

ICAED Report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

For the period of June 2013 until June 2014

I. Introduction

The concerted struggle of most human rights organizations, families of the disappeared, experts and members of the diplomatic community has influenced some governments to pay attention to the problem of enforced disappearances. It makes a difference that organizations of families of the disappeared and international non-government organizations had without fail lobbied for the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Convention) until it was finally adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 December 2006.

The continuing efforts of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), the civil society and non-government organizations such as the ICAED members are able to attain some achievements that also inspire ICAED to persist and carry on in implementing its mandate.

The regional human rights situations in Africa, Asia, Euro-Mediterranean Region and the Middle East pale in comparison with the governments' commitments to international obligations. The still unresolved cases and continuing phenomenon of enforced disappearances as per 2012 Report of the UN WGEID makes the Convention as relevant as ever. Guided by the Convention, ICAED is consistent in its stand that it is never acceptable to resort to enforced disappearance or to commit to any forms of human rights violation to defend national security or to realize development projects.

Given its inclusive scope of work, ICAED is instrumental in encouraging some local human rights networks and associations to include the promotion of the Convention in their campaigns.

Since its official establishment in September 2007 in Geneva, the now 52 member-organizations of ICAED have, in varying degrees and forms, been globally promoting its mandate to actively lobby for universal ratification and application of the Convention at the national level for the achievement of a legitimate solution in favor of the victims.

In March 2014, the ICAED convened its member in Geneva, Switzerland to assess its challenges and milestones and come up with plans, taking into consideration its limited resources. These plans cover Africa, Asia, Europe, Euro-Mediterranean Region, North America and Latin America.

As requested by the CED, the ICAED is submitting this report to update the CED on the activities of ICAED that both support the Committee and the Convention.

A. Lobby Activities

Event	Inclusive Dates	Initiator	Rationale/Objective	Output/Result
Side Event at <i>Palais des Nations</i>	2013	FIACAT , Focal point (FP) and the rest of the ICAED Steering Committee (SC)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the visibility of the ICAED in the United Nations. 2. Highlight cases of enforced disappearances. 3. Convince the diplomatic community to push the national governments to ratify the Convention. 	<p>Gained the support of French and Argentinean and other Missions. The SC members have consolidated its stand to strengthen ICAED and step-up its presence in the international community.</p> <p>Good practices in the campaign for universal ratification were presented by the FIACAT before the government and civil society representatives.</p>
Alternative Report	2014	FIACAT	Promote and support the work of CED	<p>An alternative report was submitted which provided vital data to CED using the point of view of the civil society.</p> <p>Encouraged ICAED to submit its alternative report.</p> <p>Advocated for non-states parties to ratify.</p>
Lobby with national governments	2013	FP	Push the national governments to make use of the Convention in addressing human rights	The Focal Point visited the Asian Countries including: Indonesia, Philippines, Timor Leste, South Korea, Nepal, Thailand and organized events that targeted the governments

			issues and cases of enforced disappearances.	of these countries to initiate the process of accession. More individuals and human rights organizations were linked with for future actions and organizational expansion.
	2013	FEMED (Euro-Med Federation)		Prime Minister Najib Mikati of Libya committed to work on the ratification but due to political instability, he resigned in March 2013.
Worked with Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), FIND and Desaparecidos (Philippines)	2013	FIND (Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance)	Maximize the mandate of Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012 specifically Section 28 in drafting of the law's implementing rules and regulations.	Jointly drafted and promulgated the implementing rules and regulations for the Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012 (Republic Act 10353)
Advocacy/Lobby Mission in Geneva, Switzerland	November 2013	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth and Justice	Uphold support for Convention, the CED and WGEID.	Met with representatives of WGEID, CED and Government Missions. Conducted discussions on the situation of enforced disappearances in Euro-Med Region and the challenges of implementation among states parties. Likewise, the said event also centered on the non-states parties. FEMED emphasized the role of the Convention in resolving disappearances.
Dialogues with Governments	January 2014	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth	Call attention to ratification, implementation of the Convention and the legislation of domestic law in helping the survivors, victims and their	Negotiated with the government representatives from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and presented the demands of association of families.

