

**ICAED Report to the CED: Contribution of Efforts to the Universal Accession of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance**

(Covering the period of July 2012-June 2013)

The members of International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), being true to its mandate, continuously maximizes impact of activities for the universal accession of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Convention). Its dwindling resources and very limited funding opportunities did not weaken the Coalition’s fervor towards achieving the goal of effectively implementing legal mechanisms in every state against the horrendous menace of disappearance. For the past months, the Coalition went on its regular activities such as the ICAED Newsletter released quarterly and the Country of the Month campaign strategy. Its Focal Point, the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), together with the Steering Committee facilitated several activities during the commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared (August 30) , the International Week of the Disappeared (May 27-31, 2013), and the Human Rights Week which culminates on the International Human Rights Day (December 10). In the Philippines, December 4 is assigned as the National Day of Prayer for the Disappeared.

The Coalition takes every chance it gets to lobby for the accession to the Convention. Hence, it never forgets to utilize other internationally commemorated occasions (e.g. Women’s Day) to seek for governments’ and other stakeholders’ support to the Convention. It also carries on the task of encouraging all States-parties to fully implement the articles of the Convention especially on recognizing the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (UN CED) through its letters of solidarity to States that signed or ratified the Convention.

Attributing partly, but not solely to its work, , the Convention had 4 new States-parties, 2 States-parties recognized articles 31 and 32, and 2 domestic laws have been implemented from the period of July 2012 to May 2013. Such domestic laws were enacted in the Philippines, i.e. the Republic Act 10353 and in Leon Haya, Mexico. The Coalition certainly does not take all the credits of all these results but recognizes its efforts amidst the challenge of universal protection from the scourge of disappearances.

To further discuss the efforts of the Coalition over the period of July-June 2013, below is a detailed list of activities undertaken by the ICAED through its focal point, the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and individual member-organizations.

1. Fundraising

| **Funding Organization** | **Fundraising Application/ Initiator** | **Date of Submission** | **Result** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Open Society Foundation | Project proposal on documentation and capacity-building to enhance access to human rights information particularly concerning disappearances.  Jointly developed and submitted by Focal Point and ICAED member from El Salvador *Pro-Busqueda.* The project, however, is for documentation of cases in countries where AFAD is located and in El Salvador. The project is not for the purpose of lobbying for the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Convention). | 15 July 2012 | Approved, implementation in progress |
| European Commission European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights | Concept note on developing capacities and protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) in national relatives associations and regional federations of victims of disappearance and their families  Jointly developed and submitted by Focal Point and ICAED Steering Committee. | 20 July 2012 | Declined |
| Canadian Embassy | Activity proposal for a Forum-Workshop on the newly enacted first domestic law in Asia.  Submitted by AFAD and ICAED Focal Point. | 11 August 2012 | Approved; implemented |
| Australian Agency for International Development | Concept note on strengthening capacities of ICAED members in their actions against enforced disappearances.    Submitted by ICAED Focal Point. | 17 August 2012 | Declined |
| Embassy of Belgium | Activity proposal on truth telling of families of disappeared victims with government and state security representatives.  Submitted by ICAED Focal Point | 26 August 2012 | No definitive response |
| Canada Fund for Local Initiatives | Project proposal on consultations for the development of implementing rules and regulations and dissemination plan of the would-be domestic anti-disappearance law in the Philippines.  Jointly developed and submitted by ICAED Focal Point and ICAED member in the Philippines, FIND. | 14 September 2012 | Declined |
| Human Rights Prize of the French Republic | Project proposal on global campaign for universal accession to the anti-disappearance Convention. | 24 September 2012 | Declined |
| HIVOS Netherlands | Inquiry letter for support to ICAED activities submitted by ICAED Focal Point. | 30 September 2012 | Responded, but mentioned a possibility for a support to an activity |
| Norwegian Human Rights Fund | Inquiry letter for ICAED support submitted by ICAED Focal Point. | \_\_\_October 2012 | Declined |
| National Endowment for Democracy | Project proposal on strengthening legal mechanisms against enforced disappearance through multi-level initiatives.  Jointly developed and submitted by Focal Point and ICAED Steering Committee. | 18 January 2013 | Declined |
| May 18 Memorial Foundation, South Korea | Project proposal on documenting democracy movements and disappeared democracy champions in Asia through the production of a coffee table book.  Submitted by AFAD and ICAED Focal Point. | 28 March 2013 | Approved and being implemented |
| International Commission of Missing Persons | Inquiry letter regarding support for participation of families from Latin America and Africa to the Third World Conference on Psychosocial support  Submitted by ICAED Focal Point. | 26 April 2013 | Submitted |
| Taiwan Foundation for Democracy | Project application for support on documenting democracy movements and disappeared democracy champions in Asia through the production of a coffee table book.  To be submitted by AFAD and ICAED Focal Point. | 21 June 2013 | To be submitted |

