



INTERNATIONAL COALITION  
AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

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## Press release

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### AUGUST 30 2009; GLOBAL ACTION AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

**Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup> marks the 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Day of the Disappeared. On this day human rights organisations and family members of the disappeared from all over the world call on their Members of Parliament to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.**

Enforced disappearances have occurred since the late seventies and continue to take place until this very day. What started as a Latin American phenomenon soon spread to other continents. On August 30 each year the families of the disappeared in all continents commemorate those who have been forcibly taken away.

In more than 20 countries events are organised to pay respect to disappeared persons as well as to campaign for the new Convention on enforced disappearances. Among those countries are Sri Lanka, Guatemala, the Philippines, Morocco, Belarus, France, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Cyprus, Argentina and Spain.

The call to sign and ratify the Convention on enforced disappearances is echoed by many family member organizations and human rights NGOs who have recently united their campaigns for the convention in the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED). On August 30 ICAED sends an appeal letter to all parliaments.

Dave Hardy, coordinator of the ICAED states: "This Convention can become an effective tool for the international community to eradicate enforced disappearances. Universal ratification also represents a political message that this practice is no longer tolerated."

The Convention provides for fundamental measures to prevent, investigate and sanction enforced disappearances. It realizes two new human rights, the right not to be subjected to enforced disappearance as well as the right for the relatives of the disappeared to know the truth.

For more information about the campaign of ICAED and the Convention on enforced disappearances, see [www.icaed.org](http://www.icaed.org)

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*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.*

Aim for human rights – Netherlands, Amnesty International, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), Civil Initiative We Remember Foundation – Belarus, Collectif des Familles de Disparus en Algérie (CFDA) – Algeria, Euro-Med Federation Against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED), Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH), Fédération Internationale de l'ACAT (FIACAT), Federación Latinoamericana de Asociaciones de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos (FEDEFAM), Human Rights Watch (HRW), International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Russian Justice Initiative – Russia, Liga Guatemalteca de Higiene Mental – Guatemala, TRIAL (Track Impunity Always – association suisse contre l'impunité) – Switzerland, Breaking the Walls of Silence – Namibia, AFAPREDESA - Western Sahara, Asociación Derechos Humanos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales en Guatemala (DESCGUA) – Guatemala, Disarmament and Non-Violence – Georgia, Lawyers for Human Rights- South Africa, National Society for Human Rights (NSHR) – Namibia, Colegio de Abogados - Peru, Association of Family Members of Disappeared - Sri Lanka, Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos de El Salvador - El Salvador, Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos – Peru, Asociación de Detenidos-Desaparecidos, Ejecuciones Extrajudiciales y Torturados de Huancayo-Junin-Peru – Peru, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) – Philippines, Organisation Marocaine Des Droits HUMAINS – Morocco, Al-Ata'a for Human Rights Support – Iraq, Qatari Panituri – Peru, Social Justice for Equality-Nepal, TRUTH NOW – Cyprus, COMISEDH – Peru, CSMM- Ecuador, Zimbabwe Peace Project - Zimbabwe