"Strengthening Support to the Work of AFAD
Against Enforced Disappearances"
(2013-2015)

AFAD
Organizational Report
2013

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Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)

I. Strategic Plan

Vision

A world free from enforced disappearances and injustices

Mission

An Asian federation of human rights organizations committed to work directly on the redress for and eradication of enforced disappearances

Goals

- The Asian peoples understand, respect and advocate for the right not to be subjected to enforced disappearance (by preserving the collective memory of enforced disappearances (ED), learning lessons from the past to serve as reminder for the new generation of the dark part of their respective history);

- Improved policy and structural reforms at the international, regional and national-levels to hasten the resolution of cases, prevent or totally stop involuntary disappearances;

- Enhanced capacity of AFAD members and the Secretariat to effectively convince governments to address the issue of enforced disappearances in their respective countries and in Asia (e.g. demand for redress/reparation, restitution, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition).

2013 AFAD Organizational Report

II. AFAD Work in 2013

A. Campaign and Lobby

TARGETS: The establishment of a politico-legal environment that is favorable to victims and families of the disappeared and to the greater society, and where:

- Asian states adopt policy mechanisms for the protection against and prevention of enforced disappearance
- Asian peoples and civil society organizations advocate for increased human rights protection and prevention of enforced disappearance

as indicated by:

- Increasing number of member Asian states where mechanisms are in place and implemented;
- Increased awareness and understanding of the issue of enforced disappearances through the promotion of democracy and human rights and clear projection of enforced disappearances at the regional and international levels; and,
- Resolution and reduction of disappearance cases (at least) in Asian countries with AFAD presence.
- Strengthened international solidarity against enforced disappearance by explicitly presenting the universality of the harsh realities suffered by the disappeared victims and their families through campaign materials.

RESULTS/STATUS:
AFAD's flagship program of campaign and lobby resulted in the following developments.

1. Support to campaign was enhanced through the continued human resources support for Campaign Staff members (CS) of member organizations in Indonesia, Nepal, Timor Leste and are coordinated at the Federation level by the AFAD Regional Campaign Officer (RCO).

2. Regional, Sub-regional and National Campaign and Lobby

In **Indonesia**, Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Marty Natalegawa met for the first time with the AFAD Chairperson and Secretary General in March. The Minister reiterated its commitment to work towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Convention) and stated that it has been preparing the necessary documents on this matter to be forwarded to the President. A meeting with the Deputy Chairperson of the Office of the Ombudsman, Republic of Indonesia (ORI), Mrs. Azlaini Agus with representatives of AFAD members, The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS) and Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI) as well as AFAD Chairperson and Secretary General was done in March. It was meant to follow-up on the progress of two clarification letters sent by the ORI to the President in relation to addressing cases

of enforced disappearances (ED). Mrs. Agus assured her support and promised to hold meetings with the Indonesian Parliament and the President. An open letter was also delivered by KontraS and IKOHI asking ORI's support to call on the President to act on the four recommendations of the Indonesian Parliament.

INDONESIA *--- On its 15th year anniversary, KONTRAS continues the call for "Love and Justice" along with families association, IKOHI and other human rights defenders.*

In February 2013, AFAD member organization in **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** condemned Police Bill 2013, a Bill which was aimed to further empower police agencies, which have already been largely involved in committing human rights violations. In its condemnation, the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) indicated that the state is trying to legalize repression. The association observed that the initial reading of the Draft Jammu and Kashmir Police Bill, 2013, suggests that the Government seeks to formalize previous draconian practices and activities. The APDP also consistently struggled to build pressure on the government of India to put an end to the phenomenon of ED and also to deliver justice to the victims and their families. So far, the government is reluctant to constitute an impartial enquiry commission under the Commissions of Enquiry Act 1957 to probe into all the cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances in J&K and does seem to be in a disposition to ratify the Convention. The Indian state is also still in denial of conducting impartial investigations into unmarked and mass graves despite constant calls and pressure from international institutions.

In **Nepal,** the government merged, in March, the much-awaited TJ commissions - Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission on the Inquiry of the Disappeared (COID) – into one and brought an ordinance, which aims to grant immunity to the perpetrators. Some organizations welcomed it but AFAD members, Advocacy Forum (AF) and Conflict Victims Society for Justice (CVSJ), leaders and members of which were arrested for the Occupy Baluwatar Movement, opposed it. Their stance created some misinterpretations that AF and CVSJ had to organize several rounds of meetings among the key human rights defenders and

the international diplomats to clarify. Both organizations also noted the lack of consultations especially among civil society and victims' organizations.

***NEPAL --**- On 22 December, fifty-five political leaders, human rights activists, representatives of major political parties in Kathmandu and of victims' groups discuss justice and reparation to victims in the post-election scenario.*

Meanwhile, the political situation in the country continues to deteriorate. In late January, the government started to use force against protesters, mostly women, in the Occupy Baluwatar Movement (*Baluwatar Satyagrah*) that called for justice for victims of rape and other gender-based violence and who camped out for a month in front of Baluwatar, the Prime Minister's residence.

Related incidents of torture and arrests sparked interest in Transitional Justice mechanisms, given the public outcry demanding prosecution of alleged perpetrators. Col. Lama was arrested in the United Kingdom in early 2013 under Universal Jurisdiction and government is pressed to act on this case.

In the **Philippines**, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 10353, otherwise known as the Anti- Enforced Disappearance Act of 2012 were jointly promulgated by government through the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) and Families of the *Desaparecidos* for Justice (Desaparecidos). A Task Force has been formed to flesh out the details of the IRR. In the light of the implementation of this new law, the Department of Health (DOH), in April, issued a Memorandum to all direct health services providers and practitioners under the Department to include reporting of inquiries on reported disappeared persons' whereabouts.

***PHILIPPINES**: RA 10353 Principal Author, Rep. Edcel Lagman.*

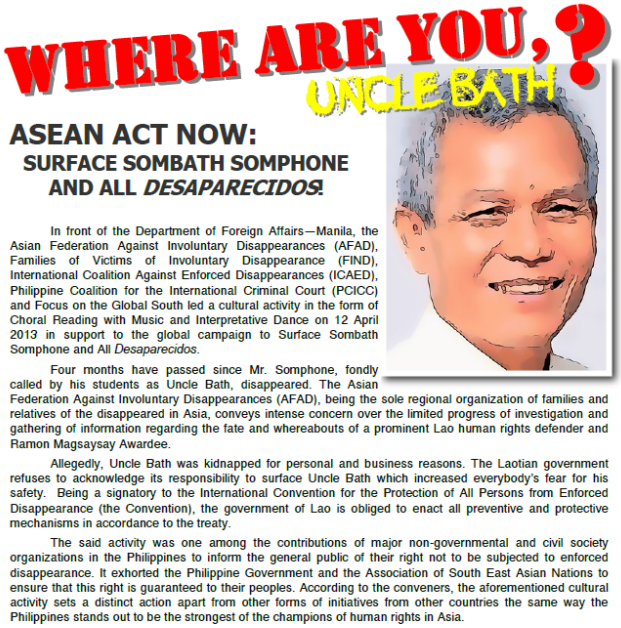
DOJ Secretary Sec. Leila De Lima

In **Thailand**, the government is now in the process of amending the local provisions in the criminal code as part of its preparations to ratify the Convention. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in a public meeting organized by AFAD and its member-organizations, Justice for Peace Foundation (JPF) and the Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes (RCMH) in June said that they will be able to complete the process on or before December 2014.

In the midst of the calls of AFAD member in **Sri Lanka**, the Families of the Disappeared (FOD) and allied organizations for the government to ratify and implement the Convention, the government announced that it will possibly introduce new laws criminalizing disappearances. This statement was issued in the light of the scheduled visit of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay in the country.

On 27 June, the Government of Cambodia **signed** to the Convention. Though not a direct result of AFAD's work, AFAD sees its signing as possibly the result of the efforts of the French government or the Group of Friends - States Parties to the Convention.

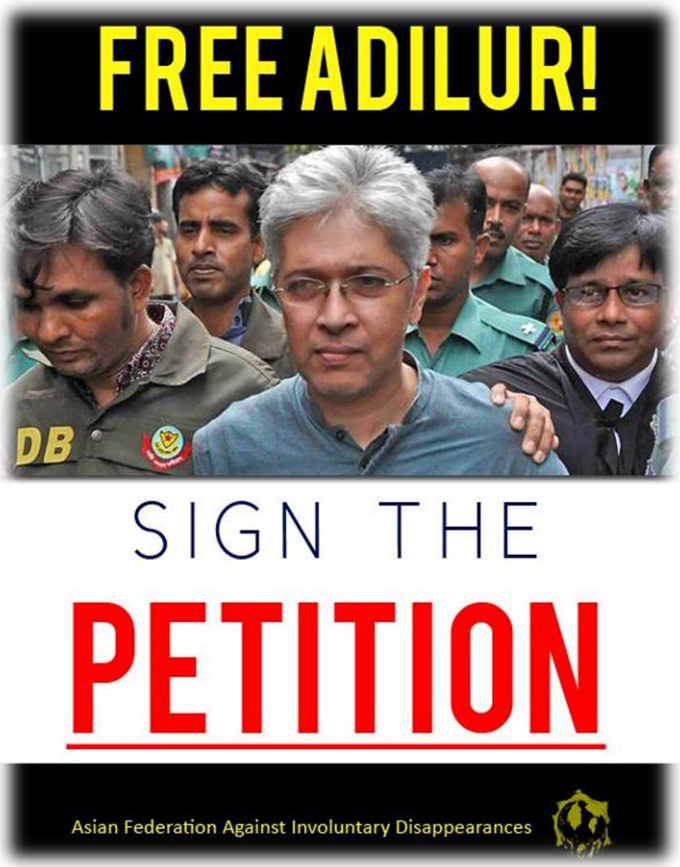
The AFAD through its Chairperson joined the delegation of parliamentarians' visit to Laos regarding the disappearance of known development worker Sombath Somphone. Coordination meeting was conducted with representatives of Focus on the Global South and Asia-Europe People's Forum regarding this case. It was decided that AFAD will help finalize and disseminate to its members the common petition calling on the Lao government to surface Sombath. The report of the visit was also posted in the AFAD website, while AFAD members were also encouraged to include and draw attention to Sombath's case in International Day of the Disappeared (IDD) activities. AFAD member in Indonesia, IKOHI was linked up as point person in Jakarta to coordinate activities for advocacy for the case of Sombath.



THAILAND ***PHILIPPINES***

AFAD member-organizations continued to steadfastly lobby for pieces of domestic legislation in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Jammu and Kashmir, Nepal and Sri Lanka, Thailand and South Korea. Too, local coalitions that work to address enforced disappearance which have been set-up in 2012 were activated in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka through a series of activities such as lobby meetings, government engagement and various forms of advocacy.

