

2010 YEAR-END REPORT

Submitted to DKA

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
Asian Federation Against Involuntary
Disappearances
(AFAD)

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1. THE PHENOMENON OF ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN ASIA

In Timor Leste, approximately 186,000 to 250,000 people died and made to disappear during the Indonesian occupation of Timor Leste based on report of the Truth, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission of Timor-Leste, entitled, “*Chega!*” But after achieving the independence in 1999, both the Indonesian and Timor Leste governments have continually ignored the recommendations submitted by the Commission on Truth and Friendship and the continuing cry of victims’ families for justice. The release of indicted militia leader, Martenus Bere, who is suspected to be one of those responsible for the past atrocities is not only an insult to the families and survivors but also a breach to the spirit of friendship and reconciliation. A lobby group of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) met with President Jose Ramos-Horta on 25 November 2009, in Dili, Timor Leste and presented to him the need for the signature and ratification of the government of Timor Leste to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (The Convention). The president made a clear commitment that he would undertake all efforts to sign and ratify this international treaty before the end of 2009. He noted that had he been alerted earlier, the government of Timor-Leste could have already been a state party. As of this writing, however, the promise remains unfulfilled. The calls of AFAD were reiterated during the visit of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in January 2011. The latter also called on the Timor Leste government to sign and ratify the Convention.

In war-torn area of Jammu and Kashmir, around 8,000 people disappeared since the onset of armed conflict across the state in 1989, who are generally attributed to Indian security forces. The Association of Parents of the Disappeared Persons (APDP) has recently found more or less 2, 900 unmarked graves in cemeteries of 18 villages near the Line of Control, dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Families believed that their disappeared relatives could have ended up in these unmarked graves. The government of India has still to officially respond to the report on the said mass graves, entitled “Buried Evidence,” which was presented to the Indian government on 2 December 2009.

In Indonesia, human rights is still a major concern that needs to be immediately addressed particularly the impunity for past abuses including cases of enforced disappearance, the slow pace of military reform, and lack of investigations on the atrocities in Aceh and Papua. The unresolved murder of Munir, Indonesia’s most prominent human rights lawyer and former AFAD Chairperson, who was killed by arsenic poisoning in a Garuda flight from Singapore to Amsterdam on 7 September 2004, continuously undermines the rule of law with the acquittal of Major General (ret.) Muchdi Purwopranjono.

The Commission on Inquiry of the Disappearances that is investigating the case of 13 Indonesian Activists of 1997 -1998 came up with a four-point recommendation to

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono as a result of the meeting with human rights organizations which include the establishment of the *Adhoc* Human Rights Court; the undertaking of appropriate steps to immediately locate the whereabouts of 13 people cited as still missing by *Komnas Ham*; the rehabilitation and satisfactory compensation to victims and/or the families of the disappeared; and the signing and ratification of the UN Convention For the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (hereinafter referred to as the Convention). As of the June 2010 4th Congress of the AFAD held in Indonesia, none of the recommendations had been fully implemented yet, although efforts towards compensation for families of the victims were in the process of being implemented. A relatively recent development is the signing on 27 September 2010 of the Convention, a breakthrough in the campaign for the Convention which was made possible because of the series of activities held by AFAD in the country.

On 27 September 2010, the Indonesian government signed the Convention immediately after families of the disappeared picketed in front of the presidential house, and stayed overnight and were dispersed.

In Nepal, hundreds of enforced disappearances took place during the ten year conflict between the government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M), which ended in 2006 by both parties signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, the cases of disappearance remain unresolved up to this day despite efforts of the Nepali government to institute some legal reforms. The draft bill for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission was strongly opposed by civil society, for it allows granting of amnesties to the perpetrators. The same is true with the anti-disappearance bill which was approved in a form of an ordinance but was retracted following clamors of foul play by the national and international human rights organizations.

In Pakistan, thousands of persons have been subjected to enforced disappearance, mostly from Balochistan province and from the North Western Frontier Province, Sindh and Punjab. The number of cases has sharply increased since Pakistan joined the “war on terror” campaign. Still, as a result of the constant protests and petitions in courts by families of the disappeared, and with the clear resolve on the part of the Supreme Court by issuing orders to the military to produce the detainees before the courts, the government has finally acknowledged the custody of dozens of alleged terror suspects, but in most cases, the intelligence agencies continue to defy these judicial orders in the name of national security.

In the Philippines, more than 2,000 people are victims of enforced disappearance since the dark days of martial law up to the present. Disappearances are mostly carried out as a result of the counter-insurgency operations of the government against the communist and secessionist groups. Although, the number of cases of disappearances had dropped significantly in 2007 after the visit of Mr. Philip Alston, then UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Execution to the country, the political persecution against known progressive and opposition leaders by slapping them with trumped-up criminal charges,

continues unabated. Impunity still holds sway as the Philippine government has failed to pass a domestic legislation penalizing enforced disappearance and neglects its voluntary pledge to the UN Human Rights Council stating that it would sign and ratify the Convention. The government has still to positively respond to the 2007 request of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID) to visit the country for the second time and to implement the latter's recommendations during its first visit in 1990.

The country has a new government under the leadership of newly elected president, President Benigno Aquino III. The Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND) and the AFAD had a 50-minute audience with the new president on 6 October 2010 in order to bring to his attention the urgency of enacting, once and for all, an anti-enforced disappearance law and signing and ratifying the Convention. The president stated that in 2011, a law criminalizing enforced disappearances will most probably be enacted but the existing bill be further studied to incorporate cases perpetrated by non-state actors. On the Convention, he stated that the government still needed to study it.

In Thailand, enforced disappearance continues unabated. The recent escalation of political violence in central district of Bangkok between the police forces and the Red-Shirt protesters and the ongoing military operations in southern provinces are feared to have resulted in more cases of disappearances. While recent cases have not been fully investigated by the authority, the perpetrators of past human rights violations particularly the military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Bangkok in May 1992 remain unpunished. The unresolved disappearance case of Atty. Somchai Neelaphajit, a human rights lawyer who disappeared in Bangkok in 2004 also continues to be a litmus test to the Thai judicial system. The Justice for Peace Foundation, the AFAD's member-organization in the Philippines, said that it is possible that the Thai government will sign the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in September 2010. Yet to date, the signing has not yet taken place.

Except for India, which signed the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and Indonesia which recently signed it, the governments of most of the above-mentioned countries have not signed and ratified the said international treaty. No Asian country has a domestic law that criminalizes enforced disappearance. The phenomenon of enforced disappearance is just one of the several human rights issues in the Asian region. The bleak human rights situation is aggravated by the absence of effective regional human rights mechanisms for protection. Worse still, judiciaries in many countries are weak, resulting in the difficulties in the prosecution of perpetrators and contributing to the perpetuation of the climate of impunity.

The AFAD, which has member-organizations in some Southeast Asian countries, sees the need to explore lobbying before the newly established ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights vis-à-vis the Convention., which already has 88 signatures and 21 ratifications.

On 23 December 2010, the Convention entered into force. It now has 88 signatories and 24 ratifications. So far, in Asia, only Japan and Kazakhstan have ratified the Convention.

11. ORGANIZATIONAL SITUATION

The year 2010 is the year when the 4th Congress of AFAD was finally convened. It was scheduled in December 2009, but due to funding constraint, it had to be moved to June 2010. The Diakonie gave necessary financial support to realize the AFAD Congress.

The AFAD Congress was successfully convened. It was participated in by seven out of nine-member organizations of the federation. Its opening public event held in Aryaduta Hotel in Jakarta on 31 May 2010 was graced by Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Minister of Justice, Patrialis Akbar. Nine representatives of the 11-member Steering Committee of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) were present in view of the fact that its physical meeting in 2010 was held there. It was attended by more than 200 members of the civil society, including families of the disappeared and other victims of human rights violations of the country.