		and Justice	families.	
Negotiations with United Nations and Moroccan Government	2013-2014	AFAPREDESA (Western Sahara)	Gain the support of United Nations in pressuring the Moroccan Government to honor the demands of the Saharawi survivors and families of victims.	Communications were submitted to United Nations and the Moroccan Government on the demands of Saharawi survivors, families of victims and AFAPREDESA--that thorough and impartial investigations must be conducted, bring the perpetrators to justice, return the remains of victims to their families and provide the necessary compensation to the survivors and families of victims.
Proposed amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Committee on Missing Persons To assure access of information	2013-2014	Truth Now- Cyprus	For the CMP to be granted with unhindered access throughout the country including the northern area for full investigation and disclosure of cases.	Presented the proposal to the national government and the Committee on Missing Persons.
National lobby with governments for ratification	2013-2014	Truth Now in Cyprus	For the Governments of Cyprus and Greece to ratify the Convention.	Conducted dialogue with the government officials and legislative bodies.
Pressed the Peru Government to implement the Convention	2013-2014	<i>Comision de Derechos Humanos</i>	Influence the government to deal with all cases of enforced disappearances and recognize the competence of the Committee.	Series of political events and dialogues have been actualized in urging the National Government to deal with interstate and individual cases of enforced disappearances. The Ministry of Justice reconvened in December 2013 and formed the Council on Human Rights to facilitate the Congress's debate on recognizing the competency of the Committee. Mobilized the civil society to partake in the lobby actions.

Target Specific Lobbying in the Philippines	2013-2014	FIND	Influence key government officers including the Chief Executive down to barangay (village) chairpersons on the urgency of ratifying the Convention	Communicated with key government officers and offices on the Convention. Instituted links with key personalities in the government.
Urging the Governments to Resolve Cases of Enforced Disappearances	2013- 2014	Foundation “Charter 97”, European Belarus and We Remember in Belarus	These organizations are pushing their government to resolve the enforced disappearances cases that victimize members of the opposition and the media between 1999-2000	Sustained the legal proceedings of pending cases of disappearances before the courts in Belarus. Popularized the information drive about the political tyranny in Belarus.
Give a Body Back	October 2013	We Remember	A parallel action that targets the abolition of Death Penalty in Belarus; release of political prisoners and completion of investigation on enforced disappearances	Worked with support groups during the conduct of the event.
Communicating with Governments of Canada, Nepal, El Salvador, Egypt	2013- 2014	SC, AFAD, We Remember	Influence the concerned governments to ratify the Convention	Formal correspondence was communicated; the said letters gave particular stressed on the countries’ commitments during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
Communication with US State Department, White House, Representatives of the United States to the UN	2013	We Remember	Supported the call of support of Northern Korea Human Rights organizations for their government to recognize and investigate ED cases.	A letter was sent to the intended government envoys to call attention to the disappearances in North Korea.
Intensified lobbying in	2013-2014	<i>Liga</i>	Counter the militarization and	Mobilized support groups and individuals in engaging the

Guatemala		<i>Guatemaltecade Higiene Mental</i>	<p>deteriorating democratic state of Guatemala for the last two years.</p> <p>Pressure the national government and the Justice Ministry to sustain the legal proceedings on the massacres, enforced disappearances and murders committed by the government in the 1980s.</p> <p>Oppose the culture of impunity by engaging the public society.</p>	<p>responsible government officials and agencies to sincerely commit its service and resources against enforced disappearances and other forms of atrocities.</p> <p>Collectively ventilated the call for redress, truth and justice in favor of the victims, survivors and their families via negotiations, correspondence with government officers, street rallies, media interview, symposia and small group discussions.</p> <p>Persistently urges the government to go beyond signing and ratify the Convention.</p>
Experts' Meetings and Side Events on Enforced Disappearances	2014	Geneva for Human Rights	Host political events to strengthen the commitment of the diplomatic community, experts and representatives of NGOs in upholding human rights laws and stimulate country implementation.	<p>Attendance of key figures and decision makers from different sectors and countries.</p> <p>The call for ratification has been echoed and underlined.</p>
Work with both CED and WGEID	2013-2014	FEMED	Hearten and capacitate the member organizations and network of FEMED in the Euro-Med countries to maximize the UN Body that can better help them in their work against involuntary disappearances.	<p>Those member organizations based in non-member states continue to correspond and consult with the WGEID while the associations established in the zones of state parties cooperate with CED, such as in Morocco, Iraq and Bosnia.</p> <p>Non-member countries have been pushed by FEMED networks to re-examine their stand on the Convention and ratify without delay.</p> <p>Individual members and workers are capacitated by utilizing their collaboration and initiatives in the campaign and lobby.</p>
Recommendations to	2013-2014	<i>Qatari Panituri</i>	Improve the country's	Accomplished actions that demand the endorsement of