AFAD member, Odhikar actively participated in the Universal Periodic Review of **Bangladesh** last April in Geneva and worked on a joint report with the Asian Legal Resource Center (ALRC). While in Geneva, Odhikar conducted meetings with other organizations to present the worsening human rights situation of Bangladesh. ICAED's country-of-the-month campaign for Bangladesh was jointly coordinated by ICAED Focal Point, ICAED members and Odhikar during the UPR period, in which 15 organizations from ICAED and AFAD wrote lobby letters to the government. Skills training on fact-finding, report writing, and advocacy were also conducted, wherein skills learned were useful in actual fact-finding missions.



The year 2014 was a very difficult year for Bangladesh in view of the arrest and detention of its Secretary and AFAD Council Member, Adilur Rahman Khan, the consequent raid of its office and the persecution of other constituents, e.g. the Director and the staff. AFAD wrote two statements on this and submitted these to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UN WGEID). There were efforts on the part of the AFAD Council to join missions to Bangladesh organized by the OMCT and the Forum Asia, but for one reason or another, these were not made possible.

In as far as AFAD is concerned, the physical participation of Odhikar members were constrained and in fact, it was not able to physically participate in the AFAD Council meeting held in Timor Leste.

In **Indonesia,** AFAD and members' meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs resulted in the latter's indication of support to the efforts to ratify the Convention. Also, some members of government were engaged as resource persons during the launching of results of research on best practices in its advocacy against ED. The Indonesian Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance met in January and agreed to focus on tracking the progress of government's moves towards ratification of the Convention. The coalition has a long-term activity that will document and update any progress on the ratification and is intended to hold lobby meeting with the Parliament and other government agencies related to the issue. It was able to coordinate with "Pita Hitam Coalition" composed of various students' groups from different

universities, in support of the enforcement of human rights in Indonesia and the settlement of gross human rights violations in past, including ED cases.

In **Nepal**, a series of lobby meetings related to the Ordinance on Transitional Justice mechanisms and for ratifying the international anti-disappearance treaty were held. At the District level, CVSJ also visited 10 districts and presented their position on the Ordinance and a call for consultation. The local coalition initiated *Occupy Baluwatar* movement and legal assistance to families of victims. These helped in making government attentive towards the demands of victims of conflict and enforced disappearance.

NEPAL --- *AFAD Members CVSJ and AF gather and discuss with political leaders the matter of election manifestoes expressing full commitment towards establishing TRC bill and the promotion and protection of human rights on 17 December.*

In **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K),** a process of engagement with foreign governments, including the European Union was initiated. These governments have and will continue to be urged to blacklist and take action against any personnel of the armed forces or police who have been responsible for human rights violations in J&K.

In the **Philippines,** members of the Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (CAED) organized and/or participated in various activities. The first forum-workshop on the effective implementation of the Anti-enforced Disappearance Act was attended by key figures from the government, foreign embassies, human rights movement, academe and the coalition. Workshop results comprised of identification of roles and doable actions to ensure the effective implementation of the law particularly on investigation, prosecution and rehabilitation.

PHILIPPINES *--- CAED members hold workshop with representatives of government, security forces, academe and media on doable actions in ensuring the dissemination and implementation of RA 10353.*

Joint activities for the commemoration of the International Week of the Disappeared and series of meetings were conducted to discuss media messaging for broader public support to the issue of disappearance with the support of DAKILA, a group of individuals advocating for social change. A diplomatic briefing was conducted by AFAD, FIND and the Ateneo Human Rights Center which was attended by local NGOs and the embassies of Spain, France and Japan. The content of the said event was the importance of the Philippine government's ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the corresponding lobbying strategies.

The above-mentioned diplomatic briefing was followed by a lobby visit to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) where AFAD and FIND officers had a meeting. The discussion delved on the Convention on Enforced Disappearances wherein the DFA mentioned that it is already writing to different government agencies as part of the whole process of discussing the ratification of the Convention.

Also, CAED members, local and regional organizations jointly conducted a cultural activity in front of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to press the Aquino government to speak about the disappearance of Ramon Magsaysay awardee, Sombath Somphone of Laos at the ASEAN and for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights (AICHR) to discuss his case. A staff of the DFA spoke and assured that the message will be conveyed to the appropriate officials.

On 28th August, during AFAD's advanced's commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared, AFAD conducted a signature campaign for the release of Sombath Somphone during the event wherein AFAD also launched its fourth book, entitled" Beyond Tears and Borders." During this day, the signature campaign was launched and followed by the presentation of the case during a national lawyers' meeting conducted by FIND. The signatures taken during the two activities were personally handed by AFAD and the Focus on the Global South to the Embassy of Laos in Manila.

03 Sep 2013 - Representatives from the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances and the Asia-Europe People's Forum visited the Embassy of Lao People's Democratic Republic in Manila to deliver a petition calling for the immediate and safe relea

In **Sri Lanka,** a formation called "Relatives Searching for the Disappeared Family Members" in the districts of Mannar, Vavniya, Mulathive, Kilinochchci was established through the initiative of FOD and Mannar Citizen Committee (MCC) after discussions with the activists in said districts. The formation of this organization is a big step considering the difficult security situation in the area. A network consisting of 19 organizations was also formed; wherein six are involved with some work against ED. Four committees were formed: Media and Publicity; Data Collecting and Reporting; Legal; and, Campaign and lobby. The Data Collecting committee was able to prepare a general list of 2,300 cases with the help of the other organizations in the network. This effort will hopefully address the problem of double reporting in the future, as the committee planned to report 500 cases by the end of 2013 to the UN WGEID.

SRI LANKA --- Hundreds attend commemoration activities.

AFAD member in **South Korea** engaged in domestic and international campaign. The Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR) conducted education programs for North Korean students re-settling in South Korea, Programs for South Koreans to learn about North Korean human rights and bringing refugees from China to South Korea.

The *Perkumpulan* HAK (HAK Association), member in **Timor-Leste**, focused on two draft laws in Parliament on reparations and the Memorial Institution while lobbying with institutions of State, particularly the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ombudsman as the two entities which have taken responsibility for missing persons in Timor-Leste. There were efforts at campaigning through the movement and ANTI for TL to ratify the International Convention and on impunity with several public discussions. Strengthening the victims' organizations, through facilitation of meetings and giving briefings before interviews with media were also implemented.

***TIMOR-LESTE** --- In June and November, HAK coordinated the commemoration of the Marabia and Santa Cruz Massacres, to remember those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle for independence and to allow families and relatives of victims to deliver directly to the institutions of State, their concerns and demands.*

A Series of activities in time for the AFAD Council held in Timor Leste were facilitated by HAK.

TIMOR-LESTE*---Public discussion with AFAD members and Timor Leste National Parliament and Foreign Affairs Ministry in time for AFAD Council meeting in the country. "The government of Timor is bent on building good bilateral relations with Indonesia; achieving truth and justice will be a big challenge".*

A Luta Kontinua! *--- In another public event, HAK encourages the student movement to discuss the spirit of the youth movement, holding true to the memory of Santa Cruz, and continuing the struggle for their missing comrades.*

3. Country-Specific Projects

3.1. Nepal Project

This country-project resulted in intensification of discussions about accountability on conflict-era cases at the national and international levels, as well as to put pressure on the government to ratify the Convention. The lobbying and advocacy in the extended form of campaigning has played a pivotal role in establishing grounds for accountability in human rights violation cases. The intensive discussions to set up transitional justice mechanisms in Nepal have also gained impulsion following the arrest of 5 Maoist suspects as well as the on-going public outcry demanding prosecution in the case.

***NEPAL**---March of Women*

AFAD member, Advocacy Forum, has been able to create foundations to challenge cases at national and international levels in the means of campaigning by collecting pieces of evidence for emblematic cases. Similarly, the project has been able to strengthen victims' groups at the local and central levels which further intensified campaign across the country. For instance, CVSJ in Jhapa district have formally established financial cooperative with the direct assistance from AF. Similarly, CVSJ in Bardia district have also informally started financial cooperative among a victims' group.

Further, AFAD members in Nepal submitted memorandum to the District Administration Office in 10 districts demanding to retract the Ordinance of TRC bill and to take into the consultation among civil society and victims, as well as to address the needs of the families of the disappeared; posted another memorandum demanding the Government of Laos to bring Sombath Somphone back safely and to prosecute the alleged perpetrators; held commemoration of International Human Rights Day; and mobilized Accountability Watch Committee (AWC) to prevent the enactment of Ordinance that will provide amnesty to perpetrators of enforced disappearances.

With the aim of alleviating risks, AF mobilizes national and international community to speak against the government's move. In few instances, court procedure has been used to challenge the government's decision to halt investigation in HRV cases. Further, AF has strengthened its security strategy and strategy to deal with cases of human rights violations. It has been mobilizing national and international community remaining itself under shadow. In recent cases, AF remains silent but mobilizes national and international community to strongly speak on the issue.

Efforts at multi-level lobbying were enhanced by the following public information and dissemination activities: production of video on four disappearance cases; translation of primer on enforced disappearance; media fellowships; airing of "Voice of Nepal" radio program to discuss 13 ED cases. Further, the programs and activities for the families of the disappeared have been effective in relieving psychological pressures of the families as they felt the support in exerting pressure on the government to address issues and cases of enforced disappearance.

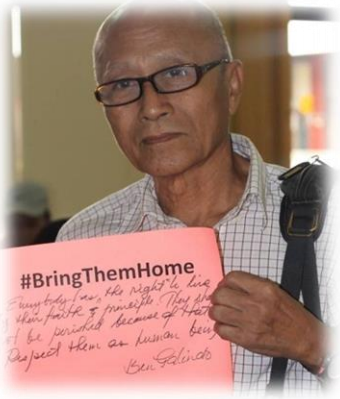
3.2 Philippine Project

Fora, symposia, lectures and reflection sessions are considered effective forms of reaching out to the public especially the students and church communities. Through a tried and tested strategy of university/community hopping, AFAD shares its advocacies and human rights works in order to disseminate information and draw public support. During the second half of the year, a series of film showing activities and university/community fora on enforced disappearance were conducted in at least ten (10) schools/communities which had more than 500 audiences in line with the conduct of the AFAD regional research on the level of public awareness.

The conduct of public events are not only traditionally used to popularize the issue but also to create avenues where different stakeholders are brought together to share their views and plans in addressing the issue. During this period, AFAD and FIND organized their own separate activities aimed at getting the wider support from the public.

The on-going implementation of two major public information projects, a book and film on disappearances in the Philippines is aimed at sustaining the momentum of the anti-disappearance campaign and movement in the Philippines.

