CED AND WGEID EXPRESS PROFOUND SADNESS AT THE PASSING AWAY OF MARTA VAZQUEZ

The Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances express their profound sadness at the passing away of Marta Vásquez, President of the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo, Founder Line, who died on 18 November in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the age of 90.

Her life changed forever when, on 14 May 1976, her daughter Maria Marta was victim of enforced disappearance by the military dictatorship in Argentina.

After the collapse of the dictatorship, Marta learnt that her daughter was last seen in the clandestine detention center ESMA and that she was pregnant. Marta fought until her very last day to recuperate her grandchild, unfortunately with no success.

Twice President of FEDEFAM (Latin American Federation of the Relatives of Disappeared), Marta fought for 25 years for the adoption by the international community of a treaty that codified and punished the crime of enforced disappearance. Her participation in the Working Group that drafted the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, between 2003 and 2006, was fundamental to the point that Ambassador Bernard Kessejian, the Chair of the Working Group, dedicated the effort to her.

One month after her passing away CED and WGEID honor the life of Marta Vazquez. With great courage she transformed her personal pain in a struggle for human rights and against impunity for the benefit of all.