The internal Congress was held in Bogor, Indonesia with the participation of representatives of the AFAD member-organizations, the AFAD Secretariat and a representative each from the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) based in Hong Kong; the Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared-Detainees (*FEDEFAM*) and the We Remember-Belarus.

To note, immediately after the AFAD Congress, the Federation, in cooperation with the Argentinian Forensic Anthropology Team or the *Equipo Argentino de Antropologia Forense*, convened the First Asian Regional Conference, entitled, “ Reclaiming Stolen Lives: Forensic Sciences and Human Rights Investigations Conference.”

Below is the general statement of the organizational situation of AFAD after its Congress.

1. The AFAD now has has eleven-member-organizations after the approval by the AFAD Council of the new members from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in a Council meeting held in Nepal in December 2010). A new member from Nepal, the Conflict Victims Society for Justice, was also accepted by the 4th AFAD Congress in June 2010 as a new member while the resignation of Claimants 1081 was unanimously accepted. The Federation identified target countries to become member-organizations.
2. The Secretariat, which is based in Manila, Philippines, is composed of five full time persons, led by the AFAD Secretary-General.

3. The AFAD Congress decided to reelect the then officers of the Federation, e.g. Mugiyanto as AFAD Chairperson; Mary Aileen D. Bacalso as Secretary-General and Mandira Sharma as the AFAD Treasurer. Only one Council member from Nepal has been replaced.
4. The basic documents were reviewed. The main change in the Orientation and Constitution and By-Laws is that the Federation, by invitation, can accept individual members but will have no voting power.
5. AFAD reviewed its 6-Year Plan of Action and came up with corresponding adjustment to the plans for the next three years based on the reports of the member-organizations and the AFAD Secretariat submitted to the AFAD Congress.

A Council meeting was convened at the end of the year 2010 in order to ensure that the regional plans are particularized at the national level. The meeting was held in Nepal and to maximize international presence, follow-up lobbying activities were conducted. The third draft of the report of the Internal Evaluation was reviewed by the AFAD Council for purposes of particular national planning.

In terms of funding, for the year 2012, **the Federation has sure funding from the following organizations for different purposes:**

1. *Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)* – for AFAD regional campaign, lobbying and public information including some support for educational assistance for selected countries;
2. **Misereor** – for AFAD’s Campaign for Truth, Justice, Redress and the Reconstruction of the Historical Memory of the *Desaparecidos* in the Philippines;
3. **DKA** – to support part of AFAD’s administrative needs;
4. **United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture** – for AFAD’s implementation of its Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program, entitled, “Circle of Healing,” particularly for Nepal and Thailand.

Possible support from other sources will be coming from the following:

1. **World Day of Prayer** – for AFAD’s implementation of its Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program, entitled, “Circle of Healing,” particularly for Indonesia and India;
2. **SEACEM** – to support the salary of AFAD Documentation Officer which is taking charge of submission of recent cases of enforced disappearances;
3. **OSI** – AFAD submitted a proposal for documentation, test cases, Council meeting;
4. **OAK Foundation** – AFAD has been recently invited to submit a proposal for documentation, campaign, lobbying, public information and advocacy, direct assistance and support to secretariat strengthening;

If the above-mentioned expected support will be approved, then, it would go a long way towards a relatively comprehensive implementation of the work of AFAD. At the moment, the Federation really lacks the necessary support for a region-wide implementation of its work. Moreover, it needs more support for administrative purposes.

111. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

A. Campaign, Lobby, Public Information

A.1 Regional and International

1. **March 2010, Geneva, Switzerland** – The AFAD, in cooperation with the Asian Human Rights Commission, the PHILRIGHTS, *the Asamblea Permanente Por Los Derechos Humanos*, the INFID, the *FEDEFAM* organized an event parallel to the UN Human Rights Council. The main speaker of the event was Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Representatives from the French and the Argentinian The AFAD Secretary-General presented the phenomenon of enforced disappearances in the Philippines while its member-organization in Kashmir, the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons was represented by Dr. Angana Chaterij who presented the report, “Buried Evidence.” The event was participated in by 80 people coming from members of the civil society.

Another activity that AFAD participated in was the 30th anniversary of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID). The AFAD Secretary-General was invited to speak on behalf of families’ associations during another side event sponsored by the UN WGEID to commemorate its 30th anniversary.

AFAD, together with Ms. Angkhana Neelaphaijit, the Chairperson of the the Justice for Peace Foundation, one of its member-organizations in Thailand; a representative in Sri Lanka who is based in The Netherlands, Mr. M.C.M. Iqbal and a representative of the International Commission of Jurists had an exclusive meeting of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

2. **June 2010, Washington D.C., USA** – The AFAD was invited for the second time to the Torture Survivors’ Week held annually in Washington DC by the Torture Abolition and Survivors’ Support Coalition. The series of activities included a training on the use of the UN mechanisms, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (The Convention).

This was given by the late Patricio Rice, former *FEDEFAM* Adviser and former Focal Point of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances.

Part of the activities were the following:

- 12-hour vigil in front of the White House to reenact torture and call to put to a stop the practice of torture;
- Lobby visits to 12 senators in the US for the Option Protocol on Torture and for the Convention. The AFAD Secretary-General together with the late ICAED Focal Point Patricio Rice,
- Regional solidarity nights highlighting situations from different countries in different regions of the world. The AFAD Secretary-General

- 3. June 2010, Geneva, Switzerland** – The AFAD Chairperson, Secretary-General, its Treasurer were invited to attend an international conference on enforced disappearances by the Linking Solidarity Program of the Aim for Human Rights. Only the AFAD Secretary-General and Ms. Angkhana Neelaphajit, Chairperson of one of AFAD member- organizations in Thailand were able to attend due to prior commitments of the two other invited AFAD officers. The AFAD Secretary-General presented about strategies for regional cooperation among organizations working on enforced disappearances. She was also asked to chair in one of the workshops about enforced disappearances in countries where risks are greater than the others.

The conference was attended by members of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances. It was graced by Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, Chairperson of the UN WGEID and Mr. Sebastian Rosales of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UN in Geneva and Mr. Emmanuel Pineda of the Permanent Mission of France to the UN in Geneva. Experts on other topics related to enforced disappearances were also invited to give presentations.

The conference ended with a presentation of the evaluation of the project, Linking Solidarity, which was part of the program of the Aim for Human Rights and its possible continuation in the future considering that it was then threatened with non-renewal of its funding.

The activity also ended with the resolve to continue lobbying for more signatures and ratification of the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

4. June 2010, Jakarta, Indonesia

- 4.1 Lobbying activities by AFAD, IKOHI, KontraS and the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances** – Two days prior to the 4th Congress of AFAD which was held in Indonesia on 31 May to 5 June 2010,

the Federation, the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) Steering Committee, of which AFAD is a member, had its physical meeting. The said meeting was intended to be held in Indonesia in order to make use of the international presence to pressure the Indonesian government to sign and ratify The Convention. Hence, the ICAED Steering Committee, with AFAD, IKOHI and KontraS, visited the following: The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Commission on Human Rights.

The representative of *FEDEFAM*, Ms. Ruth Llanos, emphasized that it was her third visit to the country to knock at doors of government agencies, hence, she really expects concrete results during her next visit to Indonesia vis-à-vis the signing and ratification of the Convention. The said call was supported by the other members of the ICAED Steering Committee and was further strengthened by the presence of the families of the disappeared in the country.

4.2 Public Forum, Opening of the AFAD's 4th Congress

The opening of the Congress on 31 March 2010, which was held in the Aryaduta Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia was graced by the Honorable Minister of Justice, Patriales Akbar and the Honorable Chairperson of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID), Mr. Jeremy Sarkin who both gave important public addresses. It was also participated in by the National Commission on Human Rights and other government agencies, some foreign embassies, members of the civil society in Indonesia, the media from Jakarta and families of the disappeared and other victims of human rights violations. It is important to note that representatives of the Steering Committee of the International Coalition on Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), who had its meeting in Jakarta prior to the AFAD Congress, were also present.

The activity was meant as a venue for an intensive public discussion on the global phenomenon of enforced disappearances through the presentations of the representatives of AFAD member-organizations in Asian countries and of the AFAD's sister-federations and similar formations in other continents. It was also a venue to express solidarity with families of the disappeared and civil society organizations in Indonesia and to pressure the Indonesian government to realize its promise to sign the Convention.

The public event was meant to intensively discuss the imperative of the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Hence, Ms. Ruth Llanos from *FEDEFAM* mentioned the important provisions of the Convention and its value to the families of the victims and in preventing future cases from happening. Moreover, she mentioned that the Convention stems from true-to-life experiences of families of the disappeared, first from Latin America and then, later spread to other continents.

Mary Aileen D. Bacalso also mentioned the responses of the Asian governments to the *AFAD-FEDEFAM* joint lobbying for the signing and ratification of the Convention in countries where *AFAD* member-organizations are based. She took it as an opportunity to announce the then newly elected focal point of the Convention, representing organizations of families of the disappeared in Argentina in the person of Mr. Patricio Rice, *FEDEFAM* Adviser and survivor of enforced disappearance during the dictatorship in Argentina.

Through the country presentations of the *AFAD* member-organizations' representatives and those of the representatives from other continents, the global phenomenon of enforced disappearances, reflected in the Indonesian situation, was brought to the fore. Thus, the imperative of the entry into force of the Convention, its codification and the implementation of the treaty and its enabling mechanism were substantially discussed.

The public event ended with the expectation and hope that Indonesia would sign and ratify the Convention without further delay. It ended with high spirits among the participants and that in the next meeting of *AFAD* in Indonesia, there would be victory party for the ratification of the Convention. It also served to bolster the morale of families of the disappeared both from Indonesia as well as from other countries who were present during the event.

It is important to note that the event was the last day of the commemoration of the International Week of the Disappeared and an advanced commemoration of the *AFAD*'s 12th anniversary which is commemorated every 4 June.

5. 5-6November 2010, Geneva, Switzerland

5.1 30th Anniversary of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The UN WGEID had its second commemoration of its 30th anniversary on 5 November 2010 in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. The AFAD Treasurer, Mandira Sharma was one of the invited speakers. Other AFAD representatives present include the AFAD Secretary-General, Mary Aileen Bacalso and Chairperson of the Justice for Peace Foundation (formerly Working Group on Justice for Peace), Ms. Angkhana Neelaphajit.

Members of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances' Steering Committee were also present.

The activity was an opportunity to listen to international human rights experts focusing on enforced disappearances. It was also an opportunity for the Federation to distribute its 2011 calendars to all those present.

5.2 Meeting of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) and AFAD's appointment as the New Focal Point

The International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) Steering Committee held its physical meeting on 6 November in order to discuss the vacuum after the untimely death of Mr. Patricio Rice, its then newly appointed Focal Person, representing *FEDEFAM/Madres de Plaza de Mayo*. As earlier stated, during the physical meeting of the Steering Committee in Jakarta on the last week of May, Mr. Rice was appointed as the new focal person of the Coalition. Immediately after the said appointment, he was doing so much work in a period of one month and two weeks in The Netherlands, USA, Switzerland, France and Ireland both for administrative and fund-raising purposes as well as in lobbying for more ratifications for the Convention. On his way back to Argentina, he died of heart attack in Miami airport.

The Coalition's Steering had to meet in order to discuss on the resolution of the vacuum created because of the death of Mr. Rice. None from the Steering Committee members would accept the position. The AFAD, being very active in taking the initiatives after the death of Mr. Rice (because it was the one who suggested to him to become the focal person) was requested to take the position. Participating in the meeting were the AFAD Secretary-General and the AFAD Treasurer, who, in the meantime, said that it would consult its Council which was scheduled to meet in Kathmandu, Nepal on the first week of December.

Other agenda of the meeting included the planning for the entry into force of The Convention, which was expected before the end of 2010; Fund Raising; Membership and schedule of the next yahoo messenger conference.

6. AFAD Publications and Statements

6.1 The Voice – The AFAD official publication, The Voice, March 2010 issue was produced with a circulation of 1,500 copies. These were distributed to AFAD member-organizations in different Asian countries during the AFAD Congress and when there were opportunities to physically meet. Copies were also distributed to the United Nations during activities of the Federation in Geneva and also in the US, during the Torture Survivors' Week. Its partners from other parts of the world have also been provided with copies of the magazine.

Most of the copies were distributed in the Philippines where the publication was printed. They were distributed to the different embassies, government agencies, NGOs and the academe, including libraries. Several copies were distributed to the different universities which were visited by AFAD in its roadshow on extralegal killings and enforced disappearances in cooperation with the Ateneo Human Rights Center and other organizations. Whenever there were activities sponsored by other organizations and when the AFAD Secretariat was invited, the Secretariat was conscious in distributing copies to the participants of these meetings.

The magazine is used as reference materials on the issue of enforced disappearances. It is supposed to come out twice a year, but due to limited financial and human resources, the December 2010 issue was not released. However, there were already efforts within the year to work on the next issue which was envisioned to come out in March 2011, in time for the session of the UN Human Rights Council.

6.2 AFAD 2011 Calendar

Towards the end of the year, the Federation produced its 2011 Desk Calendar. It was ready at the end of October in time for the 30th anniversary of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances on 5 November 2010. It was also ready in time for the Council meeting of AFAD held in Nepal on the first week of December.

The AFAD 2011 calendar contains pictures and profiles of disappeared persons from AFAD members and friends in different parts of Asia and other continents.

6.3 AFAD Primer on the Convention Against Enforced Disappearances

The Primer on the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, with a circulation of 3,000 copies and printed at the end of 2009 was being distributed during AFAD activities nationally, regionally and internationally.

The above-mentioned publications were used as lobby materials for the Convention and the bill and were means to project the issue of enforced disappearances in Asia and the response of AFAD. Earlier publications, e.g. books, entitled, “Healing Wounds, Mending Scars” and “Reclaiming Stolen Lives” were from also given to various university libraries on the occasion of the roadshow or university presentations.

6.4 AFAD Statements

The Federation, from time to time, issued statements during traditionally commemorated events and to respond to issues related to enforced disappearances. Below were the statements issued:

- New Year’s Day Statement
- Women’s Day Statement
- Easter Day Statement
- Vote for Your Rights (Paid Advertisement published few days before the National Elections)
- Joint Statement of AFAD and FIND for the International Week of the Disappeared
- Women’s Day Statement
- AFAD Congress Statements
- Joint Statement with FIND on IDD Commemoration
- Statement on Munir’s 6th Anniversary
- Statement of Protest to the Dispersal of the Mothers of the Disappeared in Algeria
- Solidarity message to *KontraS*’ anniversary
- Solidarity message to *IKOHI*’s anniversary
- Solidarity letter to Mrs. Burgos during the 3rd anniversary of her son Jonas’ disappearance

- Condolence Message to the family of the late Mr. Patricio Rice, then newly appointed focal person of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED)
- Martial Law Anniversary
- All Souls' Day
- Solidarity message to FIND's Anniversary
- Statement on the Anniversary of the PICOP6
- Statement for the National Day of Prayer for the Disappeared, 4 December 2010
- Statement on the 7th anniversary of the murder of former AFAD Chairperson, Munir
- Solidarity Message to Medical Action Group -Philippines
- UDHR Anniversary
- Statement on the entry into force of the Convention (Paid Advertisement)

A.2 National Activities

A.2.1 Philippine Project funded by Misereor – See Annex 7, Full report to Misereor on activities in the Philippines.

