

30 August 2013

International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

In commemoration of the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, the Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS) held the Latin America Workshop on the Prevention and Protection Mechanisms of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED).

The session started on Thursday, August 29th and will conclude this evening. Participants include CED members Santiago Corcuera, Álvaro Garcé, Luciano Hazán and its president, Emmanuel Decaux. Decaux stated: "For the Committee, it is very important to commemorate this day with a meeting with the social organizations of the region. I greatly appreciate CELS' initiative and, as the Committee's president, it is very exciting to be in Buenos Aires today."

According to CELS's executive director, Gastón Chillier, "the best way to honor the victims of this aberrant practice is to permanently assess the old and new tools at our disposal, taking into account the different contexts in the region, so that forced disappearances don't remain unpunished and States generate the necessary prevention mechanisms."

The aim of this workshop is to disseminate the mechanisms incorporated in the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to contribute to an analysis of the current characteristics of forced disappearances in Latin America, its practices and enabling structural conditions. In addition, the event seeks to debate challenges to the implementation of the Convention at the national level, the specific content of the obligation to investigate these cases, and the links between migration and forced disappearances.

Workshop participants include experts Pablo Ceriani, member of the United Nations Committee on Migrant Workers, and Colombian jurist Federico Andreu Guzmán. Representatives of social organizations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the United States, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Paraguay and Peru also joined in the discussion.

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales