



INTERNATIONAL COALITION
AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

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Press release

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Family members of disappeared, human rights organizations and UN member States gather in Geneva to discuss the state of ratification of the “Disappearance Convention”

Geneva, Switzerland – On March 11 the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) will organize a round table conference to discuss the status of signature, ratification and implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Convention) and how to encourage States to sign, ratify and implement the Convention as soon as possible, including the role that the Human Rights Council and UN human rights bodies could play in that effort.

The Convention has been signed by 72 States and already ratified by two States, Argentina and Albania, with others likely to do so in the near future. The Convention requires 18 more ratifications to enter into force and one of the objectives of the conference is to determine how to speed up ratification. In particular, it will examine any concerns that might be raised by States in the process of ratification and implementation of the Convention, and find ways to overcome them.

The round table will take place in Geneva, Palais des Nations, room XXIV from 13:00 – 15:00. Chairperson will be Jean Baptiste Mattei, Permanent Representative of France. Other speakers include the Permanent representatives of Argentina and Albania, the Secretary General of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances and the Vice President of the International Commission of Jurists.

The meeting will be attended by representatives of human rights organizations, UN member States and family members of disappeared from the Philippines, Thailand, Belarus and Morocco. The meeting is organised in close consultation with the so-called ‘Groupe des Amis’. The ‘Groupe des Amis’ is an initiative of several UN member States who decided to cooperate to promote the Convention.

The participants will furthermore discuss joint campaign strategies for the Convention and pay tribute to the late Bernard Kessedjian, Ambassador of France and chairperson of the UN working group that drafted the text of the Convention. Bernard Kessedjian died on December 19, 2007.

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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

Members of the ICAED:

Amnesty International, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), Civil Initiative We Remember Foundation, Collectif des Familles de Disparus en Algérie (CFDA), 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), Aim for human rights, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Russian Justice Initiative, Liga Guatemateca de Higiene Mental, TRIAL, Breaking the Walls of Silence, AFAPREDESA