<p>Scrap or Amend the Repressive Laws in Peru</p>			<p>democratic situation by advocating against repressive laws used against the citizens.</p> <p>Campaign for legislation of law that will favor the victims and their families.</p>	<p>regulation that will resolve the cases of enforced disappearances in the country.</p> <p>Organized members and drafted a proposal to revise the laws instrumental for suppression of democratic efforts made by the civil society and students especially in the 1980s.</p>
<p>Call to abolish the Amnesty Law</p>	<p>2013-2014</p>	<p><i>Asociacion Pro Búsqueda Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos</i></p>	<p>Nullify the law that protects the perpetrators.</p> <p>Uphold support to victims and families.</p>	<p>Conducted dialogues and submitted communications to the government regarding the appeal of the civil society to repeal the Amnesty Law.</p> <p>Submitted an official appeal to the Constitutional Court asserting the unlawful effects of the statute and argued for its revocation.</p> <p>Educated the community members on the disadvantages of the Amnesty Law and mobilized them for further actions.</p>
<p>Fight for the Disappearances Cases in the 1980s</p>	<p>1980-2014</p>	<p><i>Familiares y Madres de Desaparecidos Uruguayos</i></p>	<p>Struggle for memory, truth and justice</p>	<p>Organized annual rallies and mobilized the students, out of school youth and the rest of the civil society.</p> <p>Connect with and empower other human rights organizations across the globe by providing trainings on documentation and advocacy.</p> <p>Carried out various forms of educational discussions on enforced disappearances and the fight of the Madres to inform different sectors in Uruguay.</p> <p>Sustained the struggle of the organization and pressed the government to resolve every case of disappearance and make use of the Convention ratified by the state.</p> <p>Employed information and technology, and the internet in engaging the public in the effort.</p>

				Pushed the government to enact a law that will effectively process the legal complaints against all the perpetrators.
Mobilizing National Actions in Peru	2014	<i>Comision de Derechos Humanos</i>	<p>Consolidate the public in advocating the call for the government's quick action to search those who were forcibly disappeared. So far 16,000 cases were documented by the organization.</p> <p>Motivate the civil society to insist on the inclusion of psychosocial services and provision of all expenses related with the search and support to families of victims.</p>	<p>Key political organizations join the proceedings.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice created a Working Group on Enforced Disappearances that studies and drafts a law for the search of the disappeared.</p>

B. Campaigns and Information Drive

Event /Activity	Inclusive Period	Initiator	Rationale/ Objective	Output/Result
E-news	2013-2014	FP, SC	Keep the members in the loop by sharing the good practices of ICAED members	Key activities have been published and widely shared with members and network.
Website and Facebook	2013-2014	FP, SC	Post statements and updates to give ideas	The members and support groups are timely informed about the actions of ICAED.

			to members on the issues of focus and on the possible exercises that they can duplicate for their campaigns	The work and mandate of ICAED have been publicized worldwide through the social media and the internet.
Published ICAED Statements on Website	2013-2014	We Remember	Inform the public on the global issue of ED and the imperative of Convention	The network organizations were informed about ICAED updates and calls
Social Media	2013-2014	AFAD, FIND	Mass education and updates on cases of enforced disappearances, government's role in addressing the crime and the need for ratification.	Updated the public and networks (domestic and international) on the challenges of South-East Asian Governments in addressing enforced disappearances in the region. Motivated members to cascade statements to their respective contacts.
Emilio Minogne Human Rights Award 2013	December 10, 2013	SC	Recognize the contribution of ICAED and FP against disappearances.	Media Projection in the Philippines, Argentina and Uruguay. Promoted ICAED visibility.
Summary of the Convention		FP and SC	Provide a brief reference on the Convention.	Circulated a short copy of the Convention to 52 member organizations.
Countries of the Month including	2013-2014	ICAED, AFAD, We	Give special	Sent letters to governments of Indonesia,