The AFAD Secretariat members, one of whom is the Philippine Project Coordinator, are the ones principally implementing the Philippine project on campaign, public information, documentation for the Philippines which is being funded by Misereor.

In summary, the project was able to intensively and extensively respond to the phenomenon of enforced disappearances through documentation, information dissemination through public events which are self-initiated by AFAD and which were done in cooperation with other organizations concerned with the issue of enforced disappearances. The targets are civil society organizations, the academe, the government agencies and to a limited extent, to the security forces.

It is a project, which, if duplicated by AFAD member-organizations, will really strengthen the regional response to the phenomenon of enforced disappearances in Asia. However, the AFAD member-organizations in other Asian countries do not have the same

A.2.2 Other activities in countries where AFAD member-organizations are based

Based on the funding which AFAD received from the *Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED)*, the AFAD member-organizations conducted public fora and media activities in relation to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The organizations that conducted these activities within the year are the following:

- 1. HAK Association, Timor Leste** – The *HAK* Association, in cooperation with AFAD, conducted an activity in commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared on 30 August 2010. Two hundred participants from families of the disappeared, representatives of civil society organizations, university students and local communities in Dili attended the activity.

Invited speakers came from the victims' group, both from Timor Leste and Indonesia and from the NGO and academic community.

Two victims testified their personal experiences of enforced disappearance. One victim, Mr. Victor da Costa, who represented *IKOHI*, originally is from Timor Leste. He disappeared as a child in Timor Leste and was brought to Indonesia by Indonesian soldiers. He later traced his roots in Timor Leste and found out that a symbolic grave was made for him by his family who believed that he was already dead. The second victim, Eliza Dos Santos, a wife of a disappeared, spoke about the negative effects of enforced disappearances to the victims, their families and society and the need for justice.

The other speakers spoke about the long road to justice in view of the existing national mechanisms in the country. Since the event was also a commemoration of the 11 years of referendum, there were also discussions on the need to continue to demand the government of Timor Leste not to forget the past. Moreover, the participants discussed about the relations between Indonesia and Timor Leste vis-à-vis the Truth and Friendship Commission they formed. How to turn this in favor of the victims was quite a challenge.

The forum ended with a challenge never to forget the past. The participants resolved to continue inspiring each other to fight for truth and justice at all costs.

The *HAK* Association also conducted another event on Human Rights Day. It produced a Yearend Report and conducted a public discussion on The Convention.

The event was also a build-up for the scheduled visit of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to Timor Leste. It was scheduled to visit the country before 2010 ended, but the visit materialized in January 2011.

2. Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons, Kashmir, India

The APDP was regularly conducting monthly sit-in activities in order to protest against on-going cases of enforced disappearances and to call on the Indian government to ratify The Convention. Also part of their calls is for the Indian government is to respond the report, entitled: “Buried Evidence,” a report on the mass graves found in the north of Kashmir.

These activities were conducted in the presence of the media in Kashmir who projected the said activities to the tri-media.

3. KontraS and IKOHI, Indonesia

The *KontraS* and the *IKOHI* were the main organizers of the forum, i.e. the opening public event of the AFAD Congress. This was the event which AFAD funded and which they gave some counterpart. The said forum has been explained under the Public Forum for the AFAD Congress.

Another public event that AFAD planned and that both organizations implemented was the press conference that they conducted during the entry into force of the Convention.

4. Advocacy Forum, Nepal–The Advocacy Forum conducted a public forum on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the bill criminalizing enforced disappearances at the Hotel d’Annapurna on 26 January 2010. The said event was attended by about 300 members of the civil society, members of Parliament, the diplomatic community and families of the disappeared. The Federation invited Italian professor Gabriella Citroni to speak during the forum. Her presentation elicited positive responses from various members of the Parliament.

The AFAD and its local member-organization, the Advocacy Forum called on the government of Nepal to sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to enact the anti-enforced disappearance bill into law. The calls of AFAD were supported by the head of the Nepali Human Rights Commission, Retired Chief Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay.

The country's commitment to be a Party to the Convention will be a significant confidence-building measure for the Nepal government to show serious commitment to deal with human rights, a vital issue to ensure its transition from the violent conflict to peace and democracy.

Early on, the group also had an interview in a radio program, the Voice of Nepal to inform the public how grave the issue of disappearance is and what are the existing efforts at the national, regional and international level to address it.

The above-mentioned forum was followed by several initiatives of the Advocacy Forum to work on the bill and the Convention.

On the first week of December, the AFAD Council held its meeting in Kathmandu and in between its internal sessions, the AFAD Council took time to talk to some of the members of the Parliament and the Ministry of Peace to discuss the Convention. The AFAD Executive Council also visited once again the Voice of Nepal and brought to the government's and the general public's attention the still unresolved cases of enforced disappearances and the importance of the anti-enforced disappearance bill to be enacted into law and for the Convention to be signed and ratified.

The Advocacy Forum conducted another forum in cooperation with the local human rights community in Kathmandu on Human Rights Day and media activities on the occasion of the entry into force of the Convention on 23 December 2010.

5. **Families of the Disappeared (FOD), Sri Lanka** – Prior to its membership in AFAD in December 2011, the AFAD Secretary-General and the Philippine Project Coordinator visited the Families of the Disappeared on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. They participated in several activities for three consecutive days, e.g. the annual commemoration which AFAD co-sponsored and which was attended by 300 people; a commemorative event in the monument of the disappeared at the heart of Colombo; meetings with families of the disappeared from the north and lobbying activities to explore possibilities for support from the opposition to the Convention. The Federation invited Mr. Ewoud Plate of the Linking Solidarity Program of Aim for Human Rights to take part in the activities and speak about the Convention.

It was also an occasion for the AFAD representatives to discuss with the head and staff members of the FOD to explore cooperation. The AFAD representatives followed up the application for membership sent by the FOD to AFAD many years ago.

Full story of the activities in Sri Lanka could be found in the March 2011 issue of The Voice, pp. 45-49, <http://www.afad-online.org>.

6. Justice for Peace Foundation (formerly Working Group on Justice for Peace) and the Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes in Thailand

The Justice for Peace Foundation, in cooperation with the Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes conducted a joint forum to commemorate the International Day of the Disappeared. Below is an excerpt of the report of the organizers:

Post-event Report

Participation

The seminar was attended by 103 participants. It was well-attended by a cross-section of participants from various Thai government ministries (Ministries of Justice, Defence, Interior, Foreign Affairs, and Social Development and Human Security), diplomatic delegations in Bangkok, academic and civil society actors.

The coorganizers, Ministry of Justice, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), the Centre for Peace and Conflict Study, Chulalongkorn University and The 1982 Relative Committee expressed their gratitude for this collaborative event bringing the different sectors together.

Note: The above activities mentioned were funded by AFAD. The member-organizations had other activities self-initiated by them but not mentioned in this report.

B. Documentation and Resource Center

On the first half of the year, there was an effort of the AFAD Secretariat to convene different NGOs which have resource centers in order to coordinate efforts and to discuss common problems and their resolutions. A meeting was convened at the AFAD Resource Center with a resolution to streamline resources and efforts and to continue the cooperation. To note, less people visited the Resource Center and the effort towards digitization to make the Resource Center available to global users did not elicit financial support from funders. Hence, the

Federation has to rethink on what to do with its rich collection of materials for these to be maximized.

In as far as documentation is concerned, much remains to be done regionally, in the sense that the AFAD member-organizations have varying levels of capacities. Documentation officers at the local level have to be fielded in and systems have to be evaluated, based on which, a unified system has to be explored.

Starting the second half of the year, the documentation work of AFAD was done in cooperation with SEACEM, an NGO, which is based in Malaysia and which coordinates with regional and national human rights organizations in terms of documenting cases of human rights violations. The partnership was forged at the middle of the year and continues until the present. The AFAD Resource Center Librarian is taking charge with documentation work and submitted 2010 cases from different countries which were submitted by AFAD member-organizations and other contacts.

Active field documentation by AFAD member-organizations, while done by some of the AFAD member-organizations remains to be systematized and unified to serve both the national and regional needs.

C. Direct Assistance

The Federation continues to give minimal educational assistance to selected member-organizations. Is really very difficult to select which countries would receive and which were not, but the member-organizations were chosen according to their capacity to implement the distribution and on the intensity of the need of families of the disappeared to receive this minimal assistance.

Based on the policies, an amount of Ten US Dollars per child per selected family was given to the following:

- 1. Advocacy Forum, Nepal – 30 children of the disappeared were given scholarship. See summarized report below.**

Scholarship program of AFAD in Nepal

Advocacy Forum has successfully completed the fourth phase of scholarship distribution program funded by AFAD for the children of the disappeared in Nepal. In the first phase, AFAD supported 40 children followed by 70 children (including the first phase) during the second phase. In the third phase, the program benefitted 50 children (including support for 19 children by AF. Currently, 30 children are receiving the scholarship. The children receiving scholarship represent 13 districts under all five regions of the country. The districts chosen were the areas which bore the maximum brunt of the conflict. The scholarship program has immensely benefitted the children who were unable to continue their studies in the wake of the disappearances of their elders/parents/ guardians. The guardians are now happy that their minors have been able to resume their studies with assistance from AFAD.

While some of the scholarship recipients are studying in private schools, some of them in government-run schools. A few of them have already finished grade 10 and have resumed their studies in different colleges. During the monitoring visits, AF met some of erstwhile scholarship recipients who had completed their school-level education and now earning themselves to continue their further studies. They thanked AFAD for the scholarship and also praised its genuine efforts to help the children of the disappeared. The children receiving scholarships also thanked AFAD for the initiation of the program and also hoped for its continuity.

However, the problem of uncertainty of the scholarship fund is creating difficulties for the follow-up of the program and meeting with the guardians. As we had to curtail the number of the scholarship recipients, the guardians expressed their dissatisfaction. Those receiving regular support are also apprehensive of the discontinuation of the program. This has also caused difficulties in dealing with the guardians and the students. However, Advocacy Forum duly visited the houses, schools and families of the scholarship recipients and assured them of providing scholarships in future. AF believes that AFAD should continue support the program in other districts too to increase its outreach.

Some Testimonies of the Children

Children: Basanta Pun

Address: Kohalpur VDC ward no 4, Banke District

I have been receiving AFAD Scholarship support from last four years. I am happy that I didn't become a burden to my mother for my study. I hope I will receive regular support from the organization and that would have become a great help for my further education.

Children: Muna Darlami

Address: Satakhani VDC ward number 4, Surkhet District

I am very happy because I have got an opportunity to continue my schooling. Thought there is not much monetary support from this programme but I do not need to pressurize my mother to pay my school fee. By the support of AFAD I studied for four years. Now I am studying in grade 10.

Children: Radha Rana

Address: Daigi VDC ward no 9, Kanchanpur District

I am grateful to the organization who provided this support for my education. Before , I thought, I couldn't do further education in my life because my brother and grandfather couldn't pay my whole fee in my school but I found support from this organization and I have success to know this fund and consultation with my school and this organization's representative I don't need to pay any cost of my education in school. Now, I am grade 10 and this year my SLC exam is coming and hopes I will get success.

2. Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons – 30 children of the disappeared received educational assistance.

Below is an excerpt of the report of the APDP-Kashmir:

We disbursed the scholarship among all the registered beneficiaries. Some victims' families, whose children were deducted from the previous total registered beneficiaries, requested that their deserving children should be given scholarship on monthly bases. When security became so tight, we had to withhold

Scholarships were disbursed among the beneficiaries who could approach our office when curfew was being relaxed in parts of the valley. Time to Time all the beneficiaries received scholarship to continue their studies.

3. Justice for Peace Foundation – 20 children of the disappeared received educational assistance.

Below is an excerpt of a report of the Justice for Peace Foundation on the educational assistance:

The families in the north live very far and they are not comfortable to go to town to get money. According to the financial report, I didn't provide the scholarship as AFAD mentioned to 20 families (one children for each family). The reason is based on the fact that I found in the field that each family could access to the compensation and other scholarship programs from the government. So, I decided to go to the field to update the data of the families and provide the scholarship for a new case in Narathiwat province (in the deep south) and 3 families in Cheng-Mai province (in the north).

The AFAD became known among some Thai authorities such as the RLD and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)and the families. The families feel that they have an organization who understands their status and care about their them. The NHRC very much welcomes to do more on the issue with the regional and international organization.

4. HAK Association, Timor Leste – 20 children of the disappeared received educational assistance.

Below is an excerpt of a report of the *HAK* Association.

The money which *HAK* received from the Secretariat of AFAD with the amount of U.S. \$ 1,200.00 have been distributed to 20 school children who are spread across 13 districts. Each child receives \$ 60 for six months.

When we visited their houses of the families of the disappeared and presented this scholarship money to the mother's of school children who received the scholarship, they were shocked and cried. The mothers were silent for several of minutes and then they had to express their deepest and overflowing sense of gratitude.

Then, the mothers requested that the scholarships continue until their children finish their studies.

Below are some expressions of good feelings from the beneficiaries:

Mother of Messias. I am very grateful for the scholarship from AFAD. For me this is so great value that has lightened my load."

I am the Messias, (a student). I'm happy to receive this scholarship, I will continue to strive to get better grades after receiving this scholarship. I really hope that this scholarship assistance does not stop here but can be continued in the future.

In Oecuesse district: Initially I was not sure when they took the name of my child to be given a scholarship, but once there are requests of HAK staff who bring money and submit to us, we are very touched that there are still organizations that think about us. I therefore, am very grateful to the AFAD that has provided us the scholarship money to ease our burden. We also ask other organizations if they can also provide scholarships like this for our children.

Much as the Federation would have wanted to revive its psychosocial program, it was not possible to do it because of the absence of funds. The need for the revival of the psychosocial rehabilitation has been requested by the families of the victims when they were interviewed in the process of conducting AFAD's Internal Evaluation. Efforts to revive this most-requested program were done during the year through the writing and submission of project proposals to the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the World Day of Prayer.

D. Organizational Strengthening

D.1 The 4th AFAD Congress –

The Federation held its Fourth Congress in Indonesia on 31 May to 5 June. The theme of the Congress was: Consolidate the Gains of More than a Decade of Struggle: Face Challenges of the Entry Into Force of the Convention.

After the conclusion of the public event, the Congress delegates went to Bogor, Indonesia for a longer meeting in order to realize the above-mentioned objectives. The AFAD member-organizations' representatives from India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Timor Leste and the Secretariat from the Philippines, including selected staff members from *KontraS* and *IKOHI*, were accompanied by representatives from *FEDEFAM*, We Remember-Belarus and the Asian Human Rights Commission based in Hong Kong.