Social media are now considered a viable tool to send its advocacy messages across and to reach out a wider audience especially the young citizens. A campaign committee within the AFAD Secretariat developed a regional online campaign entitled, "#BringThemHome" and was actively implemented in the Philippines during public events.



AFAD utilized its active participation in conferences and dialogue meetings to engage and solicit support from relevant government agencies especially the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). Engagements bolster AFAD's credibility among government agencies and open doors of opportunities for future cooperation.

Because of the continuing nature of this country-specific project, AFAD was able to sustain and strengthen linkages with its local partners and networks particularly the Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance (CAED) and Philippine Misereor Partners, Inc. (PMPI). Advocacy support network in the academe, communities and in the media are also being developed to help the Federation in its efforts to intensify the anti-ED movement and campaign.

Through inputs from AFAD's research and case documents, some of the members of the AFAD Secretariat participated in a Lawyers' Conference organized by FIND to advance its advocacy for human rights and to help the families of the disappeared seek justice by utilizing RA 10353. The conference-workshop groups tackled actual cases of enforced disappearance to determine the appropriate actions using RA 10353 as legal basis for filing of cases and prosecuting human rights violators. The workshop was also used to develop a system of coordination between lawyers and civil society members in keeping track cases for investigation, review and prosecution. Human rights lawyers expressed commitment to help out FIND and its members in their quest of justice. Conducted in commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared, the conference was publicly opened by a press forum to inform the media on the updates in the implementation of RA 10353.

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the enactment of the Philippine anti-disappearance law, AFAD and FIND jointly conducted home visitations to family members of the disappeared to celebrate the holiday season.

The production of the KaSaMa Indie Film Project which is being supported by the Spanish Embassy and Commission on Human Rights under the KaSaMa Search 2011 is now underway. The AFAD and FIND, in partnership with the Dakila), a group of artists in charge of the film production are already doing the film shoots immediately after the script was finalized. The fund raising activities are now being planned to generate additional budget for the film production and launching. The partners have set the last week of May 2014 – in time for the International Week of the Disappeared -- as the date of the film launch.

Directed by
Pam Miras

Porferia is a story of a woman's escape from unlawful abduction and torture, having surfaced from being buried alive by the military.

Directed by
Sherad Sanchez

In Hermon, we take a look back at the life of Hermon C. Lagman, a man who has been disappeared for almost 37 years, and the whirlwind emotions felt by his mother and the rest of his family.

Directed by
Mike Cabardo

Sergio follows the story of a father's journey to finding his lost son, coming to terms with his own grief and healing.

The Philippine Book Project is a joint effort of AFAD and FIND for the purpose of coming up with materials that will further project the issue of enforced disappearance in the country. The book is a compendium of articles showing the political and socio-economic context of the phenomenon of enforced disappearances per regime.

The selected writers together with the editor have already met to present and discuss their draft articles. New schedules were set for final draft submission and technical editing. AFAD and FIND are discussing a new realistic timeframe for the launch.

AFAD conducts forum/workshop with the Philippine Army

One of the very positive developments that AFAD achieved under this reporting period is its engagement with the Philippine security sector. Headed by the Regional Campaign Officer, AFAD was linked up with the Philippine Army through the AFP Human Rights Office. It was able to conduct two seminars/fora with them in November 2013, having hundreds of personnel ranging from privates to colonels as participants.

The said activities were part of the research project of AFAD on the level of public awareness on the issue of enforced disappearance. Participants were given questionnaires before and after the activity, and the Researcher analyzed the difference between their answers. The purpose is to know their understanding of the phenomenon of enforced disappearance and see if it improved after a lecture given by AFAD. The results from the military showed a marked increase in the level of awareness. It also laid out the many misconceptions that members of the security sector have on enforced disappearance such as the notion that the usual perpetrators of this crime are non-state actors.

Considering that most of enforced disappearance cases in the Philippines were perpetrated by elements of the Philippine Army, these activities are very important milestones in our quest to prevent further occurrence of enforced disappearances in the country. It is crucial to inform the security sector on the relevant laws and their obligations to ensure that they will not commit this heinous crime. This is just the start of our engagement with the military and we are looking forward to improve and expand this project. The AFP is inviting us to do more of such seminars/fora in the near future.

4. Breaking Impunity Campaign

4.1. At the **international level**, opportunities to file and follow-up on cases, urgent appeals maximized during international/regional lobbying of AFAD Executive and Council members.

In March, AFAD Secretary General and the Chairperson of the Justice for Peace Foundation followed up cases and general allegations submitted to the UN WGEID. In her capacity as Focal Person of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), she was authorized by the *Asociación Pro Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos* (Association for the Search of Disappeared Children (Pro Búsqueda)), a co–member of ICAED, to follow up 50 cases presented in 2011. In the period reviewed, *Pro Búsqueda* notified AFAD that the WG is taking up six (6) out of the 50 cases submitted in 2011, after the follow up of AFAD was conducted in March.

Landmark study of 214 cases of human rights violations was carried out. IPTK Kashmir and APDP submitted cases to Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary, and Arbitrary Executions. Too, a general allegation forwarded by the APDP on the presence of unknown, unmarked graves in Jammu and Kashmir was submitted to UNWGEID.

For Nepal, cases were submitted to the UNHRC; legal intervention and representation support were provided for a victim at the Supreme Court on a Habeas Corpus petition filed; a case was submitted to the Special Rapporteur of the UN on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, Reparation and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence.

There were new cases filed from Indonesia (13); Nepal (4); Philippines; (3); South Korea (11). Cases submitted by Bangladesh and cases re: problem of travel documents of APDP human rights defenders were also followed up.

4.2. In **Indonesia,** a small team in the country was formed to formulate settlement mechanisms of gross human rights violations in the past.

4.3. In **Jammu & Kashmir**, the APDP, in April, campaigned against the Indian states' claim of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and its unconcerned approach about the alarming issue of ED and mass graves in J&K. The association deliberated that it has been 23 years, more than 8000 persons disappeared, and the Indian State refuses its accountability for the crimes of enforced or involuntary disappearances, and numerous other violations, that it has been responsible for. While claiming a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council, India refuses to hold itself to any standards of international law. The APDP further called on the international community to condemn the phenomenon of ED by the Indian State in J&K. As an immediate step, it was sought that the UN must set up monitoring in J&K to record and bear witness to the international crimes being committed, and that the UNWGEID must be allowed to visit J&K immediately.

4.4. In **Nepal**, the lobbying and advocacy as extended form of campaigning have played a pivotal role in establishing grounds for accountability in the cases of human rights violations. For instance: police arrested five Maoist suspects in the murder case of journalist Dekendra Thapa2 in Dailekh district. This is the first case where 5 Maoists were arrested in the charge of murder which took place during the conflict. The intensive discussions to set up transitional justice mechanisms in Nepal have also gained impulsion following the arrest of five Maoist suspects as well as the on-going public outcry demanding prosecution in the case.

The alleged were arrested immediately after AF filed a petition on 12 December 2012 demanding a mandamus order against the police for prompt investigation and prosecution of the case. On the other hand, the relentless campaigning made by CVSJ also put more pressure

on the government to act on this case. Similarly, the arrest of Army Colonel Kumar Lama in early 2013 in the UK under Universal Jurisdiction forced the government to seriously act on the conflict-era cases at the domestic level.

4.5. In the **Philippines**, FIND, in partnership with AFAD's Documentation program, conducted four orientation and planning meetings in relation to the documentation of 50 cases distributed in four provinces in the Visayas (Cebu, Leyte, Panay and Negros). A legal consultation was also done with the possible witness of the disappearance of Daryl Fortuna and Jinky Garcia.

4.6. In **Sri Lanka,** eight cases of victims who disappeared were filed in Vavniya High courts by CHRD, an organization in the network. More cases are set to be filed in the future. Family members, who believed their relatives were part of those buried in the Matale mass grave, submitted affidavits and 14 were collected for the period. As of now, there are 60 affidavits from family members. *(see link on Matale mass grave: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-21964586)*. Protest activities every court hearing have been undertaken to support the families.

***SRI LANKA** commemorates International Day of the Disappeared.*

4.7. A Recognition committee in Thailand decided on the right of the family to file a case in court in relation to the disappearance of Somchai and decided to send the families of disappeared victims to Mecca as part of psychological support.

5. Public campaign and information dissemination

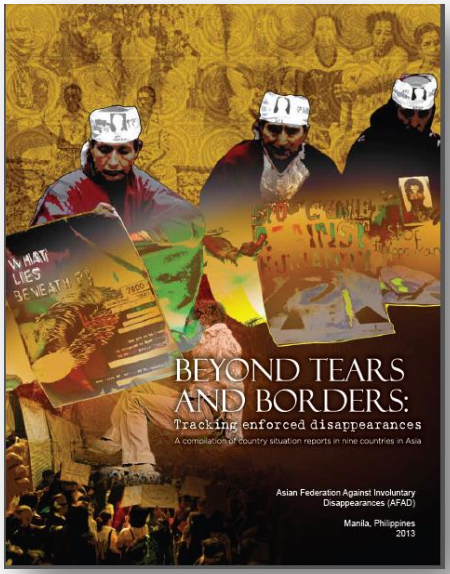
At the federation level, efforts of AFAD member-organizations yielded positive results in terms of public information and dissemination. Public information and dissemination efforts of AFAD and

its members are effective networking and feedbacking mechanisms. Prospects for distribution plan, content analysis, messaging, lesson-sharing, and fund-sourcing are to be continuously developed to enhance the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of such efforts.

Statements were issued in response to a violation committed, as expression of solidarity in traditionally commemorated events and pressure in relation to Convention ratification. AFAD members continuously responded to urgent appeals cases, particularly for incidents and situations which involve AFAD Council members in 2012-2013.

Information dissemination activities focused on the problem of enforced disappearance and essential components of the law were conducted in light of the researches. In the Philippines, almost four hundred individuals were reached. An additional 100 people were also reached during the launch of the regional video documentary. These participants were mostly students, some members of the security sector, faculty and church leaders. Expansion of coordination with other networks on public information and campaign were also done.

AFAD also undertook the production and dissemination of campaign materials and other publications of the Federation. Some of these were: AFAD 2013 calendar; AFAD magazine, The Voice; 6th edition of the Primer on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; compilation of case documentation results entitled, "Beyond Tears and Borders"; commencement of a research for the production of a Coffeetable book on disappeared democracy champions in Asia. Copies of brochure, program-related papers, booklet, poster and a regional video documentary to highlight the situation of enforced disappearance in Asia were also produced. Keynote papers on the legal dimension of enforced disappearance were also prepared. Other creative forms such as songs, poems, video, and social media contents in terms of campaigning were used and produced, while a common petition letter participated in by members of the federation was signed.



