(Bolivarian Republic of) (1) and to the de facto authorities in Sana'a, Yemen (1); and two "other letters" to China (1) and Pakistan (1).<sup>1</sup>

6. On 24 September 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on China to immediately end the harassment and surveillance of prominent human rights lawyer, Jiang Tianyong.

7. On 20 November 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release criticizing Egypt over the ongoing detention of lawyer and human rights defender Ibrahim Metwally, despite him having been cleared in court of all accusations against him,

8. On 20 November 2019 the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on Turkey to ensure the safety and security of Lisa Smith and her infant child, both Irish nationals, who were transferred to Turkish custody from a displacement camp in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic.

9. On 29 November 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release deploring the lack of significant progress in the implementation of the judgment issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the case of *Radilla Pacheco v. Mexico*.

10. On 20 December 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release calling on the Iranian authorities to release all individuals arbitrarily detained and mistreated during protests, and expressed concerns over the hundreds of people who had been killed.

11. On 26 December 2019, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release expressing alarm at the situation of Tashpolat Tiyp, a Chinese academic of Uighur origin and former president of Xinjiang University, detained at an unknown location in China.

12. On 30 January 2020, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release commending Ireland and Turkey for their cooperative and effective engagement ensuring the return of Lisa Smith and her infant child to Ireland in December.

13. On 13 February 2020, the Working Group, together with other special procedure mechanisms, issued a press release urging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to repatriate 11 individuals who were forcibly disappeared 50 years ago after their domestic flight in the Republic of Korea was hijacked.

14. At its 120th session, the Working Group reviewed and adopted two general allegations concerning Morocco and Nigeria (see annex I).

## II. Other activities

15. During its 120th session, the Working Group met with relatives of victims of enforced disappearance and with non-governmental organizations working on the issue.

16. Also during the session, the Working Group held meetings with representatives of the Governments of Croatia, Japan, Portugal, Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

17. To mark the launch of its fortieth anniversary campaign, during the session the Working Group hosted a public event during which it presented new audiovisual materials on the mandate of the Working Group, its history and ways to engage with its humanitarian procedures.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

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

#### **Algeria**

##### **Joint allegation letter**

18. On 18 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged arbitrary detention of Sahraouian activists Fadel Breika and Moulay Abba Bouzaid at the Tindouf camp. Mr. Breika is a human rights activist who has advocated for the determination of the fate and whereabouts of El Khalil Ahmed Braih whose case of disappearance remains outstanding before the Working Group.

#### **Bahrain**

##### **Joint allegation letter**

19. On 14 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture of 20 individuals convicted in a mass trial.

#### **Belarus**

##### **Standard procedure**

20. The Working Group transmitted one case to the Government concerning Dmitriy Zavadskiy, who allegedly disappeared at Minsk National Airport on 7 July 2000. While Mr. Zavadskiy was legally declared dead, his remains have yet to be located, identified and handed over to his relatives.

##### **Information from sources**

21. Sources provided updated information on three outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

##### **Joint allegation letter**

22. On 12 February 2020, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged lack of accountability in the cases of enforced disappearance of three individuals.

##### **Observation**

23. The Working Group recalls that the termination or suspension of a criminal investigation regarding an alleged enforced disappearance does not release the State from its obligation to search and locate the disappeared person or his/her remains, including their identification and return to the relatives, with due respect for cultural customs. In this regard, the Working Group urges the Government of Belarus to take decisive steps in clarifying the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared, in full coordination with their relatives.

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

##### **Information from the Government**

24. On 15 November 2019, the Government of the Republic of Serbia transmitted information concerning an outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

25. On 8 January 2020, the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina transmitted information concerning the same case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

#### **Joint allegation letter**

26. On 17 February 2020, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged imposition of the statute of limitations, known as *zastara*, on wartime victims seeking reparations through the judicial system, as well as the imposition of court fees to victims whose claims have been barred due to the imposition of the statute.

### **Burkina Faso**

#### **Joint allegation letter**

27. On 8 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning a general deterioration of the human rights situation in Burkina Faso, especially in the context of countering terrorism.

A reply from the Government of Burkina Faso was received on 13 February 2020.

### **Burundi**

#### **Standard procedure**

28. The Working Group transmitted 46 cases to the Government (see annex II).

#### **Observation**

29. The Working Group notes that the cases reviewed during the session concern young men, some were university and school students and many allegedly disappeared during waves of mass arrest that took place during the protests against the third mandate of President Nkurunziza. Among the alleged victims, there were also a few demobilized soldiers and members of opposition parties. The Working Group also notes cases of disappearances of women, such as the case of Emelyne Ndayishimiye whose fate and whereabouts remain unknown since she disappeared while attempting to find her husband, Alexis Nkunzimana, also a victim of enforced disappearance. In this regard, the Working Group wishes to recall its 2012 general comment on women affected by enforced disappearance, which underscores the specific impact of enforced disappearance on women and girls who face an increased risk of gender-based violence (A/HRC/WGEID/98/2).

30. The Working Group reiterates its deep concern about allegations of serious reprisals against persons who search for their disappeared relatives. A majority of the cases reviewed during this session have not been the subject of formal complaints to the authorities for fear of reprisals, including death threats. The numerous allegations citing ransom demands for the release of victims and racketeering by law enforcement officials are also serious impediments to the right to file complaints and to benefit from effective investigation to elucidate the fate of persons subjected to enforced or involuntary disappearances. In this regard, the Working Group reminds the Government of Burundi of the provisions of article 13 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which provides that the State shall ensure the right to denounce alleged acts of enforced disappearance, as well as protection against any ill-treatment and any act of intimidation or reprisals against complainants, their legal representatives, witnesses and those conducting the investigation. Paragraph 5 of the same article requires that measures be taken to ensure that any ill-treatment, intimidation or reprisals, or any other form of interference in the lodging of a complaint or during the investigation procedure, are fully punished.

31. The Working Group further notes with great concern the information received concerning the use of secret and informal places of detention such as the basement of the bar *Iwabo w'Abantu* in Kamenge, or the place known as *Chez Ndadaye*. These serious allegations relate to actions which are contrary to the provisions of article 10 of the

Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, according to which all persons deprived of their liberty shall be held in officially recognized places of detention and shall be brought before a judicial authority in accordance with national law shortly after arrest (para. 1). Accurate information about the detention of persons and their whereabouts, including their possible transfer, shall be promptly communicated to their family members, their lawyer or any person with a legitimate right to know such information, unless the persons deprived of their liberty wish otherwise (para. 2). An official register of all persons deprived of their liberty must be kept up to date in any place of detention. In addition, every State shall take measures to maintain such centralized registers and the information contained in such registers shall be made available to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph, to any judicial or other competent and independent national authority and to any other competent authority empowered by national law or by any international legal instrument to which the State concerned is a party, who wish to know the place where a person is detained (para. 3).

32. The Working Group also notes with concern the recurrent references to the Imbonerakure, reportedly operating in conjunction with the Burundian law enforcement and intelligence services. In this regard, the Working Group reminds the Government of Burundi of the provisions of article 12 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which provides that each State shall establish rules under its national law indicating those officials authorized to order deprivations of liberty, set out the conditions under which such orders may be given and provide for the penalties incurred by government officials who refuse, without legal justification, to provide information on a deprivation of liberty.

33. The Working Group further observes that in many cases the alleged perpetrators of the arrests or abductions leading to enforced or involuntary disappearances are known and identified. Article 16 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance requires that the alleged perpetrators of enforced or involuntary disappearances be removed from their official functions during a thorough investigation, which must be carried out whenever there is reason to believe that a person has been the victim of an enforced disappearance, even if no complaint has been formally lodged (art. 13). In this regard, the Working Group would also like to recall articles 14 and 15 of the Declaration and would like to receive detailed information on any investigations that may have been carried out by the Burundian authorities regarding the alleged perpetrators.

## **China**

### **Urgent action**

34. The Working Group, under its urgent action procedure, transmitted a case to the Government, concerning Huang Xueqin, who allegedly disappeared on 4 November 2019 after she had been placed in residential surveillance at a designated location.

### **Standard procedure**

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

- (a) Ezimet Enwer, allegedly abducted on 27 January 2018 from his home in Yining City, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, by police officers;
- (b) Alimu Sulayman, allegedly arrested at the end of June 2016 from his home in Shaya County, Akesu Prefecture, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, by local police;
- (c) Enwer Tursun, allegedly arrested on 29 April 2018 from a shop in Yining City, Ili Kazakh Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, by police officers;
- (d) Mehmet Hemdul, allegedly arrested in late 2017 from his home in Ku Er Le City, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, by police officers;
- (e) Rozi Haji Hemdul, allegedly arrested in late 2017 from his home in Ku Er Le City, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, by police officers;

(f) Kuerban Yakeya, allegedly arrested in June 2016 from his home in Shaya County, Akesu Prefecture, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, by local police;

(g) Maireyamu Kadier, allegedly arrested on 14 February 2018 from her home in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, by police officers.

#### **Clarification based on information from sources**

36. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify one case, concerning Nuermaimaiti Maiwulani, who is in detention.

#### **Information from sources**

37. Sources provided information on five outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

#### **Joint urgent appeal**

38. On 2 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms an urgent appeal concerning the situation of Tashpolat Tiyp, a Chinese national of Uighur origin, who was reportedly sentenced to death and may be at risk of execution.

39. On 9 December 2019 the Government provided a reply, which is pending translation.

#### **Joint “other letter”**

40. On 1 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms an “other letter” concerning the effect and application of the Counter-Terrorism Law of the People’s Republic of China, promulgated on 27 December 2015, effective as of 1 January 2016, and its regional implementing measures, the 2016 Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region Implementing Measures of the Counter-Terrorism Law.

41. On 16 December 2019 the Government provided a reply which is pending translation.

#### **Joint allegation letter**

42. On 11 December 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms holders, an allegation letter concerning the alleged arbitrary detention, short-term enforced disappearance and charging of health rights defenders from the organization Changsha Funeng, Cheng Yuan, Liu Dazhi and Wu Gejianxiong, in connection with their advocacy for non-discrimination and the rights of disadvantaged groups, as well as the investigations opened against Mr. Cheng’s wife and brother.

43. On 11 December 2019 the Government provided a reply which is pending translation.

#### **Reply to joint urgent appeal**

44. On 25 May 2019, the Government transmitted a reply to the joint urgent appeal sent on 1 May 2019, for which the translation was received on 22 October 2019, concerning the arrest and detention of, and charges against, five labour rights defenders, as well as the enforced disappearance of one of them, as a result of their advocacy for labour rights and better working conditions at the Jasic Technology factory in Shenzhen and for their attempts to form a trade union.

#### **Observation**

45. The Working Group remains seriously concerned that it continues to receive cases of individuals allegedly disappeared in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. It notes that it has yet to receive a reply to the questions previously raised with the Government of China, including the request for further specific information on the location of facilities in the region, the process of notification of family members and the standard period during which individuals stay in the facilities (A/HRC/WGEID/119/1 paras. 39–41).

46. The Working Group emphasizes 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 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).

47. The Working Group also reiterates its interest in undertaking a visit to China, as expressed in several communications transmitted since 2013.

## **Colombia**

### **Application of the six-month rule**

48. On 10 December 2019, the Government provided information on one outstanding case. On the basis of the information provided, the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to the case.<sup>2</sup>

### **Clarification**

49. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify two cases, which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 118th session (A/HRC/WGEID/118/1, para. 39), concerning Alejandro Matia Hernandez Vanstrahi and Jaime Mejía Gallego. The men are reportedly deceased.

