

General allegation

113th session (11 – 15 September 2017)

Pakistan

38. The Working Group received information from credible sources concerning reported obstacles encountered in the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in Pakistan.

39. According to sources, the widespread practice of enforced disappearances has been ongoing, and the number of cases is alarmingly increasing in Sindh in recent years. The sources inform that, since 2010, 1,200 cases of enforced disappearances have been reported in Sindh. Furthermore, since February 2017, over 160 people have disappeared. However, no criminal charge has been registered against anyone, while the fates or whereabouts of the disappeared are still unknown. According to sources, those taken away are men of all ages, mainly political and human rights activists in Sindh.

40. According to sources, enforced disappearances are taking place not only in Balochistan, FATA (The Federally Administered Tribal Areas), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and urban Sindh, but also in Punjab province and the capital Islamabad in Pakistan.

41. The sources claim that the security agencies are involved in the abductions, and that families of disappeared persons and human rights defenders including lawyers who work on issues related to enforced disappearance are subject to threats, reprisals and harassment by State agencies.