



INTERNATIONAL COALITION
AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

*For more information please contact:
Focal point of ICAED
E. d.hardy@aimforhumanrights.nl
T. +31 (0)30 2349066
F. + 31 (0)30 2367104
www.icaed.org*

Media Statement

February 6, 2008

***One year after the signing ceremony of the convention on enforced disappearances
the number has reached 72 signatures and 2 ratifications***

One year after the signing ceremony in Paris the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) publishes its Manifest urging States to demonstrate their commitment to the eradication of enforced disappearances by signing and ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

On February 6, 2007 57 States signed the Convention during a festive signing ceremony in Paris. One year later the count has reached 72 signatures but only 2 ratifications. While several States have begun the ratification process the low number of States who have ratified is far from satisfactory. The Convention needs 20 states to ratify it to enter into force, and many more States Party if it is to become an effective tool for universal protection from enforced disappearances.

In the Manifest ICAED notes that enforced disappearance is one of the most serious violations of human rights and it constitutes an international crime. The disappeared person is deprived of all his or her rights and he or she remains outside the protection of the law.

All the States of the world must assume as a priority the prompt entry into force of the Convention and its effective implementation. Indeed, the full implementation of its provisions will constitute a critical development in the strengthening of human rights and the rule of law, both internationally and in any country.

#

The International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) gathers organisations of families of disappeared and NGO's that work in a non-violent manner against the practice of enforced disappearances at the local, national and international level. The principal objective of ICAED is an early ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances