

ICAED pays tribute to the World's *Desaparecidos*

Fulfillment of a dream. For the state to ratify the Convention is a dream of the families and relatives of the *desaparecidos* in Guatemala and the world -- a step to ensure the non-repetition of this continuing nightmare.

30 August 2012 - As the international community pays tribute to the disappeared on the International Day of the Disappeared (IDD), the members of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) commemorated the day through various activities.

The Coalition collectively issued a statement in three languages (English, Spanish, and French) as part of the commemoration.

The Amnesty International (AI) circulated a global press release in English, French, and Spanish focusing on Syria and also mentioning

and linking to cases of ED on every continent that they are working on. The AI had an online action that supporters participated regarding Syria on their website <http://www.amnesty.org>. It released a photo slideshow highlighting the problem of enforced disappearance around the globe (including Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Guatemala, Kosovo, Ingushetia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia). A blogpost tying all the efforts together was also launched. On the day, AI also released a briefing on the missing in the Balkans and issued a number of open letters or statements (including to Pakistan, Indonesia, Balkans) and testimonial videos (to Mauritania, Sri Lanka, Syria). They also launched the online campaign through its new website <http://www.demandjustice>



"Where are you?" As part of the ICAED's social media campaign, its Focal Point initiated the production of an online poster shared through Facebook.

now.org/ that deals exclusively with enforced disappearance issues. AI also initiated the use of the hashtag *#demandjustice* for twitter followers and other social media friends.

The *Fédération Euro-méditerranéenne Contre les Disparitions Forcées* or Euro-Mediterranean Federation Against Enforced Disappearance (FEMED) and the *Collectif des Familles de Disparus en Algérie* (CFDA) organized a photo exhibition and movie projection activity to highlight the day.

The *Associació per a la Recuperació de la Memòria Històrica de Catalunya* (ARMHC) sent a letter to President Mariano Rajoy Brey in relation to the IDD and to the

general situation in Spain.

The *Liga Guatemalteca de Higiene Mental* participated in the social media campaign though the online poster produced by the organiza-

tion.

On 29 August, Civil Initiative We Remember - Belarus, in cooperation with the Kostushko Foundation, campaign European Belarus, paid tribute to the disappeared Yury Zakharenko, Viktor Gonchar, Anatoly Krasovsky and Dmitry Zavadsky in front of the Belarusian Embassy in The Hague, The Netherlands. Participants of the action held a banner with portraits of the disappeared Belarusian.

The *Fédération Internationale de l'Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture* or the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (Fiacat) issued a statement in solidarity with the



Pro-Búsqueda's search for justice. Relatives of the victims of enforced disappearances during the armed conflict in El Salvador come together to fight for every person's right not to be disappeared.

Kindly send your article contribution for publishing to the Focal Point.

international community and as a member of the Steering Committee of the ICAED.

Qatary Panituri Peru, in cooperation with ICAED Peru set up a booth as part of its social work activity in the central and busy place of Plaza de Armas in Lima. The booth was participated in by several wives and family leaders of the *desaparecidos*, journalists, and university students. The objective is to inform passersby on the recommendation of the Truth Commission of Peru and the situation of the Disappearance in the country. The booth also showed about the international work of ICAED and in promoting the situation of El Salvador's ratification of the Convention through the Country of the Month program. Finally, Qatary Panituri signed the letter to the Embassy of El Salvador to be delivered the following week.

In El Salvador, Ester Alvarenga of *Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niños y Niñas Desaparecidos* was interviewed in a radio magazine program *Hagamos Radio Por La Tarde*. *Pro-Búsqueda* also issued a statement on the importance of acceding to the Convention as it continues to search for truth and justice on cases of disappearance during the armed conflict in the country.

