INTERNATIONAL COALITION
AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Members of Parliament

Date
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Members of the ICAED
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,
Asociacíon 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, Asociacion
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

Your Excellency,

August 30 2009 marks the 26th anniversary of the International Day of the
Disappeared. On this day the International Coalition against Enforced
Disappearances (ICAED) would like to draw your attention to the International
Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

The ICAED is a global network of more than forty associations of families of
disappeared persons and non-governmental organizations. On August 30 we
not only commemorate all the individuals that disappeared but also call on all
parliaments in the world to exercise their powers to ensure the universal
ratification and implementation of the Convention.

The Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly by consensus on
20 December 2006 (A/RES/61/177) and it 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, establish the truth about this crime, punish the perpetrators
and provide 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.

The Coalition therefore urges you to ensure that your government:
- signs and ratifies the Convention at the earliest opportunity without any
limiting reservations;
- makes the declarations required under Articles 31 and 32 of the Convention,
thus recognizing the competence of the Committee on Enforced
Disappearances to consider communications from individuals and states
parties; and
- takes the necessary steps to effectively implement the Convention at
national level soon after ratification.

I thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to your
response.

Dave Hardy
Coördinator ICAED

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