Social media campaign led to increased number of shares, likes and comments generated from online content posted for the different campaigns, calls and activities of AFAD. There was also a noted increase in the number of subscribers or followers; aesthetic improvement of social media

platforms, i.e. Facebook; and integration of social media with the AFAD website. In particular, the social media campaign "Bring them Home" gained the participation of most of the members and is currently being sustained.

AFAD's website has also been redesigned and is now compatible with other mobile devices.

These efforts further resulted in increased level of awareness on enforced disappearance at all levels. These also paved way to alert law enforcement agencies and agreement among some parliamentarians to address enforced disappearance. Too, the online campaign continues to serve as the most accessible public face of AFAD and offers a big potential to reach a significant number of audience at very minimal cost.

However, there is still a huge task in attaining concrete targets of campaign and lobby in terms of establishing country, sub-regional and regional level mechanisms; getting signatures and ratifications for the Convention and enacting domestic anti-disappearance laws.

5. International Lobbying

5.1. Participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Processes and other UN Processes

The AFAD and ICAED facilitated referrals of contacts to Odhikar during UPR Review of Bangladesh as well as the participation of Shui Meng, wife of Lao disappeared development worker, Sombath Somphone in Geneva human rights events in November. Too,

There were attempts to follow up the UN ECOSOC status application of AFAD on the occasion of the participation of AFAD in the International Torture Survivors' Week held in Washington DC, USA. It is unfortunate, however, that the UN NGO Committee office was not receptive and did not allow the AFAD Secretary-General to visit its office. This will be followed up again through contacts in New York at the beginning of the year 2014.

5.2. Participation and Interventions in International Fora and Advocacy

At the international level, the Federation, which continued to assume the Focal Point of ICAED, was made all the more visible during a series of activities of the Coalition held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Federation and the Coalition, under the coordinatorship of AFAD was represented in meetings of UN bodies in March and November as well as in network, solidarity and advocacy meetings in the United States of America and Colombia in Latin America. Regular participation of AFAD in human rights events, media and side events and meetings of UN bodies in Geneva, as well as meetings with individual members of CED in Germany, Mexico and Uruguay

ICAED and AFAD representatives conduct lobby meetings with UNWGIED in March 2013…

…and Side Event on the urgency of Convention ratification in November 2013.

In 2013, the Patrick Rice Award was awarded by the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) to ICAED Focal Person, Mary Aileen D. Bacalso. The same award was awarded to UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Mr. Juan Mendez. Also in the same year, AFAD Secretary-General, Mary Aileen D. Bacalso was the first individual to have awarded by the Argentinian Government the Emilio Mignone Human Rights Prize.

USA---*AFAD Secretary General, Mary Aileen Bacalso, expresses solidarity during the 2013 Torture Survivors' Week in June 2013. At this time too, she was awarded the Patrick Rice Award.*

Incidental to the awarding rites in the US, the AFAD Secretary General, also undertook visit to Colombia for World Psychosocial Conference coordination, and meetings with Colombian partners. Incidental to the awarding rites in Argentina, the AFAD Secretary General conducted a series of network and lobby meetings and solidarity visits with: the Argentinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mignone Family; Madres de Plaza de Mayo-Linea Fundadora; Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo; Separate Meeting with Marta Ocampo de Vasquez, President of Madres de Plaza de Mayo – Linea Fundadora; ANADI; APDH; EAAF; CELS; Familiares y Madres de Desaparecidos en Uruguay; FEDEFAM; and UN CED Member, Alvaro Garce; visits to the tomb of Patricio Rice; ESMA (Escuela Mecanica de la Armada); Parque de la Memoria. The trip also involved attendance in interviews with print and broadcast media; in on-going trials; as well as Public Forum on Enforced Disappearances in Asia.

ARGENTINA *--- AFAD Secretary-General receives the 2013 Emilio Minogne International Human Rights Award for 2013 from H.E. Argentinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Mr. Héctor Timmerman. She is the 7th awardee since 2007 and the first individual to have received the prize.*

L-R: Ms. Bacalso; Mr. Gaston Chillier (Executive Director, CELS); Foreign Minister Timmerman; Mr. Martin Fresneda (Secretary of Human Rights of the Nation); and Isabel Mignone, daughter of the late Emilio Mignone.

5.3. Country-of-the-Month Campaign

Initiated by AFAD as the current Focal Point of ICAED in mid-2012, this international campaign involves letter-writing to relevant government officials and embassy-visits within a period of one to two months for particular countries whose position is closer to signing or ratifying the Convention or is scheduled to undergo Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

As the ICAED Focal Point, the AFAD, in coordination with the selected country-of-the-month prepares template letters addressed to government authorities of selected countries. The Focal Point then requests all 50 members of the ICAED to send letters which are made available in three languages: English, French and Spanish. Sample letters were drafted, circulated in English, French and Spanish versions, signed by the representatives of member and network organizations and sent to the authorities of government of particular countries. Selection of the country-of-the-month was done by the ICAED Steering Committee members composed of 10 international NGOs and federations and associations of families of the disappeared from different parts of the world. From January to November 2013, the focus-countries were Indonesia, Burundi, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Canada, Philippines, Georgia and Cyprus. An average of 15 organizations per month from different countries participated in this campaign.

B. Research and Documentation

TARGETS: Establishment of access to human rights data and information particularly concerning enforced disappearances in Asia which will serve as basis for review and evaluation of AFAD interventions. This is indicated by:

- A systematic and comprehensive documentation of enforced disappearance cases in Asian countries especially where there is AFAD presence and in a particular partner organization in Latin America;
- AFAD's regional data-base to be synchronized with ARMS system and the results be used as an integral content of regional human rights situation.
- Enhanced capacities of AFAD members in documentation, research, monitoring and reporting of enforced disappearance cases, managing the regional database system and in undertaking legal and psycho-social support interventions
- Conduct of researches on the Level of Awareness, Best/Good Practices, Disappeared Democracy Champions

- Increased networking/partnership efforts in the areas of documentation and forensic applications (i.e. Asia and El Salvador)

Summary of the Research and Documentation Program Work

1. AFAD Accumulated Database

The AFAD Accumulated Database is currently being utilized by the member organizations. At present, there are 329 total number of cases – events encoded in the system. The breakdown of the events are as follows:

Organization	Number of case-events in the organization's database	Number of persons records
Advocacy Forum – AF (Nepal)	38	75
Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons – APDP (Jammu and Kashmir, India)	42	104
AFAD-Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (Philippines)	53	111
Families of the Disappeared – FOD (Sri Lanka)	78	139
HAK Association (Timor Leste)	2	4
IKOHI-KontraS (Indonesia)	37	128
Odhikar (Bangladesh)	38	167
Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes (RCMH)	41	32
Total	**329**	**760**

AFAD's new member, NKHR has also expressed interest in joining the AFAD Accumulated Database System.

2. Public information

AFAD led the production of documentaries discussing enforced disappearances in the region and in the countries where AFAD members are working in. The regional video documentary Beyond Tears and Borders reflects the effects of the practice of enforced disappearance to the families of the disappeared. The production team interviewed the families as well as leading human rights defenders in their respective countries to provide insights to the country's context. Selected government authorities were also interviewed for them to share information regarding state efforts to provide assistance to cases and programs to the victims' families. The documentary film was directed by King Mark Baco, a Filipino director of top-rated documentary shows in GMA-7. [1]

[1] GMA-7 is one of the leading media channels in the Philippines.

The length of the documentary film is 1 hour. A 20-minute version is presently in the editing phase.

Last 12 December 2013, the Beyond Tears and Borders documentary was launched at AFAD's activity entitled, "Enforced Disappearances and Media" at the University of the Philippines – College of Mass Communications. Prior to the actual documentary screening , there was a short forum wherein key authority figures on the issue of enforced disappearances were present to share their reflections on the issue and the film. FIND Chairperson Nilda Sevilla discussed enforced disappearances in the context of the Philippines. A survivor of enforced disappearance – Boyet Itucal also shared with the participants how he was captured by state agents, was tortured and illegally detained while his parents were searching for him.

Country documentaries were also produced in Nepal, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Documentary films for Timor Leste, Jammu and Kashmir-India and Thailand are currently at the post-production phase.

3. The Justice Trail: 2nd Regional Training Workshop for Documentation and Research Staffs

The 2nd regional training workshop for the documentation and research staffs were intended to continue the capacity enhancement of the staffs including security management and digital security, provide an opportunity to review the country situations of the documentation project and review the database system for possible modifications. The training was organized and held in Bangkok, Thailand and was attended by the documentation and research staffs from Indonesia, Jammu and Kashmir-India, Nepal, Philippines and Timor Leste.

Country-level documentation work
Nepal

Case documentation and reporting

Advocacy Forum (AF) documented 49 cases of disappearances in 2013. 9 video documentations were also produced during the reporting period.
AF ensured that cases of disappearances are discussed in a radio talk show. 19 cases were featured in the radio talk show in a weekly duration.

Screenings of AF's documentary on enforced disappearances were arranged in 15 districts. After the documentary viewing, a thematic discussion was organized to allow the sharing of the audience' perspectives on the issue.

During the period, the AF thru the Federation issued an urgent appeal letter for the case of initial disappearance and killing of Krishna Prasad Adhikary. The letter was submitted to the Prime Minister Khil Raj Regmi with copies furnished to Attorney General Mukti Pradhan, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission Justice Kedar Nath Upadhyay and Inspector General Kuber Singh Rana.

Research

The organization also awarded 10 media fellowships to individuals who have researched on the disappearances issue.

A research on disappearances was conducted during the period. The said document remains critical in the tracing of the practice of enforced disappearance historically in Nepal.

Information dissemination

There were 16 community-based discussions organized to increase the awareness of the families of the disappeared.

Series of thematic discussions were conducted during the year 2013. The discussions were arranged in the districts of Eastern region with the family members of the disappeared. Specifically, AF organized the discussions in Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari districts.

The country documentary by AF was screened in 15 different districts followed by complementary thematic discussions on the disappearance issue.

Media briefings were also arranged to complement efforts on documentation and research work. A total of 5 media briefings were conducted.

Sri Lanka

Case documentation and reporting

The families of the disappeared held 3 discussions with the family members of disappeared victims in Vavunia and Mullativu on campaign and data collection. The team who visited the area met and discussed with three field workers to assist in trouble-shooting their challenges in the field documentation. The team was able to document 20 cases of disappearances.

FOD's network Mannar Citizen's Committee submitted information to the UN WGEID with an estimate number of 40 case submissions. Mannar Citizen's Committee collected about 57 cases and had to check the information and the supporting documents.

The documentation work focused on enforced disappearances after 1992 as a result of the war with specific case documentation in Matale (incidents committed during 1988 to 1992) due to the discovery of mass graves.

Networking

The organization was able to discuss to various non-government organizations and individuals the documentation work of FOD and the necessity to update the list of disappearance cases.