1. Campaign Materials/Activities

| **Material** | **Date of Production** | **Initiator** | **Objective/Rationale** | **Output** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Distribution of pens, notepads, highlighters, paperweight, shirts (collared and rounded), bag to members and networks | June-August 2012 | Focal Point | Basically, these materials are intended to introduce ICAED and its mandate, and to raise awareness about the issue of disappearance and encourage the government to accede to the Convention.  These were distributed during activities of AFAD and ICAED on the Convention. | Inquiries on possible internship and volunteer work from different countries have been received by the focal point and the steering committee members. |
| 1. ICAED ENews Volume 1 (2nd issue)   *\*focused on the International Week of the Disappeared activities of the Coalition in different regions* | June 2012 | Focal Point | The newsletter is a concrete documentation of united activities of the Coalition and updates on the status of both local and international mechanisms which aims to update the member-organizations of the Coalition of its work. | The ENews English version is translated to French and Spanish and later on distributed to all members and networks via e-mail. Electronic copies are also uploaded to ICAED Facebook account and website. |
| 1. ICAED ENews Volume 1 (2nd issue)   *\* focused on the International Day of the Disappeared activities of the Coalition in different regions* | August 2012 | Focal Point | The newsletter is a concrete documentation of united activities of the Coalition and updates on the status of both local and international mechanisms. | The ENews English version is translated to French and Spanish and later on distributed to all members and networks via e-mail. Electronic copies are also uploaded to ICAED Facebook account and website. |
| 1. ICAED ENews Volume 1(3nd issue)   *\*Year-end issue focused on the scope of the Coalition* | January 2013 | Focal Point | The newsletter is a concrete documentation of united activities of the Coalition and updates on the status of both local and international mechanisms. | The ENews English version is translated to French and Spanish and later on distributed to all members and networks via e-mail. Electronic copies are also uploaded to ICAED Facebook account and website. |
| 1. Social Media | Regular updates | Coalition-wide | Social media has been the latest trend of campaigns. The presence of our Facebook account targets mostly the youth in participating on human right campaign on disappearance. | Sharing of online materials such as newsfeeds, organizational updates, press releases, and things that will enhance universal knowledge on the scourge of disappearance among ICAED members and networks. |
| 1. Country of the Month (El Salvador) | August 2012 | Steering Committee | El Salvador was chosen to be the focal Country for the month of August and the first focal country for this Coalition-wide activity due to the initial series of campaign and lobby activities held in El Salvador during the last weeks of July and the openness of member- organizations in El Salvador. | 9 member organizations participated. |
| 1. Country of the Month (Indonesia) | September – October 2012 | Steering Committee | Indonesia is one of the countries in Asia, more specifically in Southeast Asia, closest to ratification. The ICAED Focal Point and the AFAD Secretariat also visited Indonesian embassy in their countries. | 15 member-organizations participated |
| 1. Human Rights Week (National Day of Prayer for the Disappeared) | 4 December 2012 | AFAD/FIND | AFAD and FIND in cooperation with the De La Salle University conducted a forum on Enforced Disappearance focusing on the Challenges and Opportunities for the Philippines and Asia | A photo exhibit on the history of disappearance in the Philippines was arranged at the foyer of the auditorium. More than 200 students from different departments of the university participated in the said activity. |
| 1. Country of the Month (Burundi and Guatemala) | February & March 2013 | Steering Committee | With the main purpose of increasing the pressure in more states in shorter time, the Steering Committee decided to focus on 2 countries at the same time and in longer time span. | 16 Members forwarded the letter to the pertinent Government agencies in both States and at least 3 other networks participated in the activity. There are also some member organizations that were able to visit these States’ embassies in their countries. |
| 1. Forum-Workshop on Effective Implementation of the Philippine Law on Enforced Disappearance and the Imperative of Signing and Ratifying the Convention | 6 March 2013 | AFAD/FIND | The activity is a venue for further solidarity and awareness-raising on the issue, the law, and other legal mechanisms that will mitigate the cases of disappearances in the future. It was intentionally scheduled during the week of the International Women’s Day to underscore on the effects of disappearances on women. | The conduct of such activity offered initial concrete recommendations for post-activity action and cooperation particularly on further information dissemination and effecting broader public support in monitoring the law’s implementation in the desire that they can be synchronized with other relevant strategies for the forum organizers and their network in policy and action advocacy at the local, regional, and international levels. |
| 1. Country of the Month (Bangladesh) | April 2013 | Steering Committee | In anticipation of the UPR of Bangladesh at the end of April 2013 and considering the status of Asia as the region with most number of cases submitted to the UN WGEID while having limited number of legal mechanisms to prevent the crime, ICAED through AFAD member in Bangladesh, focused on Bangladesh. | 15 members forwarded the letter to the pertinent Government agencies and at least 4 network organizations participated in the activity. |
| 1. Country of the Month (Canada) | May – June 2013 | Steering Committee | In support to the recent UPR of Canada on the end of May to push for the ratification of the Convention, considering also the image of the State in the international human rights community, the increased intensity of campaign is deem necessary. | All members who sent a copy of the letter received a response from the Office of Prime Minister that the comments have been reviewed carefully and the letter has been forwarded to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. John Baird. |