### **Joint allegation letter**

50. On 22 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms an allegation letter concerning the murders, enforced disappearances and increased risks for human rights defenders in Colombia.

## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

### **Standard procedure**

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

- (a) Ho Seok Rim, allegedly arrested in April 1970 at his place of work in Pyongyang by the State Security Department;
- (b) Bok Ran Jeon, allegedly arrested on 20 December 2017 at his home in North Hamgyong Province;
- (c) Joong-dal Park, allegedly arrested in 1973 or 1974 and taken to a political prison camp;

<sup>2</sup> According to the methods of work of the Working Group, any reply from a State containing clear and detailed information on the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person will be transmitted to the source. If the source does not respond within six months of the date from which the State's reply was communicated to it, or if it contests the State's information on grounds that are considered unreasonable by the Working Group, the case will be considered clarified and accordingly listed under the heading "Cases clarified by the State's response" in the statistical summary of the annual report. If the source contests the State's information on reasonable grounds, the State will be so informed and invited to comment thereon (see A/HRC/WGEID/102/2, para. 25).

(d) Park Song-dal, allegedly arrested in 1978 at his home in Sinuiju Special Administrative Region by members of the Ministry of People's Security;

(e) Lim Yong-Seon, allegedly arrested in 1983 in Beijing and taken into custody by the Ministry of People's Security of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(f) Lim Yong-cheol, allegedly arrested in the spring of 1993 from his home in Sinuiju City, North Pyongan Province by members of the Ministry of People's Security;

(g) Kim Tae-won allegedly arrested in January 1973 from his home in Central District, Pyongyang, by government authorities.

52. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group also transmitted a copy of one of the case files to the Government of China.

#### **Information from sources**

53. Sources provided information on two outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

#### **Information from the Government**

54. On 11 November 2019, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea transmitted information concerning 35 outstanding cases (A/HRC/WGEID/119/1 paras. 44–45), which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

#### **Joint allegation letter**

55. On 11 February 2020, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged continued disappearance of 11 individuals, including Jeong Gyeong-Suk, Lee Dong-Ki, Jang Ki-Yeong and Choi Jeong-Woong, after the hijacking of Korean Air Lines flight YS-11 in 1969.

#### **Observation**

56. The Working Group further reiterates its serious concern regarding the lack of cooperation from the Government, including the identical replies it continues to receive in relation to the transmitted cases. The identical replies are especially concerning, given the allegation that some of the individuals are reportedly featured in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea census, indicating that the country may have information on the fate and whereabouts of some individuals and be intentionally withholding it. The Working Group is further concerned 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 maintains the highest levels of objectivity, independence and impartiality.

### **Djibouti**

#### **Clarification based on information from sources**

57. On the basis of the information provided by the source on 15 January 2020, indicating that Bourhan Ali Mohamed had been released, the Working Group decided to clarify the case, which was initially transmitted to the Government of Djibouti under the Working Group's urgent action procedure on 14 January 2020.

### **Egypt**

#### **Urgent action**

58. The Working Group, under its urgent action procedure, transmitted 20 cases to the Government, concerning:



- (a) Mohammed Mahmoud Ahmed Al-Yamani Mohammed, allegedly arrested on 8 December 2019 at his home by police officers;
- (b) El-Sayed Ibrahim Hassan Al-Suhaimi, allegedly arrested on 8 December 2019 in Alexandria by police officers;
- (c) Hasan Al-Kabbani who allegedly disappeared on 17 September 2019 while he was in the Homeland Security premises located in Sheikh Zayed, 6th of October City;
- (d) Ahmed Adel Sultan Abd Al-Halim, allegedly arrested on 12 September 2019, from a street in Al-Marg in Cairo Governorate by police officers in uniform and in plain clothes. There were witnesses to his arrest;
- (e) Mohamed Adel Eid Ahmed El-Sherif who allegedly disappeared on 20 September 2019 from the Al-Salam District bus station as he was on his way to Cairo to look for work;
- (f) Mohamed Salih Mohamed Salih Nada, allegedly arrested at around 5 a.m. on 9 July 2019, at his residence by National Security agents in plain clothes and uniform;
- (g) Mustafa Hussein Mohamed Omar who allegedly disappeared on 7 August 2019 while he was being released from prison;
- (h) Ahmed Mohamed Mansi El-Sayed Salem, allegedly arrested at around 9 p.m. on 13 June 2019 at his residence in Bella District, Kafr El-Sheikh Governorate, by National Security agents in plain clothes and in uniform;
- (i) Abdelaziz Abdelrahman, allegedly arrested on 13 November 2019 while at passport security check at Cairo International Airport, Hall 2 by National Security forces in civilian clothes;
- (j) Mubarak Abdullah, allegedly arrested on 22 September 2019 from Al-Mal'ab Al-Khoumassi soccer field in Manshiyat-Abbas Village, Sidi Salem Area, Kafr Al-Sheikh District, by a number of members of the security forces in civilian clothes;
- (k) Mai Al-Aghouri, allegedly arrested on 1 November 2019 with her spouse Islam Hasan and their 3-month-old son, who was still being breastfed, at their home located at Al-Fayrouz residence, Al-Fayrouz Street, Tower No. 36, Al-Marg, Cairo, by police officers from the Al-Marg police station;
- (l) Islam Hasan, allegedly arrested on 1 November 2019, with his spouse Mai Al-Aghouri and their 3-month-old son, who was still being breastfed, at their home located at Al-Fayrouz residence, Al-Fayrouz Street, Tower No. 36, Al-Marg, Cairo, by police officers from the Al-Marg police station;
- (m) A 3-month-old boy, allegedly taken on 1 November 2019 with his parents Mai Al-Aghouri and Islam Hasan at their home located at Al-Fayrouz residence, Al-Fayrouz Street, Tower No. 36, Al-Marg, Cairo, by police officers from the Al-Marg police station;
- (n) Omar Hatem Sayed Ibrahim, last seen with his brother Nouredin Hatem Sayed Ibrahim on 22 September 2019 at the headquarters of the National Security Service in Sheikh Zayed City, Giza Governorate;
- (o) Nouredin Hatem Sayed Ibrahim, last seen with his brother Omar Hatem Sayed Ibrahim on 22 September 2019 at the headquarters of the National Security Service in Sheikh Zayed City, Giza Governorate;
- (p) Mahmoud Rateb Yunes Al-Qadra, allegedly abducted on 13 October 2019 on the street in Al-Tagamoa El-Awal, near the Post Office by National Security agents in plain clothes;
- (q) Mohammed Haider Al-Yamani Al-Naghi, allegedly abducted on 19 December 2019 from his place of residence located at building No. 33, Al-Gawhara, Al-Ittihad Al-Ishtiraki Area, Helwan, by three National Security agents in plain clothes;
- (r) Ahmed Mosbah Abu Sati Tantawy, allegedly arrested on 12 January 2020 at 1.30 a.m. at the Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, Abbaseyya, Cairo, by four security agents in plain clothes;

- (s) Al-Sayed Nasr Mohammed Ali, allegedly arrested at El-Raml train station in Alexandria on 5 December 2019 by police officers in uniform;
- (t) Mussaab Mohamed Ismail Elserwi, allegedly arrested on 15 October 2019 at 1.30 a.m. at his home in Building No. 211, Alnarges Buildings, Fifth Settlement, New Cairo, by National Security agents.

**Standard procedure**

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

- (a) Abdulrahman Mohammed who allegedly disappeared on 28 January 2019 while in detention at the Al-Maasara police station, Helwan, Cairo;
- (b) An Egyptian male minor, allegedly abducted from his home on 26 July 2018 by National Security agents;
- (c) Wael Ibrahim, allegedly abducted on 21 March 2019 at 2.30 a.m. from his home in Kafr Shalshalmon village, Minya Al-Qamh district, Sharqia, by members of the security forces;
- (d) Hasan Mostafa Mohammed Mostafa Ahmed, allegedly last seen between May and June 2019 during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan at the National Security Agency in Abbasiya District, Cairo Governorate;
- (e) Khaled Ahmed Abdel-Hamid Saad Sleiman, allegedly abducted on 5 July 2019 from his home in Shurouk City, Cairo, by National Security agents;
- (f) Mohamed Maher Ahmed Al-Hendwi Fayed who allegedly disappeared on 28 February 2019 from the police station in 10th of Ramadan City;
- (g) Ahmed Saad Mohamed Alkbrati, allegedly last heard of on 26 December 2018 as he was being detained at the Hurghada police station;
- (h) Fangari Mohamed Hassanein Ezzeddine, allegedly abducted on 5 October 2018 by police officers in uniform and plain clothes at the football stadium in El-Kalj;
- (i) Mostafa El-Habashy Mohamed El-Habashy, allegedly last heard of on 26 December 2018 as he was detained at the Hurghada “first” police station;
- (j) Mohammed Hasan, allegedly abducted on 5 February 2019 from his work by National Security agents.

**Clarification based on information from sources**

60. On the basis of the information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify four cases concerning Ibrahim Ezz Eldin Mahmoud Salama, Abdul Rahman Usama Mohamed Al Akeed (or Abdul Rahman Osama Muhammad Al-Aqeed) and Ahmed Alakad, who are in detention, and Mahmoud Ghareeb Mahmoud Qassim, who was reportedly killed.

**Application of the six-month rule**

61. On 23 and 24 January 2020, the Government provided information, on the basis of which the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to 31 cases concerning:

- (a) Khaled Taha Ahmed Omar
- (b) Muhammad Jamal Muhammad Abdul Majeed
- (c) Islam Raafat Abdel Mohsen Muhanna
- (d) Abdul Rahman Karim Fattouh Hamed
- (e) Musab Kamal Tawfiq Merai
- (f) Jamal Abdul Wahab Awad
- (g) Ahmed Adel Abdo Zaraa

- (h) Al-Mu'tasim Billah Adel Abdo Al-Zaraa
- (i) Abdul Rahman Saad Eid Naseer
- (j) Muhammad Ezz Al-Din Yusef Malik
- (k) Ahmed Amin Abdul Rahman Mahmoud
- (l) Islam Ali Abdel Aal Mohamed
- (m) Abdullah Boumediene Nasr El-Din Okasha
- (n) Abdel Malik Mohamed Abdel Malek Hussein
- (o) Alaa Al Sayed Ali Ibrahim
- (p) Hisham Abdel Maksoud Ahmed Ghobashi
- (q) Islam El-Sayed Mahfouz Salem Khalil
- (r) Mohamed Ahmed Abdel Hamid Antar
- (s) Al-Sayed Qasim Saleh Ali Al-Jezawi
- (t) Islam Attia Ali Attia Sarhan
- (u) Ahmed Kamal Ragab Suleiman Faraj
- (v) Salah Hussein Mohammed Ali Ghoneim
- (w) Moaz Ahmed Mohamed Al-Faramawi
- (x) Anas Al Sayed Ibrahim Mohamed
- (y) Sharif Al-Sayed Al-Mohammadi
- (z) Muhammad Ali Hassan Saudi
- (aa) Mohamed Magdy Mohamed Hussein
- (bb) Magdy Mohamed Abdel-Dayem
- (cc) Ahmed Adel Sultan Abd Al-Halim
- (dd) El-Sherif Mohamed
- (ee) Mustafa Hussein Mohamed Omar

