



To the attention of:

Secretariat of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances

Maria Giovanna Bianchi

8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH 1211 Geneva 10

E-mail: ced@ohchr.org, mgbianchi@ohchr.org

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Dear Madam,

I am writing to reply to the call for contributions for the Secretary General's Report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (hereinafter, "the Convention") that you kindly forwarded to TRIAL International on 22 May 2017.

With regard to your request, I am pleased to inform you that in the period between July 2016 and June 2017 TRIAL International carried out several activities to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote its understanding, to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this legal instrument, and to encourage other States to become parties to the treaty and to recognise the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances pursuant to Arts. 31 and 32 of the Convention.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, TRIAL International has been submitting follow-up reports on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Views of the Human Rights Committee on the cases **Tej Raj Bhandari**, **Gyanendra Tripathi**, **Katwal** and **Jit Man Basnet against Nepal**. These communications, concerning cases of enforced disappearance, were lodged by TRIAL International. Over the same period, TRIAL International also held several closed-door meetings in Kathmandu with the Nepalese authorities in charge of ensuring the implementation of the Human Rights Committee's Views. Between 2016 and 2017, the Human Rights Committee issued its Views on the communications [Dhakal](#), [Nakarmi](#), and [Nepali](#) against Nepal, all concerning cases of enforced disappearance lodged by TRIAL International.

Between 2016 and 2017, the Human Rights Committee issued its Views on the communication Lale and Blagojević against Bosnia and Herzegovina, concerning a case of enforced disappearance submitted by TRIAL International.

In all communications lodged before the Human Rights Committee by TRIAL International reference is made to the Convention as the highest standard in international human rights law on the subject of enforced disappearance.

In February 2017, TRIAL International, the *Fundación para la Justicia y el Estado democrático de derecho* and a coalition of associations of relatives of disappeared persons from Central America submitted a [follow-up report](#) to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on the level of implementation of the concluding observations on Mexico issued by the latter in February 2015.

Throughout the period under consideration, TRIAL International submitted three communications concerning Burundi to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID). In July 2016, with the support and coordination of TRIAL International, a coalition of NGOs from Burundi submitted an alternative report to the Committee against Torture, denouncing, among others, the stark increase in the number of enforced disappearances in the country. In May 2017, TRIAL International facilitated and participated in a meeting between the WGEID and four human rights defenders from Burundi, whereby the worsening of the human rights crisis in the country was illustrated and the scope of the phenomenon of enforced disappearance, as well as the obstacles faced by relatives of disappeared persons in their struggle were analysed in-depth.

During the period under review, TRIAL International organised several trainings directed at lawyers and human rights activists in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nepal. On the occasion of these trainings the Convention and the mandate and functioning of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances were thoroughly analysed.

Finally, TRIAL International is a member of the International Coalition against Enforced Disappearance.

Participation to Conferences and Seminars

Dr. Gabriella Citroni, in her capacity of professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy) and TRIAL International's Senior Legal Advisor took part as a speaker to various international conferences on the Convention and on the subject of enforced disappearance in general. Namely:

- *“Missing Persons and Victims of Enforced Disappearance in Europe”*, key note speech delivered in the context of the round-table with human rights defenders organised by the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France), 30 June – 1 July 2016.
- *“Enforced Disappearance: A Global Perspective”*, intervention at the conference *“Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances in South Asia”*, organised by the International Commission of Jurists and Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Colombo (Sri Lanka), 26-27 August 2016.
- *“Las obligaciones internacionales en materia de investigación de las desapariciones forzadas en marcos de justicia transicional”*, intervention in the context of the *“V Curso en Derecho Internacional Humanitario Augusto Ramírez Ocampo”*, organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior of Colombia, Melgar (Colombia), 21-23 September 2016.

- *“The Lack of Implementation of the Views delivered by the Human Rights Committee”*, intervention at the Diplomatic Briefing organised by the Swiss Embassy in Nepal, Kathmandu (Nepal), 6 December 2016.
- *“Migration resulting from Enforced Disappearances, Causes and Consequences”*, intervention at the Expert Consultation on “Enforced Disappearance in the context of Migration”, organised by the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Seoul (Republic of Korea), 5 February 2017.
- *“La definición de desaparición forzada en el derecho internacional: evolución y retos pendientes”*, seminar organised by the *Facultad de Ciencias Sociales y de la Comunicación, Universidad del País Vasco*, in the context of the research project *“Desapariciones. Estudio en perspectiva transnacional de una categoría para gestionar, habitar y analizar la catástrofe social y la pérdida”*, Bilbao (Spain), 16 February 2017.

Dr. Citroni also published the following article relevant on the subject of enforced disappearance and where the Convention is quoted:

- *“Short-term Enforced Disappearances as a Tool for Repression”*, in *SIDI Blog – Il blog della Società Italiana di Diritto Internazionale e dell’Unione europea*, 2016, at: <http://www.sidiblog.org/2016/06/13/short-term-enforced-disappearances-as-a-tool-for-repression/>.

I hope that this information can be of use and I remain at disposal may any further clarification be required.

In the meantime, receive my best wishes,

Gabriella Citroni

TRIAL International Senior Legal Advisor