1. Lobby Activities

| **Activity** | **Date** | **Initiator** | **Result** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. IWD 2012 (Philippines)    1. National Human Rights Forum    2. Media Interview    3. Consultation with heads of Philippine CSOs, NGOs,GOs | 28 May – 2 June | Focal Point | Series of lobbying activities participated by Mr. Jeremy Sarkin in his personal capacity. |
| 1. IWD 2012 (Indonesia)    1. Lobby meeting with the Government of Indonesia    2. Forum | 4-6 June 2012 | Focal Point / IKOHI and KontraS | Mr. Jeremy Sarkin also participated in the said activities. |
| 1. Embassy hopping (Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, European Union, France and the United Kingdom) | July 2012 | Focal Point | Australia, Belgium, and Canada encouraged the focal point to submit an activity-based proposal to be implemented locally in the Philippines. France advised the Focal Point to meet again towards the last quarter of the year for possible cooperation. |
| 1. University Hopping (University of Cebu, University of San Carlos, and Redemptorist Seminary, Cebu City Philippines) | July 2012 | Focal Point | Feedback from the academe (faculty and students) on the possible academic collaboration regarding the domestic law and the international convention. |
| 1. Letter to President Benigno Aquino III in lieu of the anniversary of the assassination of his father. | 21 August 2012 | Focal Point/FIND | The letter reminded Pres. Aquino the value of having a law on disappearance and acceding to the Convention. |
| 1. IDD 2012 Activities | August 2012 | Coalition-wide | Statements were released by ICAED and its members. Several fora, government lobbying, rallies, and other similar activities in different countries were conducted. |
| 1. IDD 2012 (AFAD in Nepal) | 28-30 August 2012 | AFAD | Conducted series of radio interviews, forum with families of victims, locally-initiated rallies, ICRC conference on Disappearance, and the National Human Rights Commission activity focused on the controversial ordinance. |
| 1. University Hopping (PATTS Aeronautics College, Metro Manila) | September 2012 | Focal Point/FIND | The activity was conducted in commemoration of the 40th year since the Martial Law declaration in the Philippines – a dark era which resulted to hundreds of disappearance cases. More than 450 students attended the activity. |
| 1. Conference on the Accession to the Convention (Bangladesh) | September 2012 | AFAD/Odhikar | Mr. Rainer Huhle spoke on the value of the Convention and contributed on the lobbying efforts to Bangladesh accession to the Convention. |
| 1. Series of Technical Working Group meeting with the Philippine Human Rights Center | Commenced on September2012 | AFAD/FIND | The goal of this GO and NGO collaboration is to come up with a consolidated database system on cases of Enforced Disappearance and Extra Judicial Killings in the Philippines. |
| 1. Seminar at the Handong Law School, South Korea | November 2012 | Citizens’ Alliance of the North Korean Human Rights  (NKHR) | The Focal Person shared her professional expertise and participation on the Convention and the recent situation and cases of disappearance in the Philippines. Exchange of experiences between Korea and the Philippines has been a significant output since most members of ICAED and AFAD were not familiar about the Korean situation. The Focal Person and the Citizens’ Alliance of the North Korean Human Rights visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul to lobby for the Convention, but the Ministry of Justice did not see the value of doing so. |
| 1. Participation of Mr. Ewoud Plate in Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization’s Conference on Disappearance (Brussels) | February 2013 | Steering Committee | Mr. Ewoud Plate talked about the historical overview of disappearances. According to the organizer, Dina Pardijs, his speech was excellent and it helped facilitate interesting debate in the end. |
| 1. Lobbying for ratification of the Convention by AFAD, KontraS and IKOHI before the Ombudsman and the Ministry of Justice | March 2013 | Focal Point and AFAD member-organizations in Indonesia | The AFAD, in cooperation with its member-organizations in Indonesia, e.g. KontraS and IKOHI conducted lobbying activities to remind the Indonesian government of its promise to ratify the Convention. The Minister of Foreign Affairs said that all papers are ready for the ratification and will just have to be submitted to the president of the country for the latter to ask the Parliament to expedite the ratification process.  A forum launching the AFAD/IKOHI/KontraS research on best practice in lobbying for the signing of the Convention was conducted together with representatives of government authorities was conducted. |
| 1. IWD 2013 (Philippines)    1. Round Table Discussion on Restitution    2. Round Table Discussion with State-Parties | 28 May 2013  30 May 2013 | FIND  Focal Point/AFAD | Since IWD is devoted to campaign for justice, ICAED member in the Philippines and the Focal Point maximized the opportunity to ensure several levels of lobbying for the accession of the Convention and ensuring that the recently passed lawed on disappearance is properly implemented. ICAED’s statement is directed to fully accession to the Convention onwards being Champions on the scourge of disappearance. |
| 1. Round Table Discussion on the Value of the Thai Government’s Accession to the Convention. | 18 June 2013 | AFAD, Justice for Peace Foundation and the Relatives of the May 1992 Heroes | The discussion was participated by the Ministry of Justice, the Commission on Human Rights, the AFAD Council members, the AFAD member-organizations and families of the disappeared. The Ministry of Justice representative mentioned that the timetable of the government in ratifying the Convention is December 2014. |
| 1. Torture Week Activity in Washington DC, USA | 20-26 June 2013 | AFAD/TASSC | Remembering the victims of torture and lobbying for the ICPAPED remains to be the topmost aim for AFAD, in cooperation with TASSC (both ICAED members).  There is going to be a roundtable discussion on the 27th of June to commemorate the International Day of Support for Victims of Torture which is being organized by TASSC, AFAD, Franciscans International, ICAED and the FEDEFAM network in Argentina. Its purpose is to campaign for the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. It will be held at the Church Center for the UN, 777,UN Plaza, New York, New York from 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.. |

