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ON BEHALF OF WGEID



MANDATE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Statement from the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances at the occasion of the First Conference of the States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of all from Enforced Disappearance - 19 December 2016

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances (the Working Group) is grateful for the opportunity to strongly and without any type of reservation support the continuation of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

Since the creation of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Working Group and the Committee have been coexisting side by side and collaborate and coordinate their activities with a view to strengthen - in accordance with the respective mandates - their joint efforts to prevent and eradicate enforced disappearances. To this end, since 2011, the Committee and the Working Group have held yearly meetings, pursuant to article 28 of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances, to discuss and share information on country visits, thematic priorities and working methods. The two Secretariats have been and continue to be in close contact in order to share information, analysis, priorities and reinforce cooperation in the daily work.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

These fruitful exchanges and growing collaboration with the Committee have demonstrated that our respective mandates are complementary, and mutually reinforcing. We are still far from winning the battle against enforced disappearances, as they continue to occur on a daily basis, including as we speak today. The road towards the eradication of this atrocious practice is long and winding, but there are steps that States can immediately take to reaffirm their commitment, in words and in deeds, towards its eradication. One of these steps is the firm and good faith support for the International Convention and for the work of the Committee monitoring it. We have observed how the Committee has in its short but productive six years of existence contributed to the UN response to enforced disappearances and helped States to improve their public policies in responding to this heinous crime.

In conclusion, the Working Group considers the work of the Committee as essential in the fight to prevent, combat and eradicate enforced disappearance and fully supports the continuation of its work.

Thank you for your attention

~~Houria~~

Houria Es-Slami

Chair-Rapporteur

Working Group on Enforced
or Involuntary Disappearances