Indonesia, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Canada, Philippines, Georgia and South Korea		Remember	attention to governments that have signed the Convention to complete the next step and ratify.	Guatemala, Bangladesh, Canada, Philippines, Georgia and South Korea urging their Chief Executive and legislative body to act urgently on the call for ratification.
ICAED Public Event in Geneva, Switzerland	March 2014	Focal Point and Steering Committee	The Public Event shared salient points on the Convention and the role of CED	Chairperson Emmanuel Decaux partook in the event and shared his keynote speech before the members of ICAED. Publicized ICAED and its global role to collaborate with human rights organizations and lobby with government bodies.
Mass Actions	2013-2014	We Remember	These are forms of actions that sensitize the public about the situation in Belarus	Invited the support of individuals and contact organizations in highlighting the need for Belarus to ratify and hasten the legal proceedings to finally render justice to the disappeared.
Mass Actions and Public Discussions	2013-2014	AFAPREDESA	Public information, mobilization against enforced disappearances and promotion of right to self-determination	Series of mass actions and debates were carried out in Western Sahara. These activities centered on the call of AFAPREDESA for the public to urge the Moroccan Government to resolve the cases of disappearances victimizing some people and smaller tribes in Western Sahara.
	2013-2014	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth and Justice	Sensitize the public and other human rights associations to call for ratifications in the Euro-	Worked with various organizations and individuals on educational discussions and mass actions in Beirut and other cities in the Euro-Mediterranean Region.

			Mediterranean countries.	Requested different members of national media to cover more news on the campaigns and lobby related with the Convention.
Reproduction of the brochure “Convention NOW!”	2013-2014	We Remember, Dmitry Zavadsky Foundation	To encourage the public and civil society organizations to push the Government of Belarus to ratify the Convention.	Cooperated with other organizations in Belarus. Widely distributed copies of the Convention in Belarus and neighboring countries.
Mobilizing the Local Coalition Against Involuntary Disappearance (CAID)	2013-2014	FIND	Capacitate FIND’s network organizations and individuals. Public education.	Activated the allies and support groups of FIND in lobbying with government bodies and in carrying out FIND’s campaigns. Informed students, professionals and community members on the magnitude of ratifying the Convention.
Media Interviews and Press Briefings	2013-2014	AFAD, FIND	Providing public updates on enforced disappearances, reiterating calls for ratification and urging the government to make use of the domestic law to resolve all cases of ED.	Series of interviews and discussions with members of media from local television and radio companies.
Use of Traditionally Commemorated Events (International Day of the Disappeared (IDD), International Week of the Disappeared (IWD),	2013-2014	AFAD		

International Human Rights Day)				
Use of Traditionally Commemorated Events (International Day of the Disappeared (IDD), International Week of the Disappeared (IWD), International Human Rights Day, <i>Kalbaryo ng Kawalan ng Katarungan</i> (Calvary of Searching for Justice) every Holy Wednesday and the anniversaries of FIND, and of the Flame of Courage Monument)	2013-2014	FIND	Maximize these events to promote the Convention and invite the public to help the victims and their families by pushing the government to ratify.	Organization of fora, focused group and roundtable discussions, nationwide/region-wide radio and television guesting, press conferences and briefings, press releases and statements, social media projection through FIND's website, and Facebook and Twitter accounts of both the organization and individual members; torch parades; and flying kites that bore the organization's calls
Commemoration of IDD	August 2013	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth and Justice	Use as venue to campaign for ratification and recognition of CED among state-parties.	Member organizations in Euro-Med countries participated by conducting simultaneous programs in different countries/cities. Linked with other human rights organizations for solidarity.

Attached, we are sending a press statement of AFAD regarding a lobbying event held in South Korea in January 2014.

During this 2014 commemoration of the International Week of the Disappeared, AFAD and FIND conducted series of activities in the Philippines such as a round-table discussion with government agencies on the Convention on Enforced Disappearances. Invited through skype to speak about the Convention is Mr. Luciano Hazan, CED member from Argentina.

Series of fora on the Convention and the anti enforced disappearance law were held in Bukidnon province in Mindanao, Philippines with members of the Philippine Army and separately with church people (Roman Catholic) and the media

C. Services

Service	Inclusive Period	Initiator	Rationale/Objective	Output/Result
Litigation at Domestic and International Levels (Cyprus)	2013-2014	Truth Now	<p>To ascertain the fate of the missing persons during the inter-communal troubles and the 1974 invasion.</p> <p>To act as a pressure group</p> <p>To promote the right to truth as social and individual right</p>	<p>Relatives of victims were assisted.</p> <p>The public has been continuously informed about these political and human rights concerns in Cyprus.</p> <p>Necessary suggestions were communicated to responsible government bodies.</p>
Litigation and Legal Research	2013-2014	Track Impunity Always (TRIAL)	<p>Provide legal services to victims of crimes against humanity.</p> <p>Reinforce the lobby efforts for ratification.</p>	<p>Submitted an alternative report to CED for France and Germany in May 2013.</p> <p>Drafts an alternative report for France in 2014 for CED submission.</p> <p>Supports the global movement against enforced disappearances through litigation and sending out official communications.</p>
Legal Service and Documentation (Peru)	2004-2014	Qatari Panituri	<p>Collaborate with families of victims and survivors in Peru's political upheaval in the 1980s.</p> <p>Extend services to families for the achievement of justice and reconciliation.</p>	<p>Documented cases of disappearances in the 1980s.</p> <p>Linked with families of victims.</p> <p>Grant legal services to families of victims.</p> <p>Conducted dialogues with the Peru government on the resolution of these cases documented.</p>

