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Reply of Lithuania on the implementation of the GA resolution A/RES/68/166 “International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance”

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (hereinafter- the Convention) was ratified with declarations by the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania on 23 April 2013.

Implementing the provisions of the Convention, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania amended the Criminal Code of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter- the Criminal Code) with additional article 100¹ “Enforced Disappearance”. The Article stipulates that if a person acting as an agent of the State or persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State have detained, abducted or in any other form deprived of liberty of a person, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person shall be punished for imprisonment for a term of three up to fifteen years. Article 95 paragraph 9 of the Criminal Code stipulates that statute of limitations does not apply for crimes of enforced disappearance. According to data provided by the Police Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Lithuanian police offices had neither registered any criminal acts under Article 100¹ of the Criminal Code nor had initiated or completed any pre-trial investigations for such criminal acts.

The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania, acting pursuant to Article 31 and 32 of the Convention, declared that the Republic of Lithuania recognizes the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider communications claiming that the Republic of Lithuania has violated the provisions of this Convention.

The Republic of Lithuania has not addressed United Nations agencies and organizations, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances for assistance in the understanding and implementation of the obligations under the Convention.