

## ICAED commemorates IWD 2012



**Remembering our heroes.** Families and relatives of the *desaparecidos* from the Philippines offered flowers in remembering the stolen lives of their loved ones. Prior to the offering they have released balloons of solidarity as a message to the government to support and give justice to their family.

The families organization and members of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) joins the international community in commemorating the International Week of the Disappeared on May 27–June 2, 2012 through different activities that promotes the cause and advocacy for the victims of enforced disappearance.

In Asia, the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) invited Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, extraordinary professor from the University of South Africa and incumbent member of the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance, in his own personal capacity as a keynote speaker for two ma-

jor activities in the Philippines in partnership with the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND), a local international organization and a member of the Coalition. The major activities include a Legislative Forum (May 31) and a National Human Rights Forum (June 1), a joint activity with the Presidential Human Rights Committee. Extensive media campaign through radio, television, and print was also prioritized parallel to these activities to attract people's attention and sympathy on the cause.

FIND commences the week by releasing white balloons carrying a slogan addressed to the Philippine government to sign and ratify the convention and passed the Anti-Disappearance bill.

On the first week of June, Mugiyanto, AFAD Chairperson, also invited Mr. Sarkin to Indonesia to grace several advocacy activities of the Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI) and Commission for the Disappeared Victims of Violence (KontraS-Indonesia).

The unofficial visit of Mr. Sarkin has also been published by the Civil Initiative We Remember Foundation, member of the ICAED Steering Committee, on their website.

Other members of AFAD, the Focal Point organization of ICAED, in Thailand and Bangladesh share that they have prepared activities to jointly engage in the celebration.

An Advocacy Event & a Workshop on Enforced Disappearances member are organized by International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)-Bangkok, Muslim Advocacy Center (MAC) and Justice for Peace Foundation (JPF). The activities are envisioned to generate recommendations to the Thai government on key elements to be included in a domestic legislation implementing the Convention. Thailand is one of the latest signatories to the Convention.

According to Adilkhan Rahman, council member of AFAD representing Odhikar, they have already launched a campaign for the accession of the Convention. "During this week we are engaging with the media to highlight the issue again which is a growing concern in Bangladesh.", added Rahman.

Some of the member organizations from Europe and Euro-Mediterranean region also extend their solidarity and commemoration of this annual event.

Rimma Gelenava of the Disarmament and Non-violence organization in Georgia reiterates their full commitment on the issue through their continuous activities of educating, campaigning, monitoring, and lobbying for the human rights protection in Georgia. Their constant researches and projects concerning the issue of Enforced Disappearance provided and impact on the scale of spreading the possible solutions to the problem.

In Latin America, where the celebration of the IWD started, members of the Latin American Federation of Families Associ-



Performance for the IWD celebration in Mexico restructured by the Clowns without borders. Source: <http://www.demotix.com/photo/1246227/clowns-without-borders-joins-international-week-disappeared>

ation of Disappeared-Detainees (FEDEFAM) continue to ignite their advocacy not to forget the victims of disappearance.

EPAF, as part of the continuity of their advocacy awareness campaign plan, conducted an umbrella program called "Desaparecidos... ¿Hasta cuándo?". The activities included workshop on the implementation of the National Plan for Search for Missing People; publication of advertisements, statements and opinion on the issue; constant update on online media campaign; media conferences; development of training materials and information kits; and drafting of press releases insisting that the state should at least sign the convention.

ICAED Peru, an effort from a Peruvian member organization greatly acknowledged by the coalition, has been established for the main goal of encouraging and putting pressure on the government to ratify the convention and recognize the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearance.

TASSC International and the Euro-Mediterranean Federation support the celebration by disseminating the statement for the IWD posted on their website in solidarity with the co-members in the Coalition intensifying the campaign for signing and ratifying the Convention.

Aside from the ICAED member organizations, other sectors participated in the commemoration of the IWD. In Mexico, a group of clowns named Clowns Without Borders performed during a rally for the IWD commemoration. The organization injected some humors as they perform for the committee of relatives of unlisted detainees.

The said activities of each organization solidifies the call for the international implementation of law against disappearance, reliving the memories of the disappeared and a hope that the crime will never recur.



## ICAED personalities participate in the UN-WGEID Conference on Disappearances and their Impact on Women

On April 18-19, 2012, seven individual ICAED personalities participated in the recently held Experts' Conference on Gender and Enforced Disappearances in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia sponsored by the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance in cooperation with UN Women and the International Center for Transitional Justice.

The said event was a part of the series of panel discussions on the UN WGEID's General Comments on the Impact of Disappearance on Women. It tackled personal situations of women victims, survivors, and families of the disappeared vis-à-vis the draft General Comments to ensure that the document would be based on the concrete situation on the ground.

Aileen Bacalso, ICAED focal person, together with fellow members Irina Krasovskaya, We Remember-Belarus President; Wadih Al Asmar, FEMED Treasurer; Mandira Sharma, AFAD Treasurer; Jestina Mukoko, National Coordinator Zimbabwe Peace Project; Marta Suarez, Madres de Plaza de Mayo; and ICAED legal adviser Prof. Gabriella Citroni individually participated in the first consultation on CSOs, families, victims, and survivors through their testimonies and speeches relevant to the theme.

According to the participants, the activity was also a reminder that women bear the brunt of the effects of enforced disappearance.

## *From the Members ...*

# Rabat: The victims of the 'years of the lead' have demonstrated Sunday against immobilism

Translated by Virginie Lefèvre

In 2006, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (IER), created to free the speech of the victims of the "years of the lead", under the Hassan II's reign, presented its report to the King Mohammed VI. Six years later, this file is far from being solved.