Legal Service and Documentation on Cases Involving Children	1980s-2014	Asociacion Pro Búsqueda Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos	Trace and chronicle enforced disappearances of children in El Salvador, specifically the cases that occurred in the 1980s.	<p>Documented 1,000 cases.</p> <p>Rescued more than 200 victims.</p> <p>Legally processed and aided 400 cases before the courts in El Salvador.</p> <p>Submitted three cases to Inter-American Court of Justice</p>
Organizational Trainings on Human Rights Related Courses	2013-2014	Geneva for Human Rights	<p>Capacitate the human rights workers and organizations to implement campaigns and lobby efforts to uphold human rights in their communities.</p> <p>Developing the appreciation of the field workers on the utilization of international laws; further understand their local circumstances and attune their approach or work to manage risks and threats.</p>	<p>Undisclosed organizations and human rights workers were trained on the application of the international statutes in the domestic context.</p> <p>Informed the human rights workers to observe self-preservation and manage risks in their line of work.</p> <p>The trained individuals are also helping in the domestic lobby efforts for their respective governments to treat the ratification of human rights related Conventions as one of the primary concerns.</p>
Evaluation of Tunisia's Situation	June 2013	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth and Justice	Gauge the situation of enforced disappearance in Tunisia and build support group for FEMED and families of victims.	<p>Documented cases of enforced disappearances.</p> <p>Chronicled the feedbacks of resource persons, survivors and families of victims.</p>

Quick Response Team	2013-2014	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth and Justice	Assist the families of individuals who disappeared, incommunicado or arrested.	Traced and documented the whereabouts of the victims. Provided legal assistance to victims.
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D. Administrative/Organizational

Activity	Date	Initiator	Output/Result
Skype Meetings	2013-2014 (monthly)	SC	Ironed out the activities, necessary expenses with proper consultations and approval.
Physical Meeting of the SC Members at Geneva, Switzerland	November 2013	SC	<p>Assessments on the campaigns completed for 2012 and 2013 and the financial situation of ICAED were carried out.</p> <p>Planned on the country of the month with special focus on areas with Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACATs) for additional support.</p> <p>Submitted a lobby letter to the Government of Burundi, asking the Chief Executive to urgently consider ratification.</p> <p>The SC agreed on the utilization of the UPR and the country recommendations to go back and negotiate with target governments to catalyze the ratification process.</p>
FEMED General Assembly (<i>Enforced Disappearances and the Fight against Impunity</i>)	November 2013	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth and Justice	<p>Participation and action planning of FEMED member organizations from Morocco, Iraq, Bosnia, Tunisia, Algeria and other countries.</p> <p>The partakers deliberated on enforced disappearance, reconciliation and justice.</p>

Consultation with Members	January 2014	FEMED, Comite de Coordination des familles des disparus au Maroc, Forum for Truth and Justice	Members from Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and other regions gave their inputs on how FEMED can bolster its presence in the Europe-Med region and move forward with its campaign and lobby efforts
Coalition Conference in Geneva, Switzerland	March 2014	SC and FP	The participants agreed on major decisions such as in applying a legal personality of ICAED to broaden its lobbying and financial capabilities.
Discussion of the Disappearance Monitor	March 2014	Non-violence International and the rest of ICAED Members	<p>All participating members agreed on the proposal for global implementation. The said members pledged their technical and morale support for the planned project.</p> <p>The members were informed on the future assistance required from them; specifically on the organization of data gathering and submission of national reports.</p> <p>Further, the concerned member organizations decided that ICAED must establish its legal personality to effectively standardize its finance work.</p>
Expands Organizational Membership with International Communities	2013-2014	Garden of the Disappeared	<p>Gained new members from different countries especially from Timor Leste and Argentina. These new members share the organizational objectives.</p> <p>Provides a venue for the preservation of the historical memory.</p> <p>Carried out workshops and other forms of cooperation to foster the unity of the victims' families.</p> <p>Appointed two representatives who work with the international community and the United Nations in promoting the Convention</p>