Preliminaries

The internal meeting was opened with the determination of a quorum. The quorum was determined with seven out of nine member-organizations represented. After which, the internal Congress started with the review of the proceedings of the previous Third Congress which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal in December 2006. Specific country resolutions were reviewed. While some of the resolutions had already been implemented during the three-year period from the Third to the Fourth Congress, a number of others remain implemented, the major part of which is the ratification by Asian governments of the Convention.

Reporting

Written reports were already prepared prior to the Congress in order to facilitate Congress discussions. Copies of all reports are incorporated in the full proceedings of the AFAD Congress. These were submitted to the AFAD Secretariat at the earliest, a month before the AFAD Congress and at the latest, few days before it. It gave the Secretariat the time to compile all reports as part of the Congress Kit. Furthermore, to facilitate discussions, the power point versions of the reports were also presented to provide visual aids.

Reporting was done first by the AFAD member-organizations, after which by the AFAD Secretary-General and the AFAD Treasurer with the assistance of the

Finance Officer and then finally by representatives from *FEDEFAM*, We Remember-Belarus, and the Asian Human Rights Commission. The reports delved more on the human rights situation of each concerned country, giving emphasis on the phenomenon of enforced disappearances, on the work done by the Federation vis-à-vis the plan of action and the organizational status of each member-organization, including its expectations from AFAD.

Discussions were made after the reports of all member-organizations were presented. There were separate discussions for the other reports. The reports then principally served as the principal basis of the planning for the next three years. Since the Strategic Plan of AFAD formulated by the Third Congress had a six-year time frame, the remaining term had to be reviewed and adjusted based on the reports of the AFAD member-organizations and also on the result of the internal evaluation.

An initial presentation of the internal evaluation was also made. It was only an initial presentation because final written reports would be made available at a later date. The would-be elected AFAD Council would have to more intensively revalidate the said report with more time, considering that the Congress had so many agenda and time was limited. Nevertheless, the presentation was done.

Ms. Fe Garcia presented a SWOT analysis of AFAD's work for the last three years while Mr. Ted Borrero presented some of the results of his interviews which he did with the AFAD member-organizations in their respective countries.

Planning

The presented reports were consolidated by Ms. Fe Garcia. It was presented to and discussed by the body as a basis for planning. The group was divided into two. One was composed of AFAD member-organizations from Southeast Asia and the other was composed of the AFAD member-organizations from South Asia. The other participants from other continents were distributed between the two groups.

It is important to note that as part of the basis of planning, a video sent by Professor Gabriella Citroni was presented and viewed by the Congress delegates and other participants regarding challenges for AFAD the entry into force, more ratifications and implementation of the Convention.

A format for planning was given for the purpose of uniformity and easy collation of plans. The results of the workshops were presented by a reporter from each of the two groups and were later collated by Ms. Fe Garcia.

Resolution Writing

Each country representative/s was/were assigned to draft each own country resolution, which when drafted, was presented to the body for discussion, editing and finalization. Based also on the reports, a Congress Statement was drafted and discussed and finalized by the body.

Other papers drafted were:

1. A letter to the government of El Salvador pressing them to sign and ratify the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
2. A solidarity letter to the Tiananmen Mothers on the occasion of their 21st anniversary;
3. A letter in support to Judge Garzon of Chile.

Discussion of the AFAD's Basic Documents

The AFAD documents, e.g. Orientation, Constitution and By-laws were reviewed for possible amendments vis-à-vis the developments in the situation of the Asian region and the developments of AFAD. While there were no major amendments made, there were still important amendments which would hope to respond to the needs of the Federation in the next three years.

During the discussion of the basic documents, the Congress decided to accept the resignation of Claimants 1081 in the Philippines on the basis of its being non-functional and of its inability to respond to the questions of the AFAD Council regarding the implementation of its rehabilitation activity in 2008.

Another important decision on membership was the acceptance of the application of the Conflict Victims Society based in Nepal. It is a coalition of victims' organizations in Nepal. With this decision, the Federation already has two member-organizations in Nepal.

Solidarity Night

The Congress had a night of singing and dancing to celebrate its 12th year of anniversary and to celebrate the friendship and camaraderie among Congress delegates and other participants.

Election of a New Set of Council Members

Reelected as members of the AFAD Executive Council are the following:

Mugiyanto – Chairperson

Mandira Sharma – Treasurer

Mary Aileen D. Bacalso – Secretary-General

The rest of the members of the AFAD Council representing their member-organizations are:

Timor Leste – Sisto Dos Santos

APDP-Kashmir – Parvez Imroz

IKOHI – Indonesia – Simon

KontraS – Sri Suparyati

Advocacy Forum – Dhiraj Pokhrel

Conflict Victims Society – Council member has yet to be determined

Truth and Justice Commission – Farooq Niazi

Justice for Peace Foundation – Angkhana Neelaphajit

Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes – Boonthan Verawongse

Reading of Solidarity Messages

All throughout the internal Congress, messages of solidarity were read in between discussions in order to give inspiration to the Congress participants and to lift up their spirits in between heavy organizational discussions.

Based on the concept of the Congress, its value was indeed, experience both during and after the Congress through the following manifestations:

1. The Congress determined where the Federation was in terms of attaining its vision.
2. The Congress set the direction of the federation in the next three years;
3. The Congress determined the substance and necessary amendments of the organization's fundamental law, i.e. the Constitution and By-laws in view of the developments of the situation in Asia and of the Federation;
4. The Congress determined the leadership of the federation through the election of a new set of Council members;
5. The Congress determined the Orientation of the Federation;
6. The Congress determined the General Plan of Action for the next three years.
7. The Congress consolidated existing member-organizations and a possible venue of expansion;
8. The Congress served as a venue to support the lobbying efforts of the member-organization where the event was held by maximizing international presence to visit government authorities.

D.2 Council Meeting

The AFAD Council meeting was successfully convened. It was participated in by the AFAD Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary-General and by the representatives of the AFAD member-organizations in the following countries: India (2); Indonesia (2); Nepal (2); Pakistan (1); Thailand (2). Also present during the meeting was AFAD consultant and evaluator, Ms. Fe Briones-Garcia from the Philippines. The representative from the member-organization in Timor Leste, Mr. Sisto dos Santos was not allowed entry to Nepal when he already travelled from his country of origin to Indonesia. He was blocked at the Jakarta airport because he was supposed to get a transit visa to Thailand. He was supposed to travel from Jakarta to Kathmandu via Bangkok. Hence, it was unfortunate that he had to return to his country without being able to participate in the said meeting.

A duly constituted quorum was convened. The minutes of the previous meeting in August 2011 were presented for discussion and approval. The minutes of the meeting were approved. The proposed agenda were approved and the two-day meeting discussed on the following:

- Discussion of the initial result of the Internal Evaluation which was considered by the AFAD Council as incomplete, hence necessary completion was agreed upon with a deadline of 30 January 2011.
- The conduct of a process of self-evaluation of the AFAD Council which will also fill in the gap of the internal evaluation and discussion of the Council members' perception on the AFAD Secretariat;

- Presentation, discussion of plans of each member-organization and of the AFAD Secretariat and doing the process of logframe;
- Discussion on Membership
- Approval of the membership application of Families of the Disappeared (FOD), Sri Lanka
- Approval of the membership application of ODHIKAR, Bangladesh
- Holding of the application of The Voice of Baloch Missing Persons pending additional information from other organizations in Pakistan
- Campaigning and Lobbying activities in Kathmandu
- Meeting with the Ministry of Peace
- Meeting with the House of Parliament
- Informal meeting with one of the Commissioners of the National Human Rights Commission
- Interview with a human rights radio Station in Kathmandu
- Immediate planning on the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance which was expected on 23 December 2010.