#### **Information from the Government**

62. On 23 and 24 January 2020, the Government of Egypt transmitted information concerning 34 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

63. On 23 January 2020 the Government of Malaysia transmitted information concerning one case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

#### **Information from sources**

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

#### **Clarification**

65. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify 15 cases that had been placed under the six-month rule at its 118th session. Thirteen of the individuals were reportedly in detention while one person was reportedly released and another reported as a fugitive. The clarified cases concerned:

- (a) Maged Taha Hussain Ahmad al-Sherei
- (b) Walid Ismat Hassan Khalil
- (c) Abu Bakr Ali Abdul Muttalib Sinhouti
- (d) Talaat Hassan Ali Qarani

- (e) Saad Sherif
- (f) Ezzat Eid Taha Fadel Khudair Ghoneim
- (g) Muhammad Awad Basyouni al-Asali
- (h) Ayatollah Ashraf Muhammad al-Sayyed
- (i) Obeir Naged Abdullah Mustafa
- (j) Tareq Mahmoud Hassan Mahmoud
- (k) Walid Ali Salim Muhammad Hamadah
- (l) Ali Mahmoud Ali Mahmoud al-Kadawani
- (m) Ibrahim al-Sayyed Muhammad Abdou Atta
- (n) Samiya Muhammad Nasef Rushdi
- (o) Marwa Ahmad Madbouly Ahmad

**Joint urgent appeal**

66. On 13 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning Ibrahim Metwally.

**Observation**

67. The Working Group expresses serious concern about the allegation of the systematic absence of response or investigation following complaints of enforced disappearances. Information received always indicates that persons associated with the alleged victims sent official telegrams, described as official complaints, to various governmental institutions such as prosecutors, but also to specific ministries including the Ministry of the Interior without any response. The Working Group recalls the provisions of articles 9 and 13 of the 1992 Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Article 13.1 requires States to ensure that any person having knowledge or a legitimate interest who alleges that a person has been subjected to enforced disappearance has the right to complain to a competent and independent State authority and to have that complaint promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated by that authority.

68. The Working Group reiterates its concerns over the continued allegations of disappearances of inmates who are transferred to police stations following court decisions for their release. Article 11 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance requires that all persons deprived of liberty must be released in a manner permitting reliable verification that they have actually been released and, further, have been released in conditions in which their physical integrity and ability to fully exercise their rights are assured.

69. During the session, the Working Group considered new information regarding the case of Ibrahim Ezz Eldin Mahmoud Salama, a housing rights defender. The Working Group expresses grave concern about the seeming absence of investigation into the allegations of enforced disappearance and torture against Ibrahim Ezz Eldin Mahmoud Salama.

70. The Working Group deplores the information that Mahmoud Ghareeb Mahmoud Qassim whose case was initially transmitted on 14 May 2019, was killed on 18 September 2019 in an alleged exchange of fire between government forces and non-State actors. The Working Group notes the discrepancy in the information received and recommends full transparency on the autopsy conducted following the death of Mahmoud Ghareeb Mahmoud Qassim, taking into consideration the standards of the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death.

## **El Salvador**

### **Information from the Government**

71. On 3 September 2019, the Government of El Salvador transmitted information concerning two outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify those cases.

### **Information from sources**

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

## **India**

### **Standard procedure**

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

- (a) Mohammad Shafi Rah Kuka, allegedly arrested on 8 May 2000 at his shop in Kathmandu, Nepal, and handed over to the Indian authorities;
- (b) Abid Hussain Dar, allegedly arrested on 27 October 1996, from Kathua, Chadwal-Mandial Sector, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian army;
- (c) Manya Tancha allegedly arrested on 3 August 2005 at his home in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian army;
- (d) Shabir Ahmad Bhat allegedly arrested on 19 January 1996, from his home in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian army;
- (e) Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, allegedly arrested on 10 June 1992 from the Lalchow area in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Border Security Force;
- (f) Mohamed Lone Akbar, allegedly arrested on 3 February 1999 at his home in Bandipora district, Jammu and Kashmir, by the Indian army;
- (g) Muhammad Habib Zahir, allegedly last heard from in Bhairahawa Airport, Lumbini, Nepal, believed to have been taken across the border into India.

74. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group also transmitted a copy of one of the case files to the Government of Pakistan and two of the case files to the Government of Nepal.

### **Reply to joint urgent appeal**

75. On 30 December 2019 the Government transmitted an additional reply to the joint urgent appeal sent on 2 April 2019 concerning the alleged enforced disappearance of the environmental human rights defender Shanmugam Thangasamy also known as R.S. Mugilan, following his participation in a press conference during which he denounced the involvement of senior police officials in the killing of 13 persons on 22 May 2018 during a protest opposing the environmental pollution caused by the Sterlite Copper Smelting Plant in Thoothukudi.

## **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**

### **Information from sources**

76. Sources provided information on seven outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

### **Joint allegation letter**

77. On 18 December 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedures mandate holders an allegation letter concerning the alleged use of force against

protesters leading to the killing of at least 234 individuals and the reported arrest of 7,000 individuals, as well as concerns relating to conditions of detention, including mistreatment of detainees, and restrictions on journalists covering the events.

### **Reply to joint urgent appeal**

78. On 3 December 2019 the Government transmitted an additional reply to the joint urgent appeal sent on 14 May 2019 concerning the reported arrest and arbitrary detention of human rights defenders Yasaman Aryani, Monireh Arabshahi and Mojgan Keshavarz by the Iranian authorities.

## **Jordan**

### **Clarification**

79. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Mohammed Kefah Surour (or Mohamed Kifah Sorour al-Momani), which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 118th session (A/HRC/WGEID/118/1, para. 66). Mr. Kefah Surour is at liberty.

## **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

### **Joint urgent appeal**

80. On 25 September 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, a letter concerning the potential disappearance of Od Sayavong

81. On 17 January 2020 the Government transmitted a reply to the joint urgent appeal.

## **Lebanon**

### **Allegation letter**

82. On 8 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted an allegation letter concerning the alleged failure of the Lebanese authorities to properly and thoroughly investigate the alleged enforced disappearance of Lebanese citizen Andre Morcos.

83. A Government reply was received on 30 January 2020 and is being translated. The document will be made available when it has been translated.

## **Libya**

### **Urgent action**

84. The Working Group, in accordance with its announcement made in September 2019 that it would start documenting violations tantamount to enforced disappearances perpetrated by non-State actors (A/HRC/42/40, para. 94), transmitted under its urgent action procedure one case to the Libyan National Army<sup>3</sup> concerning Siham Salim Sergewa.

### **Information from the Government**

85. On 6 November 2019, the Government of Libya transmitted information concerning two cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify them.

86. On 20 December 2019, the Government of Turkey transmitted information on two cases which was determined to be insufficient to clarify them.

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<sup>3</sup> The Working Group stresses that the cases addressed to the Libyan National Army do not in any way imply the expression of any opinion concerning the legal status of any territory, city or area, or of its authorities.

**Information from sources**

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

**Clarification based on information from sources**

88. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify one case, concerning Awad Khalifa, who was released from detention.

**Joint allegation letter**

89. On 23 December 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mandate holders, an allegation letter concerning the alleged short-term enforced disappearance and then detention of journalist Reda Fhelboom.

**Maldives****Information from sources**

90. On 20 December 2019, the Government of the Maldives provided information on one case, which was considered insufficient to clarify it.

**Malaysia****Information from the Government**

91. The Working Group reviewed information provided by the Governments of Egypt and Malaysia concerning an alleged case of the enforced disappearance of an Egyptian citizen who was deported from Malaysia to Egypt at the request of the Government of Egypt. The information received from the two Governments was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

**Observation**

92. The Working Group would like to recall article 8 of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance which stipulates that “No State shall expel, return (refouler) or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds to believe that he would be in danger of enforced disappearance.” Article 8 further requires that for the purpose of determining whether there are such grounds, the competent authorities shall take into account all relevant considerations including, where applicable, the existence in the State concerned of a consistent pattern of gross, flagrant or mass violations of human rights.

**Mexico****Information from sources**

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

**Joint allegation letter**

94. On 9 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mandate holders, an allegation letter concerning the discussions in the Mexican Supreme Court of a draft judgment regarding the right of victims and relatives to access the files of cases of enforced disappearances they have pursued before the justice system.

95. On 27 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mandate holders, an allegation letter concerning the lack of significant progress in the implementation of a resolution issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in 2009 in the case of the enforced disappearance of Rosendo Radilla Pacheco.

### **Reply to joint allegation letter**

96. On 30 January 2020 the Government transmitted a reply to the joint allegation letter sent on 9 October 2019, concerning the discussion in the Supreme Court of a judgment regarding the right of victims and relatives to access the files of cases of enforced disappearances.

97. On 12 February 2020 the Government transmitted a reply to the joint allegation letter sent on 27 November 2019 concerning the case of the enforced disappearance of Mr. Radilla Pacheco.

## **Morocco**

### **Information from the Government**

98. On 18 September 2019, the Government of Morocco transmitted information concerning 15 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify those cases.

### **General allegation**

99. The Working Group received information from credible sources alleging difficulties encountered in implementing the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in Morocco. The general allegation in annex I focuses on the right to truth and justice for victims of enforced disappearance and the need to establish a dedicated mechanism for that purpose.

## **Mozambique**

### **Information from the Government**

100. On 11 February 2020, the Government of Portugal transmitted information concerning one outstanding case under the records of Mozambique. The information provided was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

## **Myanmar**

### **Joint urgent appeal**

101. On 10 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, allegations concerning the return of seven members of the Rakhine minority from Singapore to Myanmar, who were then forcibly disappeared for one month

102. On 29 November 2019, the Government transmitted a reply to the joint urgent appeal.

## **Nepal**

### **Reply to joint urgent appeal**

103. On 20 January 2020, the Government transmitted a reply to the joint urgent appeal sent on 15 July 2019 concerning the amendment bill to revise the existing act of the National Human Rights Commission Act-2012, potentially severely undermining the authority, effectiveness and independence of the Commission and limiting the ability of the Nepali people to access justice.

## **Nigeria**

### **General allegation**

104. The Working Group received information from credible sources alleging difficulties encountered in implementing the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced



Disappearance in Nigeria. The general allegation (see annex I) mainly focuses on the alleged enforced disappearance of children detained by the military for suspected involvement with Boko Haram in the north-east of the country.

## **Pakistan**

### **Urgent action**

105. The Working Group, under its urgent action procedure, transmitted three cases to the Government, concerning:

- (a) Suleman Farooq Chaudhri, allegedly abducted in Rawalpindi on 4 October 2019 by men believed to be members of a Pakistan security agency.
- (b) Sher Jan, allegedly taken from his home in Pakistan on 6 December 2019 by the police.
- (c) Akmal Waheed, allegedly abducted from Solar Hospital in Karachi on 14 October 2019 by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Inter-Services Intelligence, the Military Intelligence or the Central Intelligence Agency.

### **Standard procedure**

106. The Working Group transmitted 54 cases to the Government (see annex II).

### **Clarification based on information from sources**

107. On the basis of the information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify four cases concerning Ali Nasir, Rahmdil Peer Bakhsh, Waqar ul Amin and Talal Ahmed. The individuals have reportedly been released.

### **Application of the six-month rule**

108. On 26 November 2019, the Government provided information on 175 outstanding cases. On the basis of the information provided, the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to the cases.