To note, El Salvador is the ICAED's country of the

+ Rosendo Justicia

A 38 años de tu detención desaparición

Dr. Adrian Ramirez Lopez, Presidente de la LIMEDDH

*Donde estés sigues luchando
Proteges al pueblo
Le sigues cantando coplas
Corridos de la lucha
Y tu voz y tu música
Se convierte en nuevas leyes
Las que tendremos que defender*

*Tal vez, tú no conoces a Felipe Calderón
O a Blake Mora o a Federico Gómez Mont
Ni mucho menos a Maricela Morales.
Pero ellos representan a las instituciones responsables.
Tampoco al Secretario de la Defensa o al director del CISEN actual,
A los asesores norteamericanos de la CIA la DEA,
Todos ellos responsables actuales de que no podamos encontrarte.*

*Tu desaparición ha hecho que aparezcan nuevas leyes,
Leyes de esperanza, borradas por una realidad.
Tampoco conoces a los más de 10 mil desaparecidos de este sexenio luctuoso
Ni tampoco conoces a los más de 50 mil ejecutados en el sexenio luctuoso
Pero la responsabilidad de luchar por ellos, nos toca a nosotros*

Con tu ejemplo, nuestra lucha.

*Escribe, coplas, nuevas corridos de todos los desaparecidos,
De los ejecutados en esta guerra absurda, de los daños colaterales,
Rosendo, gracias por tu familia que lucha y lucha
Que sigue caminando contigo
Y que con modestia, han contribuido
A que el Gobierno de México se sentara en el banquillo de los acusados
Y ha sido condenado internacionalmente
Los gobernantes y autoridades de ayer son culpables
Los de hoy son culpables y su complicidad
es la continuidad la historia entre la guerra sucia
y la impunidad del presente.*

*Tampoco conoces a los poetas y los familiares de las víctimas
Las que caminan y marchan como ríos humanos de lágrimas y dolor
De esperanza y coraje que caminan por la paz con justicia y dignidad,
Pero ellos son parte vida de tu vida y de lucha, de tu canto y palabra
Son palabra que se honra en la acción.*

month for August. The month culminated with member-organizations of the Coalition sending letters to the Salvadorean government, calling on it to sign and ratify the Convention and recognize the competence of the UN Committee Against Enforced Disappearances.

Non-members of the Coalition also commemorated the IDD.

Global Dimension organization cited the ICAED website as a reference for further understanding of the issue.



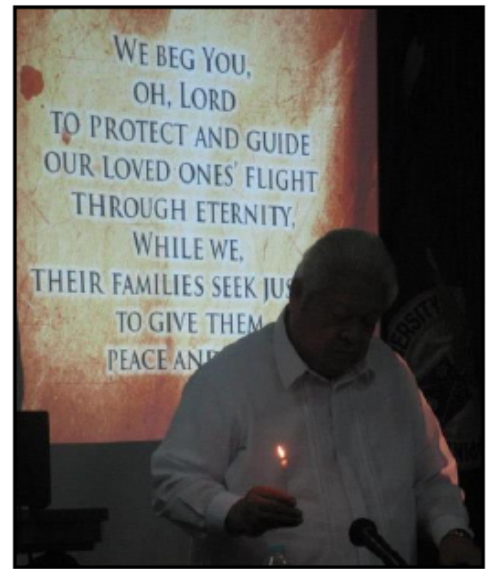
STOP! ICAED's viral photo circulated online through different social media.

AFAD joins the international community in commemorating IDD

In Manila, the ICAED's focal point - Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), together with the ICAED member in the Philippines - Families of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) and the University of the Philippines Law Center - Institute of Human Rights, conducted a forum, entitled, "Strengthening Legal Protection from Enforced Disappearance." Prof. Ricardo Sunga III focused on the discussion of the policy paper entitled "International Convention for the Protection on All Persons from Enforced Disappearance: Prospects and Challenges." Philippine Gov-

ernment officials, namely Brig. Gen. Domingo Tutaan of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Human Rights Affairs Office (AFPHRAO), Atty. Byron Bocar of the Commission of Human Rights (CHR), and the Anti-Disappearance Bill main author Representative Edcel C. Lagman were invited as reactors and panel speakers. Prof. Raul Pangalangan of the University of the Philippines College of Law represented the academe. Ms. Tess del Rosario, sister of the first documented Filipino disappeared, Prof. Charlie del Rosario, shared her personal experience on the disappearance of her brother. Media person Nora Gamolo was also invited to speak on behalf of the human rights experiences of her colleagues.

