



INTERNATIONAL COALITION
AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

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Statement

ICAED calls on European Parliament to promote the Convention on Enforced Disappearances

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The International Coalition against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) on January 24 called on the European Parliament (EP) to actively promote the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances. ICAED proposed a motion for a resolution of the EP, stressing the importance of swift ratification and full implementation by the EU member States.

ICAED representatives were invited by the Subcommittee on human rights of the EP to give a presentation on the convention on enforced disappearances. The convention was adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly on December 20 2006. ICAED welcomes the signing of convention by 17 EU member States on a total of 72 signatories since the signing ceremony in Paris on February 6 2007. Ratifications have so far only been deposited at the United Nations by Albania and Argentina.

During the subcommittee meeting the ICAED expressed its concern about the continuation of the practice of enforced disappearances on all continents and at the weakness of legal and institutional responses to such crimes and human rights violations. Currently none of the citizens of the European Union as well as non-citizens that fall under the jurisdiction of the member States of the European Union are sufficiently protected from enforced disappearances.

ICAED called on the European Parliament to issue a resolution stating the support for the ratification campaign for the Convention on enforced disappearances and without any restraints to promote the signing, ratification and implementation of the Convention in EU members States and in all bilateral and multilateral dialogues with third country governments.

Some parliament members responded positively to the call. Slovenian MP, Alojz PETERLE, stated that it is one of the most important conventions. "We need to count on this convention, the European Union needs to work on this."

The chairperson of the Subcommittee, Helene Flautre, stated that the ratification results in the EU so far are disastrous and that a more pro-active campaign for ratification is necessary. She did not yet take over the ICAED proposal for an EP resolution. She nonetheless proposed to organize a more substantive debate on the convention with the participation of human rights organisations and victims of disappearances.