### **Information from the Government**

109. On 26 November 2019, the Government of Pakistan transmitted information concerning 20 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify those cases.

### **Information provided by sources**

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

### **Clarification**

111. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify nine cases, which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 118th session (A/HRC/WGEID/118/1, para. 85), concerning Ehsaan Ullah, Muhammad Adnan, Waseem Behri, Sher Ali, Khuda Yaar, Hafiz Muhammad Sajjad, Khawar Mehmood, Noor Zada and Shah Zada.

112. Ehsaan Ullah, Noor Zada and Shah Zada were reportedly in detention. Muhammad Adnan, Waseem Behri, Sher Ali, Khuda Yaar, Hafiz Muhammad Sajjad and Khawar Mehmood had reportedly returned home.

### **Duplicates**

113. The Working Group decided to consider one outstanding case as a duplicate. The duplicate case was consequently deleted from the records of the Working Group.

### **Joint other letter**

114. On 30 December 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mandate holders, a letter concerning the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Actions (In Aid of Civil Power) Ordinance of 2019 and the assignation of wide-ranging powers to the armed forces.

## **Philippines**

### **Information from the Government**

115. The Working Group thanks the Government for the efforts made to provide updates to the numerous outstanding cases. The Working Group will endeavour to treat the replies received as quickly as possible at future sessions.

### **Duplicates**

116. The Working Group decided to consider nine of the outstanding cases as duplicates. The duplicate cases were consequently deleted from the records of the Working Group.

### **Joint urgent appeal**

117. On 10 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, a communication concerning the alleged arrests of at least 62 individuals following raids on the offices of several civil society organizations and on the houses of their members, and the alleged abduction of a human rights defender.

## **Republic of Korea**

### **Joint allegation letter**

118. On 28 January 2020, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged deportation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of two citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who were reportedly seized in the East Sea on 2 November 2019. This decision was reportedly taken based on their alleged confession of having killed 16 persons on the boat on which they were spotted by the navy of the Republic of Korea.

## **Russian Federation**

### **Standard procedure**

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

- (a) Abdurakhman Shamilievitch Abdurakhmanov, allegedly abducted on 25 June 2010 in the street outside his relative's residence in Kaspiysk, Dagestan, by agents believed to be affiliated with Russian security agencies;
- (b) Abdul-Yazit Denilbekovich Askhabov, allegedly abducted on the night of 4 August 2009 from his home by three men in balaclavas and camouflage uniforms allegedly affiliated with the Federal Security Service or the district police department;
- (c) Isa Suleymanovich Maayev, allegedly abducted on 10 March 2003 in a raid on his relatives' home by 10 masked and armed agents reportedly affiliated with the Russian military forces;
- (d) Timur Muhammedovitch Yandiyev, allegedly abducted on 16 March 2004 outside the Ingushenergo building by a group of armed and masked agents allegedly affiliated with the Russian security services;
- (e) Rustam Selimovitch Amerkhanov, allegedly arrested on 3 November 2002 by Russian Special Forces as he was leaving his relatives' house to meet a friend in Shalazi;

- (f) Magomed-Ali Vahaevich Abayev, allegedly abducted on 13 September 2000 near his home at a checkpoint of the Russian military forces;
- (g) Balavdi Zhebrailov, allegedly abducted during the night of 25/26 April 2005 from his house by four men wearing uniforms and armed with assault rifles;
- (h) Buvaysar Magomadov, allegedly abducted on 27 October 2002 from his relative's house by 20 officers in camouflage uniforms and bulletproof vests presumed to be associated with the Russian armed forces.

#### **Information from the Government**

120. On 21 December 2019, the Government of the Russian Federation transmitted information concerning 39 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

121. On 10 January 2020, the Government of Ukraine transmitted information concerning an outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

#### **Application of the six-month rule**

122. On 21 December 2019, the Government of the Russian Federation provided information concerning an outstanding case. On the basis of the information provided, the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to the case.

#### **Information from sources**

123. Sources provided updated information on three outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

#### **Observation**

124. Noting with concern the lack of progress in determining the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared persons, particularly from the North Caucasus, the Working Group reminds the Government of the Russian Federation of its obligation to search, locate and identify the disappeared or their remains and return them to their relatives with due respect for cultural customs.

125. The Working Group hopes that the Government will soon reply positively to the country visit request, transmitted on 2 November 2006, and the subsequent reminders it has sent.

### **Saudi Arabia**

#### **Clarification based on information from sources**

126. On the basis of the information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify the cases of Abdulhadhi Jaralla and Ali Nasser Ali Jaralla, who have been released from detention.

#### **Application of the six-month rule**

127. On 20 February 2020, the Government provided information on the outstanding case of Turki Al Jasser, who is reportedly detained at al-Ha'ir detention centre in Riyadh. On the basis of the information provided, the Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to the case.

#### **Information provided by sources**

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

### **Clarification**

129. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Marwan Alaa Naji Al-Muraisy in detention, which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 118th session (A/HRC/WGEID/118/1, para. 94).

### **Joint Allegation Letter**

130. On 27 January 2020, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mandate holders, an allegation letter concerning the arrest, continued detention without any charge and ill-treatment of Mohammed Al-Khoudary, his son Hani Al-Khoudary and Adelrahman Mohammed Farhanah.

## **Singapore**

### **Joint urgent appeal**

131. On 10 October 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, allegations concerning the return of seven members of the Rakhine minority from Singapore to Myanmar, who were then forcibly disappeared for one month.

132. On 24 October 2019 the Government transmitted a reply to the joint urgent appeal.

## **Spain**

### **Information from sources**

133. Sources transmitted updated information concerning an outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

## **Sri Lanka**

### **Standard procedure**

134. The Working Group transmitted 20 cases to the Government (see annex II).

## **State of Palestine**

### **Standard procedure addressed to non-State actors**

135. In September 2019, the Working Group announced that it would start documenting violations tantamount to enforced disappearances perpetrated by non-State actors (A/HRC/42/40, para. 94). Accordingly, during the session it considered four cases tantamount to enforced disappearances, allegedly perpetrated in territory controlled by Hamas<sup>4</sup> in the Gaza strip, concerning:

- (a) Avera Mengistu, an Israeli citizen, taken on 7 September 2014 by members of Hamas while entering the Gaza strip;
- (b) Hadar Goldin, an Israeli soldier, taken on 1 August 2014 by Hamas militants in Rafah;
- (c) Hisham Al-Sayed, an Israeli citizen who disappeared on 20 April 2015 after crossing the Eastern border into Gaza
- (d) Oron Shaul, an Israeli citizen, taken on 20 July 2014 by Hamas forces in Shuja'iyya, Gaza.

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<sup>4</sup> The Working Group stresses that the cases addressed to Hamas do not in any way imply the expression of any opinion concerning the legal status of any territory, city or area, or of its authorities.

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

### **Urgent action**

136. The Working Group, under its urgent action procedure, transmitted one case to the Government, concerning Hadi Al-Zuhuri, reportedly arrested by persons affiliated with the Ministry of the Interior following his deportation from Lebanon.

137. In accordance with its methods of work, the Working Group sent a copy of the case file to the Government of Lebanon and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

### **Standard procedure**

138. The Working Group transmitted 33 cases to the Government (see annex II).

### **Clarification based on information provided by sources**

139. On the basis of information provided by sources, the Working Group decided to clarify the case of Omair Mus'ab Yousef Gharaibeh, which had been transmitted to the Government under urgent procedure at its 118th session (A/HRC/WGEID/118/1, para. 106). The person is reportedly in detention.

### **Observation**

140. In stark violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and non-State actors continue to practise and tolerate enforced disappearances with impunity (see A/HRC/43/57). The Working Group condemns in the strongest terms such practices that may amount to crimes against humanity. Specifically, the Working Group remains concerned about the lack of due process, ill-treatment, torture and deaths in detention, in facilities run by both government forces and by non-State actors. In the absence of effective inquiries, a marked increase in the issuance of formal death notifications to relatives of the disappeared further epitomizes the rampant culture of impunity.

141. The Working Group reiterates its calls to the Syrian authorities to immediately stop and prevent enforced disappearances, search and locate the victims, conduct transparent, independent and effective investigations into these abuses, with a particular emphasis on the reported deaths in custody, hold the perpetrators accountable and provide redress to the families of the disappeared.

## **Thailand**

### **Clarification**

142. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one case, which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 118th session, concerning Chaicharn Chaiyasat (A/HRC/WGEID/118/1, para. 113). He was reportedly found alive.

### **Joint urgent appeal**

143. On 25 September 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, a letter concerning the alleged disappearance of Od Sayavong.

## **Turkey**

### **Standard procedure**

144. The Working Group, under its standard procedure, transmitted one case to the Government, concerning Hanan Arfo, a national of the Syrian Arab Republic, allegedly

arrested in March 2018 by Turkish armed forces in coordination with an allied armed group in Afrin, north-western Syria.

#### **Information from the Government**

145. On 8 October 2019, the Government of Turkey provided information on 46 outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

#### **Clarification**

146. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government and sources, the Working Group decided to clarify two cases concerning Mustafa Yilmaz and Gokhan Turkmen. Both individuals are reportedly in detention.

#### **Application of the six-month rule**

147. On 8 October 2019, the Government provided information concerning two cases. The Working Group decided to apply the six-month rule to the cases.

#### **Information from sources**

148. Sources provided information concerning an outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

#### **Joint allegation letter**

149. On 15 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning the alleged disappearance of Lisa Smith and her child in northern Syria. A similar appeal was transmitted to the Government of Ireland.

150. The Government of Turkey provided two replies to the joint urgent appeal on 2 December and 23 December 2019, respectively. In a similar manner, the Government of Ireland provided two replies on 19 November 2019 and 14 January 2020, respectively.

151. On 11 December 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, a joint urgent appeal concerning the need to protect the right to life of four French women and their children, who were presumed to have disappeared in northern Syria. A similar joint urgent appeal was also transmitted to the Government of France.

#### **Observations**

152. The Working Group recalls that the termination or suspension of a criminal investigation regarding an alleged enforced disappearance does not release the State from its obligation to search, locate and identify the disappeared person or his/her remains and return them to their relatives, with due respect for cultural customs. In this regard, the Working Group urges the Government of Turkey to implement concrete search-related measures with the aim of clarifying the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared, in full coordination with their relatives.

### **Turkmenistan**

#### **Clarification**

153. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government and sources, the Working Group decided to clarify one case concerning Annamurad Atdaev. The person is reportedly in detention.

#### **Joint allegation letter**

154. On 29 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged enforced disappearances and deaths in custody of at least 27 individuals owing to torture, inhumane treatment,

degrading detention conditions and denial of medical assistance in the Turkmen prison system, in particular at the maximum security prison Ovadan Depe.

155. On 14 February 2020, the Government provided a reply which is pending translation.

### **Observations**

156. The Working Group welcomes the readiness of the Government of Turkmenistan to host a technical visit of the Working Group aimed at enhancing the capacity of the authorities to effectively combat and prevent enforced disappearance, notably in its penitentiary system. In the hope of paving the road for a full-fledged country visit, the Working Group remains committed to delivering technical support in the course of 2020.