The two-day meeting was really tight in terms of accomplishing the above-mentioned results . The agenda were comprehensive and because part of the budget used for the meeting was taken from lobby funds of AFAD to augment the limited amount left from the Congress budget, the Council members had to do lobbying, too. While it was good in order to maximize international presence of Council members in Nepal for lobbying purposes, it was really physically and mentally exhausting for the participants to be using the evenings in order to finish all the agenda. It was not also possible to give additional day for the meeting because it would mean additional expenses.

Nevertheless, the Council meeting was very successful and it was good activity to end the year 2010.

D.3 Internal Evaluation and Regular Assessments and Evaluation of the AFAD Secretariat's Work

The Federation conducted an internal evaluation in preparation for the AFAD Congress. The said evaluation was intended to prepare the AFAD for the next stage of its development as a Federation after its Fourth Congress. An external evaluator for an internal evaluation was hired, however, he was not able to complete the expected output during the Fourth AFAD Congress.\

The AFAD Council decided to hire the assistant evaluator to finish the work on 15 January 2011. With the help of the AFAD Council who met in Nepal on the last week of December 2010 and of the AFAD Secretariat who reviewed and revalidated the evaluation a number of times, the said evaluation was finished. Its results are expected to guide the Federation in the planning and implementation of its work in the next years to come.

Corollary to the internal evaluation, at the AFAD Secretariat level, regular planning, monitoring and evaluation of its work is being conducted. What was seen as a need is the participation of the focal persons in these activities of the AFAD Secretariat.

1V. CONCLUSION

Internally, the year 2010 was very challenging to AFAD. The Federation was able to conduct the above-mentioned activities despite the limitations in funding. It was the first year when its main funder, HIVOS, no longer funded AFAD's comprehensive work because of its policy not to fund an organization beyond ten years. HIVOS funded the Federation for 11 years, which was an exception, but it could not go beyond that.

With much difficulty, the AFAD continued its work, given the very limited resources. It is conscious of its need to continue its work given the continuing phenomenon of enforced disappearances in many Asian countries. Thus, the Federation struggled hard to convene its Fourth Congress which was finally held on 31 May to 5 June in Indonesia. The holding of the Fourth AFAD Congress was an apt event to strengthen the Federation's organizational capacity through the consolidation of its existing membership and expansion to other organizations that adhere to the Federation's mission, vision and goals. Moreover, it was a venue to assess where the Federation stood and what would be its direction in the next three years to come in view of the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

Part of internal strengthening is empowerment to the Federation's constituents, who are the families of the disappeared. The AFAD member-organizations are the ones principally in charge of this task. The role of the Federation is supposedly complementary only to what the member-organizations are doing. However, it has been found out that with the absence of AFAD's psychosocial rehabilitation program, most of the members do not have its own program to offer to the families of the disappeared. The AFAD psychosocial rehabilitation program was conducted only until early 2008. Families of the disappeared who were interviewed during the process of internal evaluation expressed the need for the project's revival because they appreciated it so much.

It is an important achievement that AFAD had three new member-organizations added to the Federation, e.g. the Families of the Disappeared of Sri Lanka, the Civil Society for Justice and Reconciliation in Nepal and the ODHIKAR of Bangladesh. They are new sources of the Federation.

The only form of direct assistance which AFAD gave to selected families of the disappeared was the educational assistance, which despite its limited amount, was very much appreciated by the beneficiaries. Symbolic as it is, but due to dire poverty, they are really appreciated and in fact, there is a common request for continuation. Given the huge number of families of the disappeared, the limited number of funds given only to selected member-organizations and to selected families are problematic. But still, despite such a problem, the limited amount is still useful to the families that received it.

The year 2010 witnessed the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. In 2010, the Federation continued its work for information dissemination in as far as enforced disappearances and The Convention and enabling mechanisms are concerned. However, considering that in the Asian context, enforced disappearances continue in a number of countries and remain unresolved in other countries, there is no significant increase in the number of ratifications. Some Asian countries have ratified, one of which is Indonesia where AFAD has two member-organizations. This situation of lack of ratification of the Convention by Asian states is a stark contrast to the Latin American context wherein several governments, who explicitly admitted their dark history of enforced disappearances, have already ratified the Convention. A particularly distinct and effective ways of lobbying Asian governments have still to be explored by the AFAD member-organizations in order to be successful in convincing them to support the Convention. The Universal Periodic Review has still to be maximized especially that many Asian states are members of the UN Human Rights Council.

What is important is sustained public information and dissemination work to make enforced disappearance a social issue in many Asian countries. There is a common problem that the issue is confined only to the families of the victims and their respective organizations, but to get moral, political and material support, the issue should not remain a parochial one, but must be transformed into a social issue.

The challenge for the Federation is for each member-organization to have an intensive and extensive campaign on enforced disappearances. So far, the Philippine campaign which is being conducted by the AFAD Secretariat in cooperation with local member-organizations, through the generous support of Misereor is the project which has to be imitated. The question on resources is also a problem considering that member-organizations have still to look for funds to sustain its activities because funding from the Federation is very limited.

The fact that the AFAD was appointed as the Focal Point of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), with the Secretary as the Focal Person is both a challenge and an opportunity for AFAD to give the Asian struggle against enforced disappearances further visibility.

The year 2010 ended with the entry into force of The Convention and poses many challenges to AFAD in the years to come.

Annex 1: Lobby, Campaign and Public Information

Regional Lobby Activities

Timor Leste



The HAK Association of Timor Leste conducts a forum on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance during the Human Rights Week in December 2010.

Kashmir, India: Monthly Sit-In Activities



Families of the disappeared in Kashmir conduct monthly sit-ins to pressure India to resolve cases of enforced disappearances. Parvez Imroz, Patron of the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (second photo) is being interviewed by the media.

Indonesia: AFAD Fourth Congress



Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, Chair of the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances graces the opening of the AFAD Congress.

Nepal



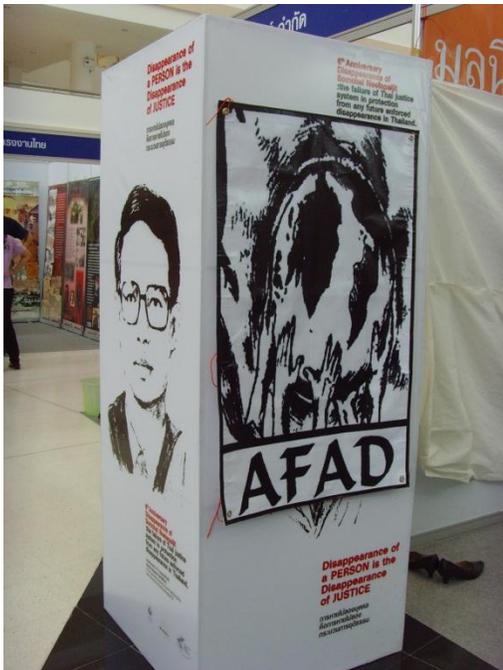
The AFAD Council members meeting in Nepal in December 2010 maximize the occasion by meeting the Parliament and by having an interview with a local human rights radio station.

Sri Lanka



Four years after AFAD lost a member in Sri Lanka, the AFAD Secretariat invites the Families of the Disappeared (FOD) to become an AFAD member.

Thailand



The Justice for Peace Foundation, formerly Working Group on Justice for Peace is conducting a forum on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance during the International Day of the Disappeared.

International Lobby Activities

United Nations (Geneva, March 2010)



November 2010 - The AFAD Secretary-General and its member-organization in Thailand participate in an international conference on enforced disappearances sponsored by Aim for Human Rights.