The AFAD member-organizations individually or-



Candle of Hope. The written prayer of Mrs. Cecilia Lagman, mother of FIND Co-Chairperson Nilda Sevilla and the disappeared labor lawyer in the Philippines Atty. Hermon Lagman, lights up hope for the attendees of the forum. Mrs. Lagman recently passed away at age 92.

ganized several activities.

The AFAD delegation in Nepal conducted series of activities extending from August 28 -August 30 which included series of radio interviews; a forum with families of victims on recent political developments related to the Ordinance approved by the government to merge the Truth Commission and the Disappearance Commission; a document considered as impunity document as it provides amnesty to perpetrators and fake reconciliation between victims and perpetrators and a video launching depicting enforced disappearances in Nepal. The Conflict Victims Society for Justice (CVSJ), Advocacy Forum (AF), and other human rights organizations also initiated simultaneous rallies in both



In Solidarity. FIND and AFAD staff after the successful forum attended by a hundred participants from the academe, diplomatic community, government offices and civil-society organizations.



Sons for Justice. HAK Association in Timor-Leste made a statement on 8 September 2012 as part of its commemoration of the IDD and the anniversary of the 1983 massacre in Viqueque district.

the capital and in several districts of the country. A conference on enforced disappearances of the ICRC and another activity of the National Human Rights Commission focused on the controversial Ordinance which is rejected by civil society.

Odhikar's Human Rights Defenders organized a rally and submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioners in 10 districts throughout Bangladesh for the accession of the Convention. They are also organizing an advocacy meeting for the accession to the the Convention on 15-16 September 2012 with the participation of Mr. Rainer Huhle, member of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance (CED) on the second week of September.

IKOHI Indonesia created a website <http://www.14tahunhilang.com/> for its online

petition to the government to implement the recommendation from the Indonesian House of Representatives (DPR) to resolve enforced disappearances cases of pro-democracy activists in Indonesia during 1997-1998. *KontraS* published video, data, information, and support through social media networks Facebook and Tweeter (#14tahunhilang). They also conducted creative cultural

presentations and demonstrated shadows depicting the disappeared in front of the Presidential Palace and asked the government to provide clarity of the fate of the victims. A public discussion was also held in its office.

HAK in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized more than 200 families of the victims in Bobonaro District, Timor Leste on 29 August.



Picket for justice and peace. Families of the disappeared collectively march to the Buddhist temple as a protest against disappearances and a tribute to their disappeared loved ones.

They also released a joint statement with Justice Network in Timor (ANTI). They organized a public forum as a main activity in the afternoon of the 30th.

Families of the Disappeared (FOD) from Sri Lanka together with other local organizations Committee to Investigate Disappearances (CID) Association of War Affected Women (AWAW) and Home for the Human Rights (HHR) commemorated the IDD. The commemoration focused mainly on Tamil war victims in Vavniya, Northern part of Sri Lanka through a march to the Buddhist temple; a public protest in front of bus station; and a public gathering at the UC hall, Vavniya chaired

Rev. F. Jeyabalan Croose and Rev. Buddhist Monk Baddewala Diyasena. The events were attended by some representatives of the disappeared from the South. Slogans used called out for truth, information, justice and accountability; an independent Commission to inquire on cases of disappearance; immediate publication of the list of detainees; visit by the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; compensation for all families of disappeared; ratification of the anti-disappearance Convention and the criminalization of disappearance; and, above all, the stop to enforced disappearances.

The Justice for Peace



Convention against violence. APDP strengthens its campaign for the ratification of the Convention by educating the public on its value to peace-building.

Foundation of Thailand and AFAD jointly issued a press statement calling on the Thai Government to expedite the process of the ratification of the anti-disappearance Convention, the recognition of the competence of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearance (UN CED) and the enactment of a domestic law that criminalizes enforced disappearances.

The activities are believed to have intensified the campaign for signatures and ratifications of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance particularly in Asia. To note, Asia is the region with the highest reported cases of enforced disappearances to the UN WGEID, but with lowest number of signatures and ratifications.



Moment of Silence for their beloved. ICAED and AFAD member organization, Families of Disappeared (FOD) unites the families in a public gathering where they sing songs by Artist Jayathilaka Bandara and listen to the speeches by civil society organizations and two mothers from North and South Sri Lanka.