## **Ukraine**

### **Standard procedure**

157. In September 2019, the Working Group announced that it would start documenting violations tantamount to enforced disappearances perpetrated by non-State actors (A/HRC/42/40, para. 94). Accordingly, during this session it considered three cases tantamount to enforced disappearances, allegedly perpetrated in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic.<sup>5</sup> The Working Group transmitted the cases to the Government of Ukraine and the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic under its standard procedure, concerning:

- (a) Dmitriy Ruban, allegedly abducted on 29 August 2014 by armed groups of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic in the area of Mnogopolye/Starobeshevo, Donetsk.
- (b) Yurii Karpov, allegedly abducted on 29 August 2014 by armed groups of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic in the area of Mnogopolye/Starobeshevo, Donetsk.
- (c) Oleg Karpov, allegedly abducted on 30 August 2014 by the armed forces of the Russian Federation, who transferred him to a Cossack unit in the area controlled by the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic near Starobeshevo settlement.

### **Information from the Government**

158. On 10 January 2020, the Government of Ukraine provided information concerning six outstanding cases, which was considered insufficient to clarify the cases.

### **Information provided by sources**

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

### **Observation**

160. The Working Group is concerned about the lack of progress in clarifying the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared persons in Ukraine. In this regard, the Working Group reminds the Government of Ukraine and the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic of the obligation to search, locate and identify the disappeared or their remains and return them to their relatives, with due respect for cultural customs.

<sup>5</sup> The Working Group stresses that the cases addressed to the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic do not in any way imply the expression of any opinion concerning the legal status of any territory, city or area, or of its authorities.

## **United Arab Emirates**

### **Information provided by sources**

161. Sources provided an update on one outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify the case.

## **United Republic of Tanzania**

### **Joint allegation letter**

162. On 31 January 2020, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the alleged short-term enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention of and spurious charges against a human rights lawyer and a journalist in Tanzania.

## **Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)**

### **Urgent action**

163. The Working Group transmitted two cases under its urgent action procedure to the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, concerning:

(a) Oswaldo Valentín García Palomo who allegedly disappeared from the headquarters of the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service, El Helicoide, in Caracas on 12 December 2019;

(b) Víctor Andrés Ugas Azocar, allegedly arrested near Plaza Madariaga in El Paraiso, Caracas, on 20 December 2019 in an operation led by the Venezuelan Special Actions Force.

### **Information from the source**

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

### **Suspension of the six-month rule**

165. On the basis of information provided by sources on the case of Gilber Alexander Caro Alfonzo, the Working Group decided to suspend the six-month rule, which had been applied to the case after the 119th session.

### **Joint urgent appeal**

166. On 28 January 2020, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an urgent appeal concerning the arrest and enforced disappearance of Gilber Caro Alfonzo and Victor Ugas Azocar in Caracas.

### **Joint allegation letter**

167. On 6 November 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, an allegation letter concerning the death in custody of Rafael Acosta Arevalo, who had been forcibly disappeared and who died as a result of torture.

## **Viet Nam**

### **Clarification**

168. On the basis of information previously provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one case, which had been placed under the six-month rule at its 118th session, concerning Ngo Van Dung (A/HRC/WGEID/118/1, para. 137). He was reportedly in detention.



### **Information from the Government**

169. On 3 January 2020, the Government transmitted information concerning one outstanding case, which was considered insufficient to clarify it.

### **Information from sources**

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

### **Reply to joint urgent appeal**

171. On 30 January 2020 the Government transmitted a reply to the joint urgent appeal sent on 18 April 2019, concerning the alleged arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearance and subsequent repatriation of Truong Duy Nhat from Thailand to Viet Nam and the surveillance and intimidation of Bach Hong Quyen.

## **Yemen**

### **Standard procedure**

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

- (a) Osama Mohammed Ali Al-Sarati, allegedly arrested on 24 June 2016 by the Aden Security Department forces during a raid on his house in Aden;
- (b) A minor, reportedly arrested on 2 April 2016 by the Aden Security Department before allegedly disappearing in the penitentiary system;
- (c) Helmi Abdo Mohammed, allegedly abducted on 21 March 2016 by an armed group reportedly associated with the Bakazm tribe and the Aden Security Department on the Shabwa-Aden road;
- (d) Zakaria Ahmed Mohammed Qasem, allegedly abducted on 27 January 2018 in Aden by an unidentified armed group presumed to be associated with the Aden Security Department;
- (e) Adel Mohammed Saleh Haddad, allegedly abducted on 17 November 2016 by an armed group led by Abu Al-Yamamah and supposedly supported by the coalition forces and the Government of Yemen;
- (f) Mohamed Abdellah Abdu Ghailan, allegedly arrested on 10 November 2016 by the Aden Security Department while he was returning from work to Aden;
- (g) Salem Saeed Saleh Al Kibi, allegedly arrested on 3 September 2016 by the Aden Security Department in Mansoura while he was travelling from Abyan province to Aden;
- (h) Mohamed Abdel Rahman Said Diab Ghafouri, allegedly abducted on 24 August 2016 by Yemeni security forces in close coordination with the coalition forces during a raid on a private residence in the al-Basateen area of Aden;
- (i) Hussein Abdo Mohammed Abdullah Bakrin, allegedly arrested on 1 July 2016 by the Aden Security Department and the forces of an antiterrorism unit in Aden;
- (j) Yasser Ali Salem Saeed, allegedly arrested on 21 May 2016 by the Lahjj Security Department as he allegedly surrendered himself for fear of retaliation against his relatives.

173. In September 2019, the Working Group announced that it would start documenting violations tantamount to enforced disappearances perpetrated by non-State actors (A/HRC/42/40, para. 94). Accordingly, during this session it considered five cases tantamount to enforced disappearances, allegedly perpetrated in territory controlled by the de

facto authorities in Sana'a.<sup>6</sup> The Working Group transmitted the cases to the Government of Yemen and the de facto authorities in Sana'a under its standard procedure, concerning:

- (a) Waheed Muhmmmed Naji Alsofi, a journalist residing in Sana'a, allegedly abducted on 7 April 2015 by a number of Houthi armed groups in plain clothes, who raided a post office in Sana'a as he was paying phone and Internet bills;
- (b) Fawzi Ahmed Obaid, allegedly abducted on 7 September 2015 by Houthi armed groups while he was returning from work along Mathbah street in northern Sana'a;
- (c) Muhammed Ali Hameed Ahmed Al-Athori, allegedly abducted on 23 November 2015 by a Houthi armed group in Taiz;
- (d) Fahmi Abdulrageeb Khalid Al-Miriri, allegedly abducted on 13 March 2017 by a Houthi armed group at a checkpoint in Al-Hoban;
- (e) Muhammed Muhmmmed Qahtan Qaid, a member of the Presidium for National Dialogue from Sana'a, allegedly abducted on 5 April 2015 by Houthi armed groups in a raid on his house in Sana'a.

**Joint allegation letter**

174. On 3 December 2019, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with other special procedure mechanisms, a joint allegation letter to the de facto authorities in Sana'a concerning the alleged disappearance of two Yemeni journalists, Bilal Al-Arifi and Mohammed Al-Salahi.

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<sup>6</sup> The Working Group reiterates that the communications addressed to the de facto authorities in Sana'a do not in any way imply the expression of any opinion concerning the legal status of any territory, city or area, or of its authorities.

## Annex I

### General allegations

#### Morocco

1. Le Groupe de travail sur les disparitions forcées ou involontaires a reçu, de la part de sources crédibles, des informations relatives à des obstacles rencontrés dans l'application des dispositions de la Déclaration sur la protection de toutes les personnes contre les disparitions forcées au Maroc (voir aussi A/HRC/13/31/Add.1; A/HRC/22/45/Add.3).

2. Il a été rapporté au Groupe de travail que suite à l'indépendance du Maroc en 1956, de graves violations de droits humains ont été commises, notamment par les services de sécurité de l'État, et ce de manière systématique. Ces violations, qui se sont aggravées à des moments de tension politique dans les années 1963, 1965, 1973, 1976, 1981 et 1990, auraient pris plusieurs formes : arrestations arbitraires, enlèvements, disparition forcée, exécutions extrajudiciaires et procès injustes et inéquitable. Selon les informations reçues, ont été utilisés alors des centres secrets de détention arbitraire et de disparition forcée, tels que Dar Brisha, Dar al-Mokri, Derb Moulay Cherif, le 7<sup>ème</sup> arrondissement et autres tels que Tazmamart, Agdez et Kelaat M'gouna. Ces périodes ont été marquées par de nombreux soulèvements sociaux, entraînant, selon les sources, la répression de l'État par l'usage excessif et disproportionné de la force par les autorités. Cette répression aurait fait de nombreuses victimes de disparition forcées, torture, traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants. Il a été indiqué au Groupe de travail que la torture et les disparitions forcées ont été systématiquement pratiquées dans le but de provoquer la terreur parmi les victimes et la société.

3. Il a été rapporté que pour traiter les cas de disparitions forcées et initier un processus de justice transitionnelle, l'Instance indépendante d'arbitrage chargée des indemnités des préjudices matériels et moraux avait été créée en 1999. Cependant, de nombreuses organisations de défense des droits humains ont considéré cette initiative comme étant une approche fragmentaire et réductrice. Les sources ont indiqué qu'en 2004 et suite à la recommandation émise par le Conseil Consultatif des Droits de l'Homme (CCDH), l'Instance Équité et Réconciliation (IER) a été créée pour un mandat de 23 mois. Cependant, de nombreuses critiques ont été faites au sujet de cette Instance. La recommandation du CCDH ne comportait aucune référence ni au concept de vérité, ni à un quelconque mécanisme d'investigation concernant les victimes de la disparition forcée, ou de détention arbitraire dont le sort était inconnu. A la fin du mandat de l'IER et suite à la découverte de la fosse commune au niveau de la caserne de Pompiers de Casablanca, les sources indiquent qu'un Comité de suivi a été mis en place, afin de mettre en œuvre les recommandations de l'IER.

4. En 2009–2010 un rapport final a été publié par le Conseil Consultatif des droits de l'Homme, présentant un inventaire des résultats du Comité de suivi. Le rapport révèle environ 1300 cas de disparitions forcées ou involontaires entre 1963 et 1999, et identifie les organes étatiques responsables.

5. Selon les informations reçues, il existe un fort déséquilibre entre les trois piliers de la justice transitionnelle. En effet, le droit à la réparation serait privilégié au détriment du droit à la vérité et du droit à la justice. Depuis 2010, sur une période de près de dix ans, ni le Conseil Consultatif des Droits de l'Homme, ni son successeur, le Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme (CNDH), n'ont révélé de fait nouveau lié à la vérité, tandis que le travail du Comité de suivi a été consacré principalement aux indemnités individuelles et à l'insertion sociale.

6. Concernant le droit à la réparation, si l'accent a été mis sur l'indemnité et la réparation en général, les sources ont souligné plusieurs lacunes. En effet, les sources ont remarqué l'absence de mesures de célébration officielle de la mémoire des victimes de disparitions forcées ou involontaires et de détention arbitraire. Elles ont évoqué l'absence de réhabilitation ou de restauration des anciens centres de détention secrète et de toute autre

action visant à la préservation de la mémoire, ainsi qu'une diffusion limitée d'ouvrages sur la mémoire publiés par le Conseil national des Droits de l'Homme. Selon les informations reçues, il n'existe pas encore de projet de réparation communautaire ou collective lié à la mémoire, tel que la mise en place d'un musée.