In Morocco, the "years of the lead" are now recalled to the Benkirane government's memory. Sunday, the capital has welcomed a march of the victims of the human rights violations, under Hassan II's reign. This initiative was organized by the Moroccan Forum for Truth and Justice (FMVJ). Thousands of people, and among them the families of the disappeared, have walked. Mainly, they were asking for the application of the IER recommendations. The IER was chaired by Driss Benzekri, a former member of the FMVJ.

The mandate of the IER ended in 2006. A commission, which was part of the Consultative Council for Human Rights (CCDH), has ensured the follow-up of the IER, without moving forward on this file. In March 2011, the CCDH has forwarded the file to the Advisory Council on Human Rights (CNDH). Driss El Yazami and Hassan Sebbar, former Secretary-General of the FMVJ are members of this Council. After two mandates, this Commission did not make any progress.

## Call upon the Benkirane government

Since the creation of the CNDH, the file of the victims of the "years of the lead" has been suffering

from the very busy agenda of the last months in Morocco: the February 20 Movement, the new Constitution, the legislative elections of November 25 and the negotiations to form the Benkirane government. "In the last year, the CNDH Commission and the other one from the "Primature" (these two Commissions are in charge of the follow-up of this file) never met in order to solve the demands coming from the families of the "years of the lead". It was only last week that the CNDH representatives held a meeting with the government representatives. It shows how slow the application of the IER recommendations is" says Mohamed Hassine, member of the FMVJ Board.

The march, in Rabat, is a message, sent to the Benkirane government. It urges him to look into this file. During the negotiations to form the Benkirane government, the FMVJ sent a letter to Benkirane "in order to ask him to integrate, in his declaration, the application of the IER recommendations but he didn't do it" according to Mohamed Hassine.

"Our NGO is under pressure, as the victims ask for the social integration or want to know the faith of their relatives who disappeared. The march of Rabat happens in this context. The FMVJ can't forget these demands and talk, for instance, about the International Criminal Court", adds Mohamed Hassine.

**Source:** <http://www.rabat-maroc.net>, April 17, 2012

# RLH chronicles LS narratives

Thirty-seven (37) different stories from Asia, Euro-Mediterranean, North America, Latin America and Africa shared their Linking Solidarity (LS) narratives as they whole-heartedly participated in the data gathering process of the Research on Learning History (RLH) from September 2011–March 2012.

The RLH implemented by ICAED Focal Point, the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances takes more solid stand to re-launch the program as an activity of the coalition as it clearly document stories, valuable features, experiences and challenges encountered throughout the process.

ICAED Focal Person and the Steering Committee members explicitly support the activity as they constantly participated in the different research phases. The researchers acknowledge the significant assistance particularly in identifying re-

spondents, translating questionnaires and responses, and providing materials which supports the research. On the other hand, selected representatives of ICAED member organization who became part of LS were interviewed.

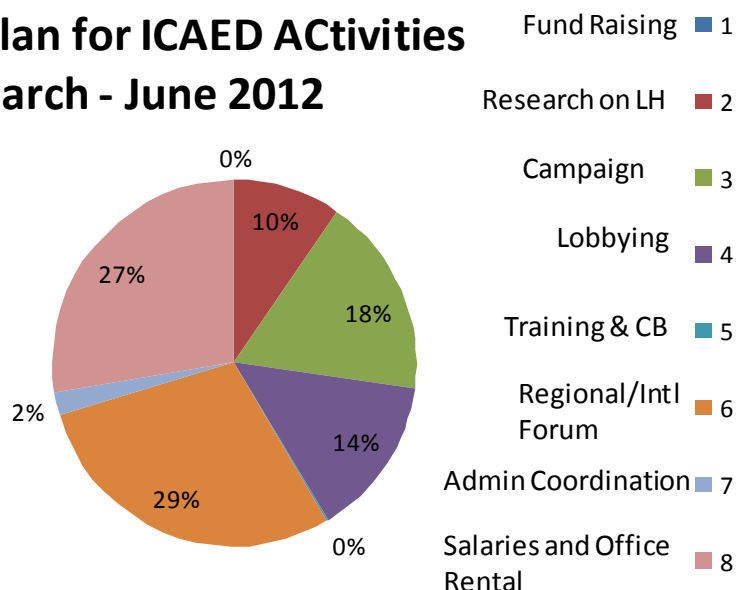
It has been noted that results of the research will be used as basis for writing proposals to sustain the project. For the benefit of the ICAED member organization, the results will also be translated to Spanish and French.

As of this writing, the researcher are in the process of validating and disseminating the results. The researchers encourages members, and networks of LS to read and part-take in the process for the accuracy of the results.

**Member Organizations:** Amnesty International (AI) • 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 • Namibian Rights and Responsibilities (NAMRIGHTS) • 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 • Centro de los derechos humanos y talleres productivos Qatari Panituri - Peru • Association de Parents et Amis de Disparus au Maroc (APADM)- Morocco • Comité de Coordination des Familles des Disparus au Maroc (CCFDM)- Morocco • Institute for Community Policing (ICP) - Nigeria • Asociación per a la recuperació de la memòria històrica de Catalunya (ARMHC) - Spain • Truth Now– Cyprus • Comision de Derechos Humanos (COMISEDH) - Peru • Social Justice for Equality - Nepal • Centro de documentacion en derechos humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J"- Ecuador • Zimbabwe Peace Project - Zimbabwe • Equipo Peruano de Antropología Forense - Peru • Asamblea Permanente por los Derechos Humanos - Argentina • Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC)

## Member Update Corner

### Budget Plan for ICAED Activities March - June 2012



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