



INTERNATIONAL COALITION
AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

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PRESS RELEASE

International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances urges Nepal to ratify the Convention on enforced disappearances

For immediate release

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Thousands of letters calling on Nepal to ratify a human rights treaty to combat enforced disappearances will be delivered to the Prime Minister of Nepal on Wednesday. "Nepal has a terrible legacy of grave human rights violations, including thousands of enforced disappearances. Two years after the end of a decade-long internal conflict, not one of those responsible has been brought to account. Impunity prevails." said Dave Hardy, coordinator of the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), which organized the worldwide letter-writing campaign.

More than two years after the Supreme Court of Nepal issued a landmark ruling, recommending the establishment of an effective commission to investigate enforced disappearances, the Coalition asks that the government send an unmistakable signal that enforced disappearances will never be tolerated again in Nepal. "Announcing that that Nepal will soon ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance would send such a signal" added Dave Hardy. "It would also make Nepal one of the very first countries in Asia to become a party to the Convention".

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006 the Convention against Enforced Disappearance represents the culmination of a long effort by many families of disappeared persons, non-governmental organizations and governments to address the continuing problem of enforced disappearance through international law.

The Convention will be an effective way to help prevent enforced disappearances and to respond effectively to the crimes when they are committed by establishing the truth, prosecuting the perpetrators and providing reparations to the victims and their families. "As countless persons continue to be "disappeared" throughout the world, the prompt entry into force of the Convention and its ratification and effective implementation in all countries must be a priority for the international community and particularly for countries that have a legacy of enforced disappearances, such as Nepal" concluded Dave Hardy.

For more information about the campaign of ICAED and the Convention on enforced disappearances, see 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, Institute for Community Policing – Nigeria, Association de Parents et Amis de Disparus au Maroc – Morocco, Comité de coordination des Familiiies des Disparus au Maroc, Morocco, Asociación por la recuperacion de la memoria historica de Catalunya (ARMHC) – Spain, Truth Now – Cyprus, Comision de Derechos Humanos – Peru, Social Justice for Equality – Nepal, Centro de documentacion en derechos humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J"- Ecuador, Zimbabwe Peace Project - Zimbabwe