7. Selon les sources, des insuffisances flagrantes existeraient quant à la mise en œuvre du droit à la vérité. Les sources ont indiqué un manque d'identification individuelle par l'ADN des personnes déclarées décédées et se trouvant dans certains cimetières, par exemple à Casablanca, Agdez et Kelaat Megouna. Le Conseil national des Droits de l'Homme n'a publié aucun communiqué, rapport ou document officiel sur les travaux du Comité de suivi liés au parachèvement de la révélation de la vérité ou à la poursuite des investigations pour l'élucidation des cas de disparition forcée non encore élucidés. Il a été rapporté que les dépouilles d'environ 50% seulement des personnes déclarées décédées ont été localisées et que la majorité des cas individuels de disparitions forcées n'ont pas été élucidés.

8. Des déclarations de décès auraient été données aux familles sans preuve de décès, ou d'éléments précis de preuve ayant conduit à la conviction qu'il s'agit d'un décès, et sans prouver l'impossibilité de retrouver et/ou d'identifier les dépouilles. Selon les informations communiquées au Groupe de travail, l'IER et son Comité de suivi auraient construit leur conviction du décès de nombre de victimes sur la base de présomptions ou fortes présomptions seulement, et non sur la base de témoignages dignes de confiance ni de preuves matérielles. De plus les sources indiquent que le recours aux certificats de décès (au lieu d'alternatives tel que des certificats d'absence) aurait été privilégié par les autorités marocaines, entre autres en raison de dispositions du code de la famille qui traitent de l'héritage selon le droit islamique, notamment l'article 326 qui stipule que « [l]a personne portée disparue est tenue pour vivante à l'égard de ses biens. Sa succession ne peut être ouverte et partagée entre ses héritiers qu'après la prononciation d'un jugement déclarant son décès. Elle est considérée comme étant en vie aussi bien à l'égard de ses propres droits qu'à l'égard des droits d'autrui. La part objet de doute est mise en réserve, jusqu'à ce qu'il soit statué sur son cas ». De ce fait, plusieurs familles de disparus dont le sort reste inconnu auraient présenté des demandes d'indemnisation. Des décisions judiciaires de déclaration de décès auraient été rendues sans la présence effective des familles. Ainsi, l'obtention d'un certificat de décès aurait mené à l'élucidation de cas par les autorités sans que des enquêtes effectives aient eut lieu relativement à l'identité des dépouilles, à l'identification des lieux d'inhumation, ou aux circonstances des décès. Les sources ont indiqué également que, dans certains cas, lorsque la famille recevait des indemnisations ou réparations, le Comité considérait que le cas de la personne disparue avait été élucidé.

9. Selon les sources, le processus d'identification des dépouilles s'est caractérisé par un manque de transparence et de rigueur. En effet, l'identification des dépouilles se serait faite majoritairement sans généralisation du processus d'identification par anthropologie médico-légale, sans analyses ADN (seulement 24 analyses ADN auraient été faites, dont 13 seraient concluantes), et parfois même en l'absence d'accord avec les familles. Enfin, les sources notent que pour les cas de disparitions rapportées par l'IER dont la présomption de décès n'avait pas été acquise ou dont le sort exact n'avait pu être déterminé, le Comité de suivi les aurait considérés comme des cas n'entrant pas dans le cadre des disparitions forcées, alors qu'ils avaient été admis par l'IER comme tel.

10. Il a également été porté à l'attention du Groupe de travail que l'IER avait eu un accès très limité aux archives officielles. Les sources ont indiqué l'absence de cadre juridique clair et uniforme dans la gestion, l'organisation et la réglementation des archives, dont la plupart se trouveraient dans un état désastreux. Des pages auraient par exemple été arrachées délibérément dans un registre d'admission des patients à l'hôpital municipal d'Al-Hoceïma entre le 11 et le 17 janvier 1984, période d'événements sociaux, ainsi que dans le registre des décès de celui de l'hôpital Al-Ghassani de Fès, entre le 11 et le 16 décembre 1990.

11. Les sources appellent à la création d'un mécanisme national se chargeant du parachèvement de la vérité. Ces revendications sont appuyées par les recommandations du Groupe de travail des Nations unies sur les disparitions forcées ou involontaires, dans son rapport publié après sa visite au Maroc en 2009, et aussi dans son rapport de 2013 relatif à l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre de ses recommandations. Selon les sources, cela reviendrait à révéler la vérité sur le sort des cas non élucidés, non seulement les 2 cas qui sont

officiellement reconnus comme non élucidés en 2019, mais tous les cas dont le sort a été considéré élucidé par une simple affirmation du décès des victimes, sur la base de présomptions non définies clairement, inexactes, fragiles ou peu convaincantes et en l'absence de dépouilles. Les sources soulignent que dans les rapports officiels des autorités responsables du traitement de ces dossiers, le nombre de cas en suspens (non élucidés) est passé de 66 cas en 2006, à 9 cas en 2009, à 6 cas, puis seulement 2 cas en 2019.

12. Enfin, selon les informations reçues, des obstacles existent quant à l'application du droit à la justice. Il a été rapporté au Groupe de travail que seulement trois ou quatre cas ont été portés devant les tribunaux et qu'aucun n'a donné lieu à une enquête ou une poursuite judiciaire. Bien que prévue par la Constitution de 2011, l'incrimination de la disparition forcée ne fait pas l'objet de dispositions spécifiques dans le Code pénal en tant que crime spécifique. La disparition forcée ou involontaire est un crime complexe et nécessite des mécanismes spéciaux, or aucune norme ni mécanisme d'enquête judiciaire efficace et adapté n'a été mis en place.

13. Il a enfin été porté à l'attention du Groupe de travail que suite à la ratification par le Maroc en 2012 de la Convention internationale pour la protection de toutes les personnes contre les disparitions forcées, son premier rapport national n'a pas été soumis au Comité de la Convention.

### **Nigeria**

14. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances received information from reliable sources on obstacles encountered in the application of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances in Nigeria. This general allegation focuses on the alleged enforced disappearance of children detained by the military for suspected involvement with Boko Haram in Northeast of the country.

15. According to the information received, the Nigerian military has arrested and detained thousands of children, some as young as five, for suspected involvement with the armed Islamist group Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, more commonly known as Boko Haram. The source affirms that between January 2013 and March 2019, Nigerian authorities detained at least 3,617 children for association with Boko Haram, including 1,617 girls. In 2017 alone, authorities detained over 1,900 children.

16. The Working Group received a report that describes the documentation of the arbitrary detention and enforced disappearance of 32 children and youth who had been deprived of liberty as children at Giwa military barracks in Maiduguri, the main military detention facility in Borno State. The children and youth included 25 males and 7 females who said they had been detained for periods ranging from a few weeks to three years and four months. Fifteen of the 32 were detained for more than a year, and nine were detained for more than two years.

17. It was reported that none of the 32 children were taken before a judge or appeared in court, as required by law. None were aware of any charges against them and only one said he saw someone who he believed might have been a lawyer. Furthermore, none of the children had contact with family members outside the detention center and their families were not notified by the authorities of their arrest or detention. According to the information received, after their release, some children discovered that their families had no idea where they had been, or they believed that they were dead. In some cases, parents witnessed the arrest of their children but also received no information on where their child was being taken or when they would be released.

18. The source reports that since the Boko Haram insurgency began in 2009, government forces have apprehended children suspected of Boko Haram involvement in a variety of ways: during security sweeps, military operations, screening procedures outside of camps for internally displaced persons, arrests from the camps themselves, and based on information provided by informants. It is alleged that authorities often arrest children with little or no evidence.

19. It is stated that the military may hold children for short periods in local prisons or detention facilities, but eventually transfers most of the children to Giwa military barracks in

Maiduguri. Some, though not all of the children were interrogated at Giwa, and soldiers recorded their names and other information they provided.

20. The report received by the Working Group shows that fourteen of the 32 children and youth were arrested with other family members, including siblings and/or parents. In some cases, they were detained with other family members in the same cell, and in other cases, they were separated with little or no opportunity for contact. Whether or not they were detained with family members, none of the children and youth reported any contact with family members outside of the detention center.

21. The report received by the Working Group includes the following examples of the documented cases:

22. A 14-year old girl, detained for nearly two years, whose arrest was witnessed by an older man who told her mother what had happened. She learned after her release that her mother had gone to Giwa barracks to try to see her, but that the military refused to let her enter and threatened to put her in a cell if she did not leave.

23. A 15-year old boy was detained at Giwa barracks for ten months with no contact with his family. After his release, he was reunited with his father and mother, who did not know he was at Giwa barracks and if he was alive or dead.

24. A 16-year old boy was arrested with his brother, who subsequently died in detention. He learned that his parents did not know that he had been held at Giwa, or that his brother had died, so he had to tell them once freed.

25. According to the information received, Nigerian security forces have released at least 2,220 children from military detention between January 2013 and March 2019. Since September 2019, they have released an additional 112 children and youth.

26. It is also reported that after their release, all of the children were taken to a transit center in Maiduguri that is operated by the Borno State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development. The children typically stay at the center for two or three months, receiving psychosocial support. During that time, social workers also attempt to trace their families, based on information provided by the children and/or photographs. The information received suggests that military authorities did not provide any useful information for this purpose.

## Annex II

### Standard procedure cases

#### Burundi

1. The Working Group transmitted 46 cases to the Government, concerning:
  - (a) Calixte Irankunda, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 14 May 2016 by the commander of the Anti-Riots Brigade.
  - (b) Jean-Marie Vianney Mbonimpa, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 25 December 2015 by individuals in police uniform.
  - (c) Nestor Ndagijimana, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 01 August 2015 by the commander of the Special Police of Roulage. He was taken with his brother Mr Aloys Musonera.
  - (d) Jibril Ndayishimiye, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 28 May 2015 by the Commander of the Anti-Riot Brigade.
  - (e) Raphael Ngendakumana, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 01 April 2016 by a member of the Imbonerakure militia and police officers.
  - (f) Belyse Nindabira, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 01 February 2017 by members of the Imbonerakure militia. She was allegedly taken to the Murehe Forest near the border.
  - (g) Olivier Ntawuhinyuzimana, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 01 May 2016 at the Ngozi province near the border with Rwanda by members of the Imbonerakure militia from Kirundo Province in collaboration with Imbonerakure Ngozi Province.
  - (h) Eric Nzungu, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 12 December 2015 by police officers of the Support for the Protection of Institutions (API).
  - (i) Eric Save, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 12 December 2015 at the police station of Ijenda by the Commander of Mujejuru camp.
  - (j) Timothée Ntirubaruto, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 20 November 2016 by military officers commanded by the Commander of Mujejuru Camp. He was embarked in a military pickup of the Mujejuru camp.
  - (k) Aloys Musonera, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 01 August 2015 with his brother Mr. Nestor Ndagijimana by the commander of the Special Police of Roulage.
  - (l) Appolinaire Nimbona, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 23 November 2016 in the bar “La Caravane” located in Kajaga by two identified agents of the National Intelligence Service.
  - (m) Juvénal Arakaza, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 24 December 2015 by policemen from his workplace in a bar in Kinindo district.
  - (n) Marie José Baransamaje, a Burundian citizen, was allegedly abducted on 15 December 2015 from his home by a group of police officers accompanied by two identified agents of the National Intelligence Service including the chief of the interior intelligence service.
  - (o) Aimable Bigirimana, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 13 September 2015 from his home by a brigadier of the police unit for the protection of institutions accompanied by a member of the Imbonerakure youth militia.
  - (p) Jean Claude Nahayo, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested and then tied up on 01 July 2015 with his son Odilon Nikuze, by police officers under the command of a Lieutenant. They were taken to the “Iwabo w’Abantu” bar in Kamenge which sheltered an informal underground cell.