FOD currently has a general list of disappearances with the total number of 2,113 cases. Discussions were meanwhile organized with seven organizations – Home for Human Rights, Mannar Citizen's Committee, the Committee to Investigate Disappearances (CID), the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), Law and Society Trust (LST), Centre for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (CPPHR) and Rights Now.

There was a meeting conducted in Trincomalee with FOD representatives and priests working in the area. There was a discussion about laying the ground work on the East and possibility of documenting cases of disappearances there.

Campaign engagements

FOD also continued the follow-up of court cases of disappearances. The team visited Vavunia twice for this particular work. The organization also raised a campaign regarding 5 disappeared surrenderees to the Sri Lankan army.

The organization arranged for an event which resulted to the submission to the Disappearance Commission of a petition containing 2000 names of the disappeared victims.

Forensic Sciences – Investigation

Mass graves have been discovered last year in Sri Lanka. FOD is currently three visits to Matale to prepare affidavits. There are presently 16 affidavits corrected and completed. The visits to the site in Matale were complemented by protest actions during the prescribed schedule for court days. Leaflets on the issue are distributed in the protest actions and banners are exhibited.

Aside from organizing activities aimed to increase pressure to the Sri Lankan government, FOD has also assisted in the representation of the victims' interest in association with other lawyers. Moreover, succeeding discussions were conducted between the two to discuss the future work regarding the Matale mass grave.

Families in the various villages surrounding the area of Matale (Navula, Dabulla, Udukumbura, Matale) were met by FOD in small meetings. The necessity of campaigning on the issue of mass graves was emphasized by the group.

There was also an initiative of FOD to supplement information efforts regarding the mass graves through the planned production of a video documentary about the Matale incident. Initial work on this production started in 3rd quarter of last year. A publication about stories of the disappeared in Matale was also printed and circulated last 30 August 2013 in sync with the commemoration of the International Day against the Disappeared.

Another mass grave was discovered in Mannar. FOD organized the same process of visiting the area and networking with local civil society leaders. This effort resulted into two visits and a meeting with civil society groups, members of the clergy and political leaders.

Indonesia

Case documentation and reporting

The member organizations in Indonesia – IKOHI and KontraS, through the documentation and research person conducted field work in Central Java (Ambarawa) and Sukabumi (Pasirlangkap). There was a need to collect information of enforced disappearances associated to the massacre of 1965-1966 and the mass graves that were discovered.

The member organizations also worked on a video documentation of enforced disappearances in Indonesia. "Hilang" was used in various discussions organized by IKOHI-KontraS in different universities to supplement discussions on the practice of enforced disappearances in Indonesia.

IKOHI with AFAD submitted cases and a general allegation to the UN WGEID. Among the cases submitted were those committed during the Mei Riot in 1998, Disappearances from 1997-1998, and the Tragedy of Tanjung Priok in 1984.

13 cases of disappearances were submitted to the UN WGEID along with one General Allegation.

Database encoding

Cases or events were encoded in the AFAD-IKOHI database wherein data from the disappearances in the Tragedy of Tanjung Priok, Talangsari, the conflict in Poso, Ambon and Papua were uploaded in the system. Information about the cases in the massacre of 1965-1966 were also encoded. Information related to this period in Indonesia's history were based on the field documentation in the Ambarawa-Central Java, Blitar-East Java and Palu-Sulawesi.

Timor Leste

Case documentation

HAK focused on field documentation of enforced disappearances which resulted to 92 documented cases. The documentation is in the local language will be translated in English and will be encoded in the AFAD database.

HAK organized video interviews for the regional video documentary and country-specific documentary of AFAD. The video documentary footages were taken by director King Mark Baco.

A country situation report about enforced disappearances in the climate under Timor Leste's present government was submitted for the publication.

The HAK association conducted field visits to the families of the disappeared in their effort to sustain the involvement of the families. Key areas of the visits are in the area of the Bobonaro District where HAK in partnership with the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) in a psycho-social program facilitated the creation of a monument for 6 disappeared victims in the area.

The Institution of Human Rights and Justice Provedoria (PDHJ) and the Ombudsmen Office finalized an agreement with Komnas HAM in Indonesia to search for the children who were separated from the families during the conflict. The PDHJ are circulating a form to the families of the disappeared for them to provide information to assist in the identification of the children who were taken by the Indonesian military to Indonesia.

The Victims' Association are also distributing the form to other members of the Association for the identification of the persons who disappeared who are not children.

Public information

A public forum was organized by HAK on 28 August 2013 in commemoration of the IDD. The discussion was held with the National Alliance for an International Tribunal (ANTI). The families of victims and the Assessor of the President of the Republic participated in the event. Attending as speakers in the discussion were the ICRC country representative, the Indonesian ambassador, and Asian Justice and Rights.

Last 19 November, the HAK Association organized another public discussion wherein AFAD Council Members participated. Speakers from IKOHI and AFAD Secretary General Mary Aileen Bacalso were among the panel. Nilda Sevilla of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND) of the Philippines were also present in the discussion along with key local government departments such as the Foreign Affairs Department, Ombudsmen Office and representatives of different civil society groups.

Because of the enthusiasm of the participants, HAK organized a separate discussion for NGOs and the victims' families.

In their work to increase the capacities of the youth group, the organization has conducted a training from June to September. In relation to this effort, there were also interviews with the

families to be which will form part of the historical resources on the issue of enforced disappearances. HAK published a book entitled, "Voice from the Past: Some History of the people of Timor-Leste", with assistance from GIZ.

HAK has also continued its collaboration work with ANTI members for the commemoration of the 12 November Santa Cruz Massacre and the Invasion Day on 7 December. HAK was able to mobilize national and international media for the two activities.

Bangladesh

Case documentation and reporting

There were 14 reported cases of enforced disappearances by AFAD's member in Bangladesh – Odhikar. The organization also conducted four fact-finding missions during this reporting period. Reports of the fact-finding prepared by Odhikar were delivered to the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, Inspector General of Police, National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh and other relevant authorities for taking appropriate measures.

The organization also engages with UN HRC mechanisms to report cases of enforced disappearances. The case of Mohammad Ali Mohabbat was submitted for appropriate action. With regards to the research component of Odhikar's advocacy work, two focus group discussions were conducted.

The organization also works on capacitating human rights defenders, during the period, there were three divisional workshops conducted and two network meetings with the victims' families.

Jammu and Kashmir-India

Case documentation and reporting

The Association of Parents of the Disappeared (APDP) worked and documented 100 cases of disappearances with cases filed at the Human Rights Commission. Complete documents of an estimate of 40 cases have been preserved in an organized file and folder system.

From July to December, there were 6o cases of disappearances documented from different areas of North and South Kashmir. The APDP documentation team collected valuable information such as testimonies, police investigation reports and statements of witnesses among other legal documents. Consistent with the practice of the organization, the data is digitized and hard copies are organized and stored systematically.

A short discussion was organized to introduce the OpenEvsys database system to social work volunteers of APDP. 3 meetings were organized with the families.

In the process of the documentation and organizing work of APDP, family members have expressed their commitment to the cause through signing up for official membership to the organization.

Public information

The results of the documentation work of APDP were included in briefing notes sent to the European Union and government authorities.

Legal intervention

The organization has consistently sought legal intervention for documented cases. Legal case studies of more than 20 cases were prepared. Petitions and complaints were submitted before the High Court and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) for legal intervention. APDP has also filed a number of applications under the Right to Information Act of 2009 to seek legal history information about cases of enforced disappearances.

Networking
The organization also continues their linkages with civil society organizations to gather support for the campaign against enforced disappearances with meeting conducted with the Coordination of Democratic Rights Organizations (CDRO) among others.

APDP has continuously participated in different advocacy conferences and similar gatherings to represent the victims i.e. Lawyers Conference in Bangalore, etc.

Information about enforced disappearances and unknown, unmarked and marked mass graves, were discussed in such gatherings. Information materials such as campaign posters, perpetrator lists, report on half widows among others are distributed to participants of these activities.

El Salvador/Latin America

- Updated physical files and database system
- Gathered affidavits from families and witnesses through interviews with informants, witnesses and survivors
- Public presentation of cases before state agencies
- Improvements and updates on website as a tool for documenting, reporting and advocacy
- Meetings with government to obtain birth and baptismal certificates
- Search for documentary information in public and private institutions
- Facilitated DNA tests of family of disappeared children and young adoptees in search for their relatives

Note: It is important to note that in November 2013, the office of *Pro Busqueda* was raided by three armed men, its files and DNA samples were burned and computers destroyed.

3.2.9. South Korea

- There were efforts to document North Korean women, children, people with disabilities, and abductees as well as refugees from China to South Korea.

4. Researches of AFAD members

4.1. Two types of researches, e. g. on good and relevant practices for relatives of the disappeared in engaging with government; and on the level of public awareness on advocacy efforts of the Federation were undertaken by member-organizations in Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka as well as by the AFAD Secretariat in the Philippines, as coordinated by the Regional Campaign Officer (RCO). Researches in the first two countries mentioned were completed in 2013 while those in the latter countries will be completed in the first quarter of 2014.

4.1.1 INDONESIA: Research on best practices for lobbying for the ratification of the Convention finished and launched in March and is being translated into English.

INDONESIA --- *AFAD and member organizations s present research results on best practices of Indonesia's campaign for the ratification of the Anti-Disappearance Convention.*

4.1.2. NEPAL: The research output presented the history of ED in the country and is pending full paper.

4.1.3. SRI LANKA: AFAD member, FOD, conducted 50 interviews on perspective of victims, families & human rights workers and on the importance of commemorating the memorial and how has the annual commemoration of the anniversary of the monument contributed to raising the level of awareness on disappearances in Sri Lanka

4.1.4. PHILIPPINES: Policy research on good practices in lobbying for the domestic anti-disappearance law

4.2. At the regional level, AFAD commenced research on disappeared democracy champions in Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea and Timor Leste with the support of May 18 Foundation.

4.2.1. Research design, implementation plan and background research (April-November)
The research team conducted a series of meetings in order for the design, framework and implementation plan to be finalized. Background research and preparation of research tools and instruments were primarily done by the Project Coordinator with the able assistance of a French student intern from August – December.

4.2.2. Data gathering in Timor Leste November (24 – 28)

Timor Leste is the first country to be visited for the Coffeetable Book Project. With the assistance of the HAK Association, the project coordinator was able to conduct interviews and photo sessions with experts on the independence movement of Timor Leste, and families of the disappeared during the Indonesian occupation. The designated local coordinator, translator and consultant also helped with the photography.

In total, there were a total of 25 respondents composed of experts, families of the disappeared, University students, and ordinary people in markets or roads. The identified names are sourced from experts on and/or direct witnesses of the Indonesian occupation of Timor Leste from 1965 – 2000.