1. Administrative

| Activity | Date | Initiator | Result |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Participation in AFAD mid-year assessment activity | July 2012 | AFAD | Assessment of campaign plans; completed an effect-chain format of attaining long term goal of a world without *desaparecidos* |
| 1. ICAED SC Physical Meeting | October 2012 | Steering Committee | Follow up activities on 2011 Meeting; Resolved charter issues (decision on charter revision); membership approval; reaffirmation of commitment to the Coalition’s mandate |
| 1. ICAED participation on the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Disappearance | 29-31 October 2012 | Steering Committee | Renewal of avowed commitment with the UN WGEID through active participation on the proposed activities in commemorating the Declaration’s Anniversary. |
| 1. Expansion of membership | November 2012 | Steering Committee | 10 new organizations from other parts of Asia, Switzerland, and the United States have joined ICAED. These organizations expand the geographical limitations of the Coalition. |
| 1. Participation in AFAD year-end assessment | January 2013 | AFAD | Program assessment of what has been achieved in the last year; reaffirmation of the federation’s commitment to its mission, vision and goals; individual assessment of staff and management |
| 1. ICAED letter to the CED | February 2013 | Coalition-wide | ICAED wrote a letter to the CED regarding the “***Concerns related to the Review of the Report presented by France pursuant to Article 29 of the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance****“.* The letter was promptly answered by CED Chairperson Emmanuel Decaux. |
| 1. Regular Skype meeting of the Steering Committee and the Manila Team | *\*monthly* | Focal Point | Constant updates on different levels of lobbying and campaigning of members. |