- (q) Emelyne Ndayishimiye, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 08 December 2015 by agents of the national intelligence service in a Probox type car with tinted windows without a number plate in Kigobe District Ntahangwa commune, Bujumbura Mairie.
- (r) Karim Nikiza, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 12 December 2015 with Mr. Etienne Niyongere by officers under the orders of an agent of the National Intelligence Service.
- (s) Egide Nikonabasanze, a Burundian citizen, was allegedly abducted on 02 August 2015 by police officers from the Mobile Intervention Group. He was arrested, tied up and blindfolded by police officers led by the police chief of the Mobile Group for Rapid Intervention. He was taken on a road in the direction of the province of Bubanza.
- (t) Odilon Nikuze, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted with his father Jean Claude Nahayo on 01 July 2015 from their home by a police officer. They were arrested and then tied up by police officers under the command of a Lieutenant General and were taken to the “Iwabo w’Abantu” bar in Kamenge which sheltered an informal underground cell.
- (u) Jean Nivongabo, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 10 July 2015 in central downtown of Kabarore commune by military personnel.
- (v) Etienne Nivongere, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 12 December 2015 with Mr. Karim Nikiza by police officers under the orders of an agent of the National Intelligence service. They were put in a car with tinted windows and taken to an unknown destination.
- (w) Thierry Niyukuri, a Burundian Citizen allegedly abducted on 16 January 2016 by the police.
- (x) Prime Nkengurutse, a Burundian Citizen allegedly abducted on 09 June 2016 by police officers from the Support Police for the Protection of Institutions.
- (y) Elvis Nkundwa, a Burundian Citizen allegedly abducted on 05 December 2015 by the Commander of the Muzinda Combat Engineering Camp.
- (z) Jean Paul Nkundwa, a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 06 December 2015, by a Lieutenant-Colonel, Commander of the Combat Engineering Camp of Muzinda.
- (aa) Alexis Nkuzimana, a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 07 December 2015, by police from the Brigade Support for the Protection of Institutions.
- (bb) Jérôme Bigirindavyi, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 21 June 2016 by individuals dressed in civilian clothes.
- (cc) Evariste Bitomagira, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 13 December 2015, at the market of Rusaka by a member of the Imbonerakure militia.
- (dd) Vincent Bivugire, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 4 July 2015 from the North Station in the Kamenge district, by agents of the National Intelligence Service.
- (ee) Gratien Cinyeretse, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 23 December 2015, by officers of the Support for the Protection of the Institutions.
- (ff) Désiré Gahungu, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 27 October 2015 by a Commander of the Brigade Anti-émeute near his home.
- (gg) Jean Hakizimana, a Burundian citizen, allegedly arrested on 11 December 2015, by Lieutenant-Colonel, Commander of the Muzinda Combat Engineer Camp in the Cibitoke Urban Area. On December 14, 2015, Jean Hakizimana was seen in police custody in the Cibitoke Urban Area.
- (hh) Belly Mugisha, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 11 December 2015 at around 11 am by police officers and with his uncle Nibizi Gérard as well as his three cousins, Nibizi Armand, Nibizi Armel, and Nibizi Clovis.
- (ii) Armand Nibizi, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 11 December 2015 at around 11:00 a.m by police officers with father Nibizi Gérard and with his two brothers Nibizi Armel and Nibizi Clovis, as well as his cousin Mugisha Belly.



- (jj) Armel Nibizi, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 11 December 2015 at around 11 am with his father Nibizi Gérard at home with his two brothers, Nibizi Armand, aged 20, Nibizi clovis, 18 years old and his cousin Mugisha Belly by police officers.
- (kk) Clovis Nibizi, a Burundian citizen, allegedly abducted on 11 December 2015 at around 11 a.m with his father Nibizi Gérard at home with his two brothers, Nibizi Armand and Nibizi Armel as well as his cousin Mugisha Belly by police officers.
- (ll) Gerard Nibizi allegedly abducted on 11 December 2015 at around 11 a.m with 4 persons, including his three children Nibizi Armand, Nibizi Armel, and Nibizi Clovis, as well as his nephew Mugisha Belly by police officers.
- (mm) Angélu Nivonkuru, a Burundian citizen allegedly arrested on 11 December 2015 in the morning, by the police officers of the Brigade Support for the Protection of Institutions when he was coming back from his workplace at the TIGER society of transport. Mr Niyonkuru Angélu was taken at a pick-up and then was taken to an unknown place.
- (nn) Charles Majeur Mutoniwabo, a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 22 December 2015 at the Gare du Nord in Kamenge, commune Ntahangwa, Bujumbura Mairie, by an agent of the Burundi National Intelligence Services.
- (oo) Olivier Mugisha, a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 13 January 2016 with his friend Firmin Wakana from the home of Firmin Wakana by soldiers under the orders of a Lieutenant-colonel whose identity is known.
- (pp) Emery Nakumukiza, a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 10 March 2016 by two individuals dressed in police uniforms.
- (qq) Thierry Nijimbere, a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 08 December 2015 by security agents under the command of a Lieutenant-Colonel.
- (rr) Vincent Bizimana a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 16 April 2016 at his home by four individuals one of whom was wearing a police uniform. The identity of one of the perpetrators, the local chief of the National Intelligence Service, is known.
- (ss) Serges Ntakirutimana a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 31 October 2015 at 13h00 on the airport road between Rukaramu and Maramvya, commune Mutimbuzi, province Bujumbura rural by an agent of the National Intelligence Service whose identity is known and was transported towards Maramvya in an identified vehicle.
- (tt) Jean Bosco Havyarimana a Burundian citizen allegedly abducted on 06 June 2015 by agents in plain clothes and police officers.

## **Pakistan**

1. The Working Group transmitted 54 cases to the Government, concerning:
  - (a) Qasim Khan, allegedly abducted in front of Kohat Jarna prison shortly after he had been released on bail on 27 April 2017, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
  - (b) Muhammad Nawaz, allegedly abducted from his home on 30 September 2016, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
  - (c) Abdul Kalik, allegedly abducted from his home on 30 September 2016, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
  - (d) Rafiq Ahmed, allegedly abducted from his home on 30 September 2016, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

- (e) Noor Rehman, allegedly abducted from his home on 28 September 2014, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (f) Muhammad Shakeel, allegedly abducted from the streets in Rawalpindi on 4 July 2014, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (g) Iftikar Ullah, allegedly abducted from his home on 28 June 2014, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (h) Noor Zaman, allegedly abducted from his home on 16 July 2013, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (i) Hafiz Muhammad Luqman Saqib, allegedly abducted from his home on 20 November 2012, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (j) Mohsin Khan, allegedly abducted from his home on 24 October 2012, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (k) Muhammad Ameen Khan, allegedly abducted on 12 September 2011 from his home, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (l) Dil Nawaz, allegedly abducted from his home on 24 October 2012, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (m) Lal Bahadurr, allegedly abducted from his home on 14 January 2011, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (n) Zabta Khan, allegedly abducted from Tangi College Koronon on 18 August 2010, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (o) Muhammad Zubair, allegedly abducted from Kareem Pura Ghanta Ghar in Peshawar on 10 January 2009, by members of a security agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (p) Din Muhammad, allegedly abducted from his home in Lal Abad, Hazar Ganji, Quetta, Balochistan on 13 August 2010, by Frontier Corps agents.
- (q) Dost Muhammad, allegedly abducted on 12 February 2012 at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, by Frontier Corps agents.
- (r) Irshad Ahmed, allegedly arrested at the Miyan Ghundi's checkpoint, Hazarganji, Quetta District, Balochistan, on 14 September 2010, by Frontier Corps agents.
- (s) Abdul Wahab, allegedly abducted at Tump, Kech District, Balochistan, on 8 March 2010, by Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agents.
- (t) Dostain, also known as Bolan Kareem, allegedly abducted at a picnic point in Chachik, near Pasni Airport, in Pasni City, Gwadar district, Balochistan, on 4 January 2013, by Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agents.
- (u) Zahoor Ahmad, allegedly abducted at Khar Dan, District Kalat, Balochistan, on 29 September 2013, by Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) and Frontier Corps agents.
- (v) Zaheer Ahmad, allegedly abducted at Hub Chowki, District Lasbela, Balochistan, on 13 April 2015, by Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) and Frontier Corps agents.
- (w) Hasil Khan Hasrat, allegedly abducted from his residence in Gazi, Jhao, Awaran district, Balochistan, on 19 February 2014, by Frontier Corps agents.

- (x) Muhammad Nawaz Rind, allegedly abducted along with his father, Fazal Khan, from the Rind Ali Bazaar, in Dhadar, Kacchi District, on 10 July 2014, by Frontier Corps and Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agents.
- (y) Fazal Khan Kolvi Rind, allegedly abducted along with his son, Muhammad Nawaz Rind, from the Rind Ali Bazaar, in Dhadar, Kacchi District, on 10 July 2014, by Frontier Corps and Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agents.
- (z) Saadullah, allegedly abducted at Grade station link road, Surab, District Kalat, Balochistan, on 6 September 2013, by Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) and Frontier Corps agents.
- (aa) Ganj Bakhsh, allegedly abducted on 17 October 2017 in front of the Degree College of Saryaab road, in Quetta, by agents of a State secret agency and the Frontier Corps.
- (bb) Aman Ullah, allegedly abducted on 10 March 2017, at the Sungar Cross, in Mastung, Mastung District, by unknown armed men believed to be State agents.
- (cc) Jan Muhammad, allegedly abducted in Bit Buleda on 13 March 2013, by Frontier Corps agents.
- (dd) Zaheer Abbas, allegedly abducted from Jamiya on 17 May 2017, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (ee) Hazrt Hastan, allegedly abducted from a market on 14 July 2016, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- (ff) Muhammad Naseem, allegedly last seen in early August 2019, while in the custody of Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) personnel, after being detained at the Korangi Bridge, in Karachi, by ISI agents on 14 May 2019.
- (gg) Mola Khani, allegedly abducted from his home in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, on 29 July 2016, by agents of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).
- (hh) Shakir, allegedly abducted from the Pakistan-Afghanistan Highway, at the Khyber Agency, on 29 July 2016, by agents of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).
- (ii) Sher Rehman, allegedly abducted from the streets in Peshawar on 9 July 2010, by agents believed to be from the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).
- (jj) Jeand Baloch, allegedly abducted at Spini Road, Quetta, Balochistan, on 30 November 2018, by Frontier Corps and intelligence officials.
- (kk) Nasir Hussain, allegedly abducted at his house in Baloch Colony, on 26 June 2018, by the Pakistani army.
- (ll) Najeem Ahmed, allegedly abducted at Hub Chowki, District Lasbela, Balochistan, on 8 July 2016, by Inter-Service Intelligence officials.
- (mm) Shams-ur-Rahman Mengal, allegedly abducted at Killi Mengal Cross, Nushki, Balochistan, on 27 March 2015, by Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) and Frontier Corps agents.
- (nn) Hazrat Bilal, allegedly abducted from Khyber Agency, on 26 March 2012, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI), the Military Intelligence (MI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).
- (oo) Muhammad Abu-Baker, allegedly abducted from the Mosque of Sadiq Abad, on 15 April 2017, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI), the Military Intelligence (MI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).
- (pp) Muhammad Shaifq, allegedly abducted from the City police station of Sadiq Abad, on 28 February 2018, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI), the Military Intelligence (MI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

(qq) Zahid Ameen, allegedly abducted from his home in Tehsil Kot Adu, Muzaffargarh District, on 11 July 2014, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

(rr) Azeem Khan, allegedly abducted from his home, on 11 January 2013, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

(ss) Faiz- Ur- Rehman, allegedly abducted from his home in Aorangi Town, Karachi, on 17 August 2016, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

(tt) Syed Ali Shah, allegedly abducted from his home in Mohammad Agency, on 22 May 2016, by members of a secret agency, possibly from the Military Intelligence (MI), the Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) or the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

(uu) Ghulam Mustafa, allegedly abducted at his temporary residence in Adalat Road, in the city of Hub in Balochistan, on 15 January 2016, by the Pakistan army and Inter-Services Intelligence (“ISI”) personnel.