United Nations (Geneva, November 2010)



Members and friends of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance

MISEREOR PHILIPPINE PROJECT

Intensification of AFAD's
Campaign for Truth,
Justice,
Redress,
and
the Historical Memory of the Desaparecidos

Lobby for Government's Commitment to the Struggle
Against Enforced Disappearance

a.Meeting with President Benigno Aquino 111



6 October 2010

AFAD and FIND together with PAHRA and some selected members of the families of the disappeared meet with **Pres. Benigno Aquino III** at the Malacanang Palace on 6 October 2010.

Public Information

a. University Road Shows

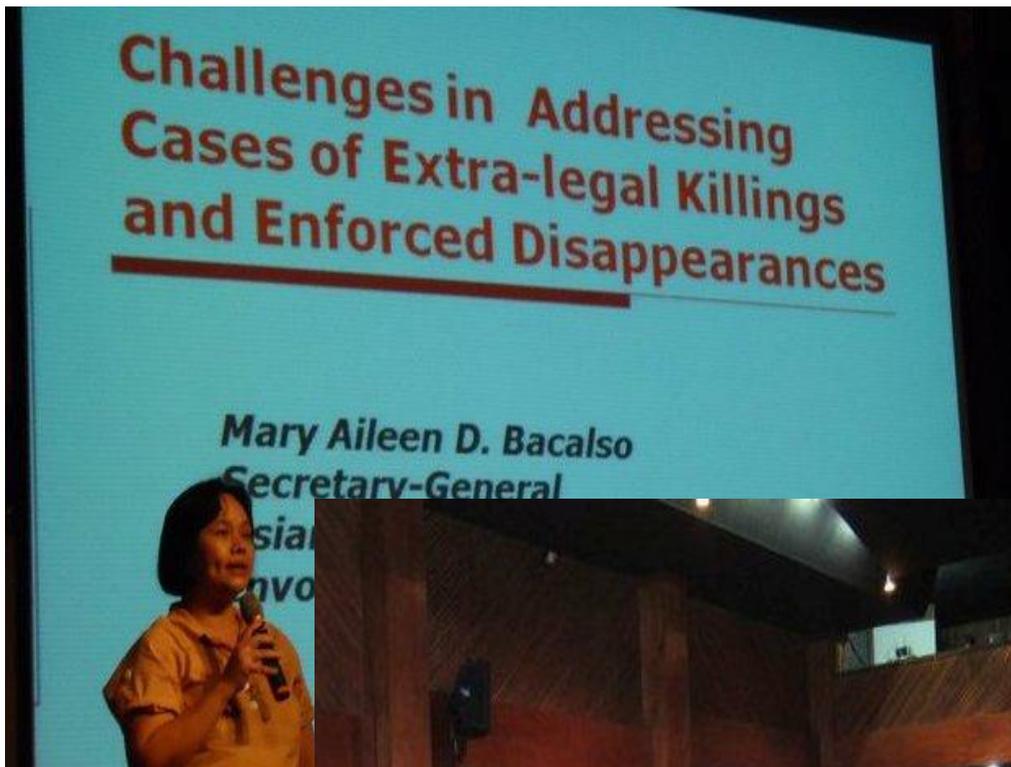
1. Silliman University, Dumaguete City on 21 September 2010



2. St. Paul University, Dumaguete City on 21
September 2010



3. Angeles University Foundation, Pampanga City on 9
December 2010



4. Adamson University in Manila on 13 January 2011





5. Thomas Aquinas College in Sogod, Southern Leyte on 21 January 2011





6. AFAD-FIND university hopping in Legaspi City





b. Bus Advertisements





c. Commemoration of UDHR

1. Moot Court



Buses with AFAD advertisement that roam around EDSA from December 2010 to April 2011.

Competition

The panel of judges headed by Atty. Chito Gascon listens attentively to the presentation of the competing teams of Moot Court Competition.



Manila.

d. Engaging the Civil Society

1. National Workshop on the UN Committee Against Torture Concluding Observations and Recommendations held on 29, September 2010 at the Bayview Hotel, Ermita,



Participants of the National Workshop on the UN Committee Against Torture Concluding Observations and Recommendations.

2. AHRC Forum on Human Rights and Freedom of Expression in a Globalized World held on 21 January 2011 at Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell, Makati City



CHR Chairperson Loretta Rosales responds to the questions in the open forum. Seating beside her are Jues Maaten of FNF and German Human Rights Commissioner Markus Loening.

3. Waging Peace Conference of 2010, with the title "Seize the Opportune Moment: Work for Peace Now!", convened on 7-8 December, 2010 at the Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Blvd. corner U.N. Avenue, Manila



Waging Peace-Philippines convenor, Ms. Karen Tanada awards a plaque of recognition to the Malaysian government during the forum on 7 December, 2010 in Manila for facilitating the peace talks between GPH and MILF.

4. Light up for Peace held at the Quezon City Memorial Circle on 8 February 2011.



P-Noy leads the ceremonial banging of the peace bell at Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Photo courtesy of tuklasinnatin.wordpress.com

e. Solidarity

1. Find's All Souls' Day Event, 2 November 2010



FIND members offer ecumenical service in the memory of their disappeared loved ones during the commemoration of All Souls' Day at the *Bantayog ng mga Desaparecido (Monument of the Disappeared)*.

2. PICOP CASE Anniversary, October 10, 2010



HR groups hold a candle lighting activity in commemoration of the 10th disappearance anniversary of PICOP case at the Ninoy Aquino Monument in Quezon City.

3. FIND's Anniversary



4. International Human Rights Day



Public assembly of Human Rights Advocates during the commemoration of International Human Rights Day held in Quezon City Memorial Circle.



Annex 3: AFAD Fourth Congress

31 May – 05 June 2010

Bogor and Jakarta, Indonesia



First Photo: Re-elected members of the AFAD Council, Mary Aileen D. Bacalso, Mugiyanto and Mandira Sharma (L-R) vow to lead the federation in the next three years.

Second photo: AFAD Congress delegates vow to continue the search for justice in the next years to come.



First picture-The AFAD Congress delegates post for picture.

Second picture - In front of the Indonesian presidential palace, the Congress delegates vow fulfill the Federation's mission, vision and goals.

Annex 4: Documentation and Research

ARMS Project (Partnership with SEACeM)



SEACeM's ARMS Project Partners during the first requirement workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Annex 5: Direct Assistance

Timor Leste



**Armando da Costa
Sani (Oecuse)**



**Mesias De Jesus
Magno Moises (Dili)**



**Natalino da Costa
(Suai)**



Sonia Alves (Suai)



**Zevenia Da Silva
(Ainaro)**



Kashmir, India



Parvais Matta facilitating the distribution of educational assistance to families of the disappeared.



**Abdul Hameed Malik
of Bandipora**



**Afroza of Delina
Baramulla**



**Ifra Hassan of
Baramulla**



**Kaisar Farooq
Shopian**



**Khalida Dilbagh
Lolab Kupwara**



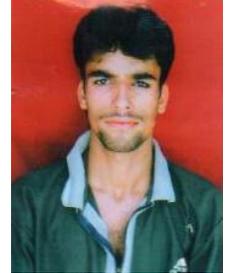
**Kulsoom of
Baramulla**



**Masrat Habib of
Baramulla**



**Mehvish of Ganbugh
Byepass Srinagar**



**Mohammad Shafi
Mir of Uri Baramulla**



**Mohammd Shaban
Parray of Kichama
Baramulla**

Thailand





Scholarship funds are being given to children of the disappeared in Southern Thailand.

Annex 6: Publications

The Voice



2011 Calendar