Since the field work coincided with the annual AFAD Council meeting, the project coordinator had the opportunity to consult this particular issue with the AFAD Council members. Their proposal is to not use the title 'democracy defender' since the understanding and appreciation of its meaning are relative to country specific contexts.

Another proposal from the AFAD Council is to make the criteria in choosing the disappeared figures to be featured in the coffeetable book more inclusive. The figures to be selected need not only be leaders of movements, they can be ordinary persons who, prior to their disappearance, worked for the betterment of their respective communities.

4.2.3. Indonesia (November 29 – December 4)

Data gathering for the Indonesia leg, was conducted with 20 respondents composed of experts, direct witnesses, families of the disappeared and students were interviewed. The objective of identifying at least three disappeared individuals who positively contributed to their communities before disappearing was relatively easier in Indonesia compared to Timor Leste. This is due to the extensive documentation that KontraS and IKOHI have been able to produce through the years of their work on enforced disappearance. The field work in Indonesia focused on the disappearances from 1997 to 1998 since most of those who disappeared during this period are identified as pro-democracy activists. Furthermore, as these disappearances are more recent, obtaining pertinent information about the subjects has been relatively easier.

The names of disappeared individuals were provided by AFAD member, KontraS and were chosen because of the prominence of their cases, and the proximity of their family members in Jakarta. A total of five resource persons – composed of experts and direct witnesses – have been interviewed during the field work.

Originally the country coverage of the coffee table was limited to six countries. Upon consultation with the AFAD council however, Thailand was recommended to be included. This is due to the fact that Thailand had a democracy movement which was met with enforced disappearance by the Thai government. Moreover, this is to maximize the trip to Myanmar, one of the selected countries that is very close to Thailand.

This means that there are still five remaining countries to be visited for field work: Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand.

4.3. Research in Jammu and Kashmir, India

This involved dissemination and prospects for replication of the comprehensive report entitled ***Alleged Perpetrators – Stories of Impunity in Jammu and Kashmir*** released by APDP in association with International Peoples' Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice in Indian-Administered Kashmir [IPTK]. The report examined 214 cases of human rights violations including 75 cases of enforced disappearances. The report depicts the role of 500 alleged perpetrators [identified by rank and/or name] in these crimes.

C. Psychosocial Rehabilitation

TARGETS: Families of the disappeared have undertaken another level in AFAD's psychosocial rehabilitation programs through the provision of psychosocial peer support to other families, indicated by:

- Empowerment of women-victims through the development of their healing capacities
- Development of pools of local women healers each in 3 Asian countries, Indonesia, Nepal, Kashmir-India that will conduct peer counselling to disappearance victims and their families.
- Experience-sharing platform on psychosocial and rehabilitation work

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RESULTS:

1. **Direct and local psychosocial support efforts**

1.1. AFAD members in Nepal continued with the psychosocial rehabilitation, Circe of Healing, for victims of conflict and human rights violations, under a directly-sourced new project supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNFVT).

As such it reached another level of direct assistance, in terms psychosocial and rehabilitation support to members, which can serve as basis for learning from the experience, replication, and continuing/higher level of psycho-social work for AFAD members in this country and in other countries.

For Indonesia, the intervention is a factor in organizational development and in activating members, as well as new discussions on revitalizing finance cooperative.

In most countries where AFAD has presence, the situation of the victims' family paint very dismal challenges and problems in mental and physical health and even death without having to know the whereabouts of their disappeared loved ones. These were cited in reports from Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines.

Nonetheless, the relevance and importance of the psychosocial intervention were reiterated in terms of: rehabilitation efforts; empowerment and capacity enhancement of families; organizational consolidation; and lobby efforts for relevant local laws and policies.

Elements of local laws and policies discussed can take the form of: direct mandate to provide psychosocial support, government support or trust fund in economic activities of the cooperative; and reparation for victims and veterans integrated in court decisions.

For the families' associations inIndonesia, they are concerned more with income-generating activities for victims of human rights violations in Jakarta; and, establishment and facilitation of legal identity of victims' cooperatives. It is important to note that families of the disappeared avail of psychosocial rehabilitation services offered by the Government as a result of civil society's campaigning.

For Nepal, the work is focused on addressing the direct needs of victims for psychosocial rehabilitation through capacity- and local coalition-building activities.

For the Philippines, a comprehensive psychosocial and rehabilitation plan that will also cover reparation and restitution as mandated by the Anti-Disappearance law is being mapped out.

1.2. Pending activities for the Jammu and Kashmir project supported by the WWDP were monitored by AFAD EC members. In the follow-up AFAD Treasurer, Mandira Sharma personally visited the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons.

In this regard, the APDP conducted a two-day Psychosocial Rehabilitation Workshop with the following resource persons: Dr. Muzaffar, Senior Psychiatrist; Shamreeta, Psychologist and Relaxation Expert; Dr. Arif Magribi, Psychiatrist and Senior Therapist; Ufra Mir, Senior Counsellor; Ms. Tazeen, Counselor; and Javed Ahmad, Theatre Artist.

With 9 participants, the workshop consisted of role playing, counseling, psychotherapy and mental health training. Participants were apprised about the APDP's psycho-social rehabilitation programs in order to overcome the psychosocial issues and problems faced by the victims and families of disappeared persons.

Dr. Muzaffar, while introducing the program, expressed that there is a great need of such psychotherapy programs because the government is not taking any efforts in this concern. He said that the families of disappeared are suffering from mental trauma because of remaining in unending pursuit of ascertaining the whereabouts of their loved ones. This program provides a support system that allows the victims for a common sense way of acclimatizing to their trauma: sharing stories and emotional experiences.

Ms. Ufra Mir handled the counseling session or the process of assisting and guiding clients, by a professional, to resolve personal, social or psychological difficulties. She advised participants that a friend, a companion, or a counselor can provide such support. They are the people who can help a mental patient to come out from the pain, stress, tension and trauma. A counselor can teach them how to cope with the situation and how to move ahead in life. It must be an interactive session and a relationship of trust.

KASHMIR *--- Participants learn counseling and relaxation techniques.*

Dr. Shamreetha facilitated relaxation therapy by giving some relaxation and breathing techniques and practical demonstration and advise to practice these techniques at home. The aim of this exercise was to control the minds, forget about the past and to concentrate on present without thinking about future. She mentioned that this therapy is used as self-hypnosis and should be done on daily basis. She prescribed that the relaxation techniques can be of great help for the mentally disturbed people. The participants
expressed content during the demonstration of the exercise.

Dr. Arifand Tazeen gave introduction about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder PTSD, a mental health condition triggered by witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event.

Ms. Tazeen and theatre Artist Javaid Ahmad explained many important tips to the participants. She instructed participants that following tasks are vital for the 'Job of counselling'

KASHMIR *--- Nine women-participants complete the two-day psychosocial support workshop.*

2. Local fund raising efforts for psychosocial and rehabilitation work

2.1 Available funding calls for psychosocial rehabilitation projects were referred to member-organizations which have the capacity to apply for grants and to implement such projects.

2.2 Considering the AFAD members' capacities and levels reached in psychosocial rehabilitation support to members in these two countries, Nepal and Indonesia have taken careful attention on the AFAD Council decision to directly source funds for such projects.

AFAD member organizations in Nepal and Indonesia developed proposals for psychosocial support and submitted to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT).
AFAD member in Nepal is currently implementing this project, as presented in the previous section.

Assessment of this psychosocial rehabilitation program was incorporated in the evaluation of the projects among the implementing members and in program assessment within the Secretariat. The notable strengths are that two members have been successful in direct fund sourcing for direct assistance projects and that the on-going focus of the projects was on women empowerment and members' capacity enhancement.

Too, the effectiveness of this strategy/decision to have the members directly raise funds and implement rehabilitation projects are assessed to have its good prospects, e.g. previous experience in project design in some member-countries; and challenges such as varying capacities and levels of rehabilitation efforts, inadequate tracking tool of individual efforts of members, and fund management.

3. Regional and International Experience Sharing on Psychosocial rehabilitation

With the decision of the AFAD Council, to hold the Third World Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice for Victims of Enforced Disappearance, Torture, and Extra-Judicial Killings in the Philippines, efforts to prepare for the Conference, particularly on conference concept, program and fund-raising were underway.

An international Steering Committee and National Organizing Committee were formed. Electronic coordinative and consultative meetings regarding the proposed conference structure and concept were conducted with the Latin American organizations which were involved in the two previous conferences. The Minimum Standards on Psychosocial Support are also being reviewed to be considered in the development of RA 10353-mandated comprehensive rehabilitation plan.

Multi-level experience sharing platforms are viewed highly relevant as these can serve as bases for the continuing design of psychosocial rehab interventions and input to the situation of psychosocial interventions at the regional level for the World Conference.

D. Organizational, Administrative and Finance Management

TARGETS: Organizational strength of AFAD manifested in the increased capacity of AFAD leadership, membership and Secretariat for advocacy and federation work at the national, regional and international levels.

RESULTS:

Leadership

The leadership of the Federation, through the AFAD Council and Executive Council continued to guide the Federation carrying out its avowed mission, vision and goals. Membership is developed and maintained through efforts at expansion, resource generation, capacity development and solidarity work. The day-to-day work of the Secretariat as the center for service and coordination has, like in previous years, been an indispensable part in ensuring the implementation of AFAD's work at the national, regional and international levels. Consciousness in ensuring regular planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects and personnel both through internal efforts and with the help of external facilitators helped much in the attainment of the work of the Federation. This program on organizational, administrative and finance management were vital to the results and activities of the other programs, thus support for this program was indeed of key value to the general advocacy and federation work of AFAD.

AFAD Council and Executive Council

The current composition of the AFAD Executive Council and AFAD Council and are as follows:

AFAD Executive Council Members

NAMES	POSITION	COUNTRY
Mugiyanto	Chairperson	Indonesia
Mary Aileen D. Bacalso	Secretary- General	Philippines
Mandira Sharma	Treasurer	Nepal

<insert photo of AFAD Council/class pic or in session during the AFAD Council Meeting in November>

AFAD Council Members

NAME	COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION
Adil Khan	Bangladesh	Odhikar
ParvezImroz	Kashmir, India	Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP)
YatiAndriyani	Indonesia	Commission for the Disappeared Victims of Violence (KontraS)
YettiSikumbang	Indonesia	Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI)
AmbarRaut	Nepal	Advocacy Forum (AF)
JanakBahadurRaut	Nepal	Conflict Victims Society for Justice (CSVJ)
FarooqNiazi	Pakistan	Truth and Justice Commission (TJC)
Brito Fernando	Sri Lanka	Families of the Disappeared (FOD)
AngkhanaNeelaphaijit	Thailand	Justice for Peace Foundation (JPF)
BoonthanVerawongse	Thailand	Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes
Sisto dos Santos	Timor Leste	Perkumpulan*HAK* (The *HAK* Association)
Lilian Lee	South Korea	Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)

The Executive Council (EC) conducted a series physical and electronic meetings relating to mid-year and year-end assessments and planning, Secretariat reorganization, Federation matters, and preparation details for the AFAD Council meeting. A physical EC meeting held in Bangkok in September 2013, and three (3) Council skype meetings prior to the physical meeting held in November 2013 in Timor Leste were conducted. Preparation of Council meeting agenda, and coordination with host organization and El Salvador network organization, *Pro Busqueda* were also done.

Another opportunity for EC meeting was in January 2013 when all members of the EC joined the Secretariat for the 2012 Year-end Assessment and Planning held in Kalibo, Aklan, Philippines and in July 2013 when the Chairperson attended and co-facilitated the AFAD Secretariat Mid-year Assessment and Planning in Quezon City, Philippines.

During the last quarter 2013, the AFAD Council conducted a physical meeting on November 18 - 24 in Dili, Timor Leste. It was an opportunity for the Council to review the Federation's Vision-Mission-Goals and assigned the Executive Committee to reformulate it to make it more attainable to assess the work planned, discuss social, political, organizational and human rights situations focusing on enforced disappearances in different countries and to conduct planning for 2014. The AFAD Council also discussed matters related to AFAD Secretariat Restructuring and Policies and Guidelines. In time too for the Council meeting, lobby meetings with representatives from Timor Leste government were attended by Council members and guests and the AFAD regional video was also launched.

Membership

AFAD has eleven (11) member-organizations in eight (8) Asian countries; two (2) member-organizations each in Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand and one (1) each in Bangladesh, Kashmir-India, Sri Lanka, South Korea, and Timor Leste.

The official list of AFAD member-organizations are as follows:

Country	Member Organizations
Bangladesh	• Odhikar
Kashmir	• Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP)
Indonesia	• Commission for the Disappeared Victims of Violence (KontraS)
Indonesia	• Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI)
Nepal	• Advocacy Forum (AF)
Nepal	• Conflict Victims Society for Justice (CSVJ)
Pakistan	• Truth and Justice Commission *(until November 2012)*
Sri Lanka	• Families of the Disappeared (FOD)
Thailand	• Justice for Peace Foundation (JPF)
Thailand	• Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes (RCMH)
Timor Leste	• Perkumpulan*HAK* (The *HAK* Association or HAK)
South Korea	• Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights

Secretariat

In total, as of December 2014, there are now 5 members of the AFAD Secretariat: 3 full-time female members, (including the Secretary-General); 2 full-time male members. During the reporting period, four student interns were accepted at the Secretariat Office but finished their work in December 2013.

Project and Program Funding
The following projects and partnerships comprised AFAD funding in 2013:

Funding Partner	Project Implementation	Project Period
DKA-Austria	First year implementation of a new 3-year project for Administrative and Organizational Support	2013-2015
Misereor-Germany	First year of the 3-year Philippine project for documentation, campaign and public information	2013-2015
Women's World Day of Prayer-German Committee (WWDP-GC)	Carry-over activities of Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Project	2011-2012
United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)	Round-up of Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Project Direct Assistance Projects for Nepal and Indonesia	2011-2012 2013-2014
Spanish Embassy in the Philippines	KaSaMa 2011 Indie Film Project	2012-2013 Note: Implementa-tion extended
EvangelischerEntwicklungsdienst (EED)-now Bread for the World Protestant Development Service (BfWPDS)	Second year of a new 3-year funding from the for regional and international campaign advocacy	2012-2015
OAK Foundation	Second year of the Project for institutional support, documentation and research, campaign and lobbying	2012-2014
Open Society Institute (OSI)	Documentation and Research Project Documentation and Research Project	2012-2013 2013-2014

	Documentation and Research Project	2014-2015
Aim For Human Rights for ICAED	ICAED Work	2011-2013
Canadian Embassy in the Philippines	Support for forum-workshop	2013
May 18 Foundation	Support for Coffeetable Book Project	2013-2015

1. Membership expansion and up-keeping, solidarity, and networking

AFAD has continued to work on improved organizational relationship with the national relatives' association in the Philippines, the FIND. This is manifested in part by the conduct of joint advocacy actions and project development and implementation through the Misereor Philippine Project as well as through the membership of AFAD in CAED, in which FIND is the lead organization, and membership of FIND in ICAED, in which the AFAD serves as the focal organization. During the AFAD Council Meeting in November, FIND was invited to be a member of AFAD.

Networking for forensics applications was undertaken through the reactivation and continued coordination of the Asian Forensics for Human Rights (AFHR). The network works on a coordinative level with the initial unities of the member-organizations included in the work of documentation and research staff. These unities included networking with identified forensic experts and practitioners at the country level and liaison work with organizations for fact-finding missions, etc.

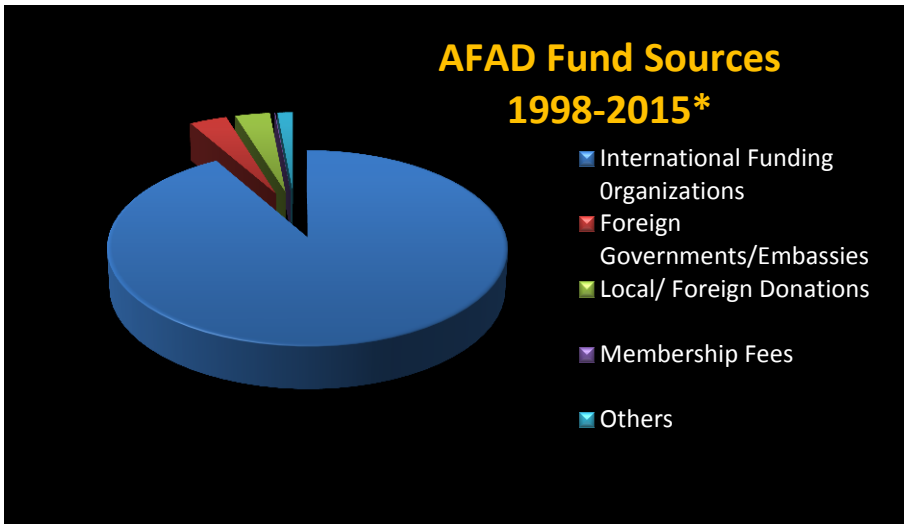
The current documentation project is also seen as promotion and strengthening of networks, as such is implemented in partnership with an ICAED co-member in El Salvador, the *Pro Busqueda.*

As the current Focal Point of ICAED, continuing networking with similar formations, e.g., families associations and international human rights organizations resulted in the expansion of ICAED membership from 40 in the year 2011 to 52 members in 2013.

2. Fund-raising

Relevant activities of the Federation included establishment of directory of funding partners, exploring new partners, appointments with international partners and other funding organizations incidental to response to funding calls and preparation of proposals, as well as responses to inquiries as well as reporting and other requirements of current funding partners.

During assessment and planning, a review of fund raising strategy and identification of funding priorities were done. There were also efforts spearheaded by the Secretary General to review and sum-up AFAD experiences in fund-raising from 1998 until recent years. These were conducted to provide inputs for sustained and programmatic resource mobilization for the Federation in the coming years.



From the sum-up, it was noted in the graph above that from 1998 until the present, AFAD has a total equivalent of more than PhP127 Million in funds or a rough average estimate of PhP8.5Million a year from the following sources and corresponding percentage of contributions: foreign funders (90%); foreign governments/embassies (4%); donations (3%); membership fees (1%) and other sources (2%). Funding grants from international organizations account for the highest percentage (or more than 90%) of AFAD's fund sources. During the January 2013 AFAD Secretariat Assessment and Planning, the current fundraising strategy and priority identified that most funding sources will still be from foreign grants. The AFAD will also later attempt to account for in-kind and other forms of contributions from AFAD members, local and foreign organizations and donors and government agencies.

3. Capacity Development

3.1. Justice Trail: Regional Training Workshop on Documentation, Reporting and Monitoring of Enforced Disappearances

This training was attended by Documentation and Research Staff (DRS) members, Research and Documentation Officer, Regional Campaign Officer, EC Members, Database Consultant and equally-able resource persons on human rights defenders' work, digital security and gender policy.

3.2. PMPI- Human Rights Dialogue-Workshops

The Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI) hosted the visit of a Human Rights Consultant from Misereor-Germany, Mr. Stefan Ofteringer from October 7 to 27, 2013. AFAD participated in PMPI partners meeting to help Mr. Ofteringer understand the human rights situation in the Philippines by engaging our network and different stakeholders in dialogues and in view of forging better cooperation strategies between Misereor and its partners in the Philippines.

More than 30 human rights organizations attended and shared on specific human rights issues/cases focusing on enforced disappearance currently being addressed by their organizations and the corresponding programs, projects or actions being implemented related to this. A dialogue-workshop on human rights issues was held on October 23 to 25 to discuss the

possible partnership with Misereor on the common goal of the promotion, protection and fulfillment of human rights in the country.

3.3. IPONs Red-Baiting Forum 2013

AFAD Secretariat was invited and attended the International Peace Observers Network(IPON) Forum on Red-Baiting on October 4, 2013 at Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City, Philippines. The forum aimed to discuss the history and causes of Red-Baiting in the Philippines and sorting down the different factors that could be affecting the problem. With the participation of AFAD, the issue of enforced disappearance as a consequence of red-baiting was put in the agenda.

Speakers from different sectors and groups were invited to share their thoughts and knowledge regarding the issue. During the conference, it was agreed upon that Red-baiting poses a serious threat to the safety and human rights of the people and that it is more than just a security issue.

During the forum, participants agreed to draft an implementing guideline for the Philippine government to prevent of Red-Baiting/Red-Labeling of HRDs and/or their legal organizations in conflict and non-conflict situations.

AFRIM (Alternative Forum for Research in Mindanao) presented the results of a IPON initiated workshop in Mindanao with the goal of further discussing Red-Baiting and identifying its effects on the lives of the victims.

3.4 National Capacity-building activities

Member-organizations also designs and implements local capacity-building activities for campaign and lobbying strategies as part of the federation-wide project and based on the notion that the member-organizations are in the best position to design the interventions necessary in their respective areas.

3.4.1. In **Nepal,** eight community-based discussions were held in four different districts of Mid-Western and Far Western Region, including Banke, Bardia, Kanchanpur and Surkhet, with three discussions in Banke, one in Bardia, two in Kanchanpur and two in Surkhet. The discussions were basically targeted to create platforms for the victims and their families, to share their experiences and to inform them about the back and forth movement to establish Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission of Inquiry of Disappeared (DC). The Advocacy Forum noticed the active presence of the community people and realized that they are truly ready to raise their voices against the apathy showed by the government.

Altogether, 255 victims and their family members participated in the discussions and raised their concerns. Among the worries and the despair that the participants expressed during the program, the Bills of TRC and DC, the concern of general amnesty on the bills, merging those bills into one ignoring the spirit of the bills to be victim-centric, the pending FIRs, interim relief, legal rights and remedies and about the management of their daily livelihood in the absence of the breadwinner, etc. are the major concerns expressed by them. The organization was also part of the group which organized the *Occupy Baluwatar Movement* to call government's attention against gender violence including ED. This provided an avenue for training among the members in asserting their rights, especially for the women

3.4.2. **In South Korea,** education program for North Korean students who are re-settling in South Korea as well as programs for South Koreans to learn about North Korean human rights were conducted.

3.5 Secretariat team-building and development sessions
The AFAD Secretariat, as the service and coordination center of the Federation, participated in a two-day team-building activity, back-to-back with assessment session in Quezon City Philippines. The team-building focused on personal-level reflections, staff inter-relationships, and conflict management. Also, the AFAD engaged the services of external organizational development experts and spiritual directors in the conduct of sessions on reorganization, organizational management, Effect Chain Framework, as well as on personality and spiritual development to enhance service-orientation in the advocacy work for the cause of the disappeared.

4. Organizational Management and Administration

4.1 Management and Oversight Functions. In the exercise of these functions, the Executive Council, composed of the Chairperson, Secretary-General and Treasurer, undertook the following relevant activities in supervision of the Secretariat: regular review and finalization policies and guidelines; review of organizational structure, and evaluation results. The EC likewise provided oversight functions in the Federations' financial management.

4.2. Council Meeting. The AFAD Council met in November 2013 in Timor Leste with representatives of six member organizations, 2secretariat members, 1 observer and two organizations from Nepal and Bangladesh who participated in skype. Some Council members were not able to attend due to unavailability of schedule. The event was maximized through the conduct of public events and lobby meetings.

4.3. Executive Council Meetings. Through the coordination of the Secretary-General, physical and online meetings among Executive Council members have been regularly conducted to get updated, review of the plan and activities, budget, funding, staff issues.

4.4. Bi-Annual Assessment and Planning Sessions
At the beginning of 2013, the AFAD Secretariat underwent its annual Internal Evaluation and Individual Performance Review with all of the members of the Executive Council and the assistance of an external evaluator. Key outputs of the sessions were: assessment report, program plans for the current year, discussion and proposal for an organizational structure of AFAD that takes into consideration the additional program and project personnel.

A midyear Program Assessment and Planning session was held in July in the presence of AFAD Chairperson to monitor the process, progress and results of the work and to address areas of recommendation and improvement of project implementation. It also served as venue to discuss, prepare and make adjustments of plans for the rest of the year.

Program accomplishments, lessons and recommendations were discussed in the sessions that guided the Secretariat in reviewing and finalizing program plans. These are significant inputs to program and project reporting particularly for those projects that are in its end-phase. The assessment and planning provided materials for continuing project and program development and fund generation and for the Federation's annual report.

Members of the Executive Committee present during the assessment sessions utilized the occasions as an opportunity to discuss management and organizational issues. At the close of 2013, plans for year-end assessment were underway and scheduled in January 2014.

Four members of the AFAD Council led AFAD's 2013 Year-End Assessment and Planning

III. Summary, Challenges and Prospects

From AFAD's viewpoint, the grave and odious state-perpetrated crime of enforced disappearance is still being committed, albeit in varying degrees, in Asia and the world over under situations of conflict, war, tyrannical or dictatorial as well as democratic regimes and under a vast culture of impunity. Ironically, the Asian continent, which has the most number of disappearances cases submitted to the UN WGEID also lacks domestic laws and strong human rights protection mechanisms at the regional or sub-regional levels that ought to address the situation. It was during the year 2013 that the first anti-enforced disappearance law in Asia started the initial stage of implementation.

The year 2013 bore witness to the alarming state of disappearances in Asia and to the continuing struggle of families' associations and the human rights movements.

The phenomenon of enforced disappearance is just one of the several human rights issues in the Asian region. The human rights advocates and defenders in the region, especially in South Asia, are also subjected to various threats and security risks with such recent cases of violations against human rights defenders from AFAD members in Kashmir, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Notwithstanding the common phenomenon and effects brought about by disappearance in the region, there are also sub-regional as well as per country similarities and particularities in terms of situation, challenges and opportunities in the struggle against enforced disappearance.

These conditions continue to serve as bases of interventions, results, challenges and opportunities in the unrelenting work of AFAD and its member and network organizations towards achieving strong Asian peoples' response and governments' response. There is also the imperative of coming up with breakthroughs in punishing perpetrators and of learning from the victories of other regions in the search for truth and justice.

The Federation implemented all of its programs and projects on the basis of the plans of the members through the management of the Council and the Executive Council and coordinated by the Secretariat. Program implementation and corresponding results, fund management and sourcing and Federation-building benefitted from the continued capacity of the leaders and member-organizations and in the increased number of Secretariat members.

The 92 Anti-Disappearance Convention ratifications and 43 signatures since its adoption, as well as the continuing implementation and dissemination prospects of the landmark domestic anti-disappearance law in the region, developments in state ratifications and filing of cases of disappearance, and the establishment of national coalitions against disappearances fuel the year-long work of AFAD's core program of campaign and lobby.

Despite the gains and developments, the campaigns AFAD, however, remain inadequate. Too, the challenges and opportunities of the changing national political environment are a crucial factor for AFAD and its member organizations to achieve concrete results. Finding or building champions within the government bureaucracy who will facilitate or support AFAD's lobby efforts is also important to push for genuine protection mechanisms and environment favorable to disappeared victims and their families.

The call for the signing and ratification of the Convention needs intensive campaign, at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels. The Federation ought to capitalize on the inspiration of the first domestic law in Asia and pursue the prospects of broader campaigns of families' associations and civil society coalitions and of sustained lobbying in the sub-regional, regional levels and with Asian governments– especially for those that have substantial promise close to ratification through government pronouncements. A planned multiregional exchange to be held in the Philippines in 2014 will be a main mover in this regard.

Intensive country-specific campaign and lobby work, such as what is being done in the Philippines and Nepal, is very important and has good potential for other members with the capacities to implement the work. Resources for the continuing work for the Philippines were secured for the next three years, while for Nepal, for another year. An Indonesia-project had been developed in 2013 and is being requested for funding support. However, necessary resource base for similar interventions in other member countries have to be ensured.

This can be complemented and enhanced by garnering concrete support of other national sectoral and multi-sectoral organizations; developing and maximizing networking opportunities and linkages with regional, sub-regional and international human rights organizations, inter-governmental formations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), among others. It is necessary for the Federation to engage with activities of NGOs related to ASEAN, being a body in Southeast Asia that has an Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Declaration. While seen

by civil society with skepticism, the role of civil society to push it to serve its very purpose is crucial. One possible opening is to knock at doors of the ASEAN is to bring to their attention, for instance, high profile cases in Southeast Asia, e.g. Jonas Burgos, Somchai Neelaphaijit and Sombath Somphone. Another equally important matter is to bring to their attention the imperative of signing and ratifying the Convention and recognizing the competence of the UN CED.

The Federation, having assumed the Focal Point of ICAED, has maximized its presence in international campaign and lobby. The Coalition was successful in being recognized by the newly established Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED). The Coalition's charter review and finalization present an opportunity for consolidating organizational and campaign gains of the Coalition. AFAD also needs to obtain concrete benefits from ICAED in terms of its regional campaign in Asia.

Too, the continuing benefits and prospects from the establishment of and access to human rights information in Asia, particularly concerning enforced disappearances, through the on-going researches and the management and utilization of fully operational regional and country-level databases should serve their purpose in the Federation's review and evaluation of the relevance of its interventions.

The Federation ought to take the full advantage of the opportunities presented by the management and utilization of human rights information through documentation, monitoring and reporting of disappearance cases; regular updates in country- and regional-situation, assistance in the over-all advocacy work, networking for documentation-related works such as forensic applications and human rights security, membership expansion and capacity-development interventions of the Federation among its units. This information will also help the Federation in considering and exploring other dimensions of disappearance which can be regularly developed for its advocacy messages.

The strength of AFAD's advocacy work as well as program and project implementation depends on the organizational strength of the Federation – its leadership, membership and Secretariat. There is, therefore, a need to strengthen further these units of the Federation by way of relevant capability development activities and the prospects of the restructured Secretariat to be implemented in 2014.

The capacity of the Federation, through some of its members, in pursuing another level in its psychosocial and rehabilitation program is a manifestation of the direct gains of the primary beneficiaries and partners, the victims and families' associations in terms of psychosocial support through their struggle against disappearances. The enhanced capacities in receiving and providing psychosocial support under the "Circle of Healing" and "Empowering Women-Victims-Turned-Peer-Counsellors" directed the Federation to a strategy that puts the development of this program directly under the members. While this presented an important opportunity for some of these member-organizations to pursue direct fund-sourcing for its respective rehabilitation program, a review of this strategy, however, needs to be done for other member organizations which have not yet undergone the initial levels of psychosocial interventions or of which capacities for fund-sourcing have yet to be developed.

A necessary opening for the Federation in this regard is for a regional experience-sharing on psychosocial rehabilitation program which will serve as venue for AFAD members to exchange and learn from experiences, capacities and strategies on this program and to plan for a more unified regional rehabilitation plan taking into consideration the various resources and capacities of individual member-organizations. Also, the opportunity for Asia in advancing focus on psychosocial support standards and interventions in the region is present as AFAD takes the lead in planning for and organizing the Third World Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice for Victims of Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Extra-Judicial Killings envisioned to be held in 2014.

Human, material and financial resources of AFAD are being raised through fund-sourcing and capacity-development strategies and activities. Identification of fund-raising and capacity development priorities is done in close coordination with the AFAD Council, members and Secretariat.

Also in terms of Federation-building, alongside the development of AFAD programs, there should be development of capacity of relevant personnel and units of the Federation. In general, program, organizational needs as well as individual capacity needs assessment should be the bases of a capacity development plan for the Federation. The number of Secretariat members working on various projects present both challenge and prospect for AFAD to continue and sustain these developments.

The prospects for inter-program meetings and consultations should be maximized at all levels and units to improve on strategies to ensure consultative and participatory programmatic orientation in implementation, monitoring, evaluation and fund generation and management. The AFAD Council, being the leading and highest policy-making body of the Federation in between Congresses, has to exert more efforts in concretizing and asserting its leadership in AFAD programs both during and in between its meetings.

In particular, the leadership of AFAD Council and the full cooperation of the members are imperative in the huge challenge of AFAD in convening the Third World