(vv) Muhammad Haneef, allegedly abducted from a house in Sordo, district Panjgur, Balochistan, on 29 October 2018, by Pakistani State agents.

(ww) Saeed Baloch, allegedly abducted from the Zarghoon Hotel in Karachi, on 15 April 2017, by the Frontier Corps together with other intelligence agency officials and the police.

(xx) Muhammad Nazar Marri, allegedly abducted at a local restaurant in Barkhan, in 2011, by Frontier Corps and Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agents.

(yy) Ilyas Mohammed, allegedly abducted from his home in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on 24 December 2017, by agents of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

(zz) Ahmed Aqeel, allegedly abducted at his shop, in Soro village, Mand, Kech District, Balochistan, on 19 January 2019, by the Pakistani army.

(aaa) Ghayas, allegedly abducted from Hub Chowki, on 13 October 2013, by agents believed to be from the Frontier Corps.

(bbb) Muhammad Saleem-Ur-Rehman Saleem, allegedly abducted at the Anis Autos Shop in Karachi, on 11 January 2016, by police officers.

## **Sri Lanka**

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

(a) Elilini Mahalingam allegedly abducted on 18 May 2009 from Vadduvahal, Mullaitivu by members of the Sri Lankan Army.

(b) A child allegedly abducted on 18 May 2009 from Vadduvahal, Mullaitivu by members of the Sri Lankan Army.

(c) A child allegedly abducted on 18 May 2009 from Vadduvahal, Mullaitivu by members of the Sri Lankan Army.

(d) Shanmugavel Aiyasamy allegedly abducted on 20 October 2008 from Sandilippay by members of the Sri Lankan Army and the Eelam Peoples Democratic Party allegedly a state supported paramilitary group.

(e) Devaras Alahaiyya allegedly abducted on 8 May 2009 from Selvapuram, Vadduvahal, Mullaitivu by members of the Sri Lankan Army.

(f) Vasanthan Ganeshan allegedly last seen on 11 January 2007 prior to visiting the Army Civil Administration Office in Jaffna.

(g) Muruhadas Mahendran allegedly abducted on 18 May 2009 when entering Vettuvahal, Mullaitivu by members of the Sri Lankan Army.

- (h) Suthagar Kuganathan allegedly last heard from in 2008 prior to entering a military controlled area.
- (i) Yagavan Devarasa allegedly abducted on 5 November 2006 in Cheddikulam, Vavuniya, Northern Province by unknown individuals in a white van suspected of being linked to the military.
- (j) Sujeekaran Pirbakaran allegedly abducted on 30 June 2009 from a Rehabilitation Camp, Cheddikulam, Vavuniya, Northern Province by members of the Sri Lankan Army.
- (k) Srilathan Sinnathamby allegedly abducted on 16 May 2009 from Vattuvakal, Mullaithivu, Northern Province by members of the Sri Lankan Army.
- (l) Rathinarasa Rathinam allegedly abducted on 23 June 2009 from Vavuniya District, Northern Province by members of the Sri Lankan Army.
- (m) Sanmugathas Rathinam allegedly abducted on 17 May 2009 from Sellvapuram playground, Mullaithivu, Northern Province by members of the Sri Lankan Army.
- (n) Kokilan Yogarasa allegedly abducted on 12 February 2009 from Putthukuddiuruppu, Iranaipallai, Mullaithivu, Northern Province after entering a military controlled area.
- (o) Illankeswaran Pathmalingam allegedly abducted on 27 May 2008 from Trincomalee District, Eastern Province by unknown individuals in a white van suspected of being linked to the military.
- (p) Gowshalya Thiyagarasa allegedly disappeared on 21 March 2009 from Mullivaikkal, Mullaithivu, Northern Province, in a military controlled area.
- (q) Selvaruban Yoganathan allegedly abducted on 21 April 2009 from Matthalan, Mullaithivu, Northern Province, by members of the Sri Lankan Army.
- (r) Rajenthiran Velayuthampillai allegedly arrested on 1 December 2006 from Mallaham, Jaffna by members of the Sri Lankan army.
- (s) Nithyanandan Ulahanathan allegedly abducted on 15 July 2007 from Pandaththarippu area, Jaffna by individuals believed to be from the Sri Lankan Army and Eelam People's Democratic Party allegedly a state supported paramilitary group.
- (t) Sukumaran Karunadevi allegedly abducted on 8 May 2009 from Vattuvahal by members of the Sri Lankan Army.

## **Syrian Arab Republic**

1. The Working Group transmitted 33 cases to the Government, concerning
  - (a) Mahmoud Qawas, allegedly abducted on 1 January 2013 by an armed group affiliated with the Syrian Armed Forces at the Qtaifa checkpoint on the Harasta International Damascus-Homs Highway.
  - (b) Houssam Mahfouz, allegedly arrested on 23 May 2013 by police forces and agents of the Political Security Branch in a raid on his home near Ibn al Ameen bakery in Ruken Al Din.
  - (c) Nidal Ajjan, an internally displaced person with temporary residence in Yalda, allegedly arrested on 5 January 2014 by members of the Syrian Army in military uniforms at a checkpoint located in Al Wahash Street in Sayyida Zeinab.
  - (d) Maher Ajjan, an internally displaced person with temporary residence in Yalda, allegedly arrested on 5 January 2014 by members of the Syrian Army in military uniforms at a checkpoint located in Al Wahash Street in Sayyida Zeinab.
  - (e) Mohammed Ajjan, an internally displaced person with temporary residence in Yalda, allegedly arrested on 5 January 2014 by members of the Syrian Army in military uniforms at a checkpoint located in Al Wahash Street in Sayyida Zeinab.

- (f) Nabil Ajjan, an internally displaced person with temporary residence in Yalda, allegedly arrested on 5 January 2014 by members of the Syrian Army in military uniforms at a checkpoint located in Al Wahash Street in Sayyida Zeinab.
- (g) A minor, an internally displaced person with temporary residence in Yalda, allegedly arrested on 5 January 2014 by members of the Syrian Army in military uniforms at a checkpoint located in Al Wahash Street in Sayyida Zeinab.
- (h) Hanan Ajjan, an internally displaced person with temporary residence in Yalda, allegedly arrested on 15 November 2013 by members of the Syrian Army in military uniforms at a checkpoint located in Al Hajar Al Aswad, Damascus Governorate.
- (i) Nour al Din Mahmoud, allegedly arrested on 20 July 2013 by the Syrian Air Security Forces during a raid on his residence in al Wafdin Camp in the Eastern Ghouta.
- (j) Mohamad Safar Alrefaie, reportedly arrested on 31 January 2013 by Syrian Military Intelligence agents in a raid on his home in Kafar Sousah, Damascus, for allegedly participating in a protest.
- (k) Ahmad Al Khatib, allegedly arrested on 26 September 2012 by Syrian State Security forces wearing military uniforms in a raid on his house near al Nakhla square in al Dabeit neighbourhood of Idlib city.
- (l) Ammar Al Sourani, allegedly arrested on 28 March 2012 by an armed group affiliated with the Syrian Political Security forces during a raid on his relative's home in al Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs.
- (m) Khalid Al Ibrahim, allegedly arrested on 10 July 2013 by military personnel wearing uniforms at a checkpoint controlled by the Military Intelligence Division in Idlib, located near the Faculty of Education of the University of Idlib.
- (n) Issa Khatib, allegedly abducted by members of the General Security Directorate at a checkpoint controlled by the General Security Directorate at the Shihan roundabout in Aleppo.
- (o) Mazin Hammoush, allegedly arrested on 9 June 2013 by police in Al Jamelaiah, Aleppo.
- (p) Osman Haj AbdelWahab, allegedly arrested on 26 January 2016 at a checkpoint near the entrance of Seyfat village in North Aleppo. The checkpoint was reportedly controlled by members of the Military Police, the General Security Directorate and the Air Force Intelligence Directorate.
- (q) Shoman, allegedly arrested in "Palestine branch 248", while he was driving to Lebanon for work.
- (r) Soahib Hajali, allegedly arrested on 18 April 2017 by the political security forces in Hama.
- (s) Khaled Bazkadi, allegedly abducted on 11 November 2014 by members of the Military Syrian Intelligence at a checkpoint close to the Syria-Lebanon border.
- (t) Hussein Ismail Hamido, allegedly arrested on 19 December 2012 in al Zahera al Jadida neighbourhood in Damascus city, by gunmen wearing military apparel associated with the Syrian Regime's Air Security branch.
- (u) Mohammad Akroush, allegedly arrested on 15 October 2013 by Syrian Military Security forces at a checkpoint in Tartous.
- (v) Hamido, allegedly arrested in Al Zahera al Jadida on 19 December 2012 in a raid on his house conducted by the Syrian air security forces.
- (w) Hasan Ismail Hamido, allegedly arrested on 20 December 2012 while passing through a checkpoint on Damascus-Daraa International Road, by members of the Syrian armed forces.
- (x) Tareq Al Rahwan, allegedly abducted on 3 May 2015, by members of the Syrian Military Security Forces at a checkpoint on the Daraa-Damascus highway.

- (y) Ahmad Jnaid, allegedly arrested by Syrian Armed Forces while passing through a checkpoint on the international road linking Homs to Hama.
- (z) Ali Mohammed, allegedly arrested on 18 March 2014 at a military checkpoint at the Bustan al-Qasr crossing by an armed group allegedly affiliated with the security branch of the government.
- (aa) Hussein A-Haddad, an alleged member of the Free Police within Aleppo, allegedly arrested on 11 December 2016 by an armed group purportedly affiliated with the Syrian Government.
- (bb) Jalal Al-Hafiz, allegedly arrested on 26 August 2018 in Aleppo, along with his uncle Yousuf Al-Hafiz, by an armed group affiliated with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- (cc) Yousuf Al-Hafiz, allegedly arrested on 26 August 2018, along with his nephew Jalal Al-Hafiz, at a checkpoint in Aleppo by security forces of the Government.
- (dd) Majid Obaid, a soldier affiliated with the Government, allegedly arrested on 18 August 2013 in Al-Abbasids, Damascus by Syrian armed forces.
- (ee) Mohammed Saleh Abo Ahmad, a human rights activist, allegedly arrested on 15 August 2012 in Al-Malab Street in Salah al-Din neighbourhood by members of the military security branch in Aleppo.
- (ff) Saleh Hafid, an internally displaced person, allegedly arrested on 15 December 2016 in a refugee reception centre in Jibrin along with his relatives by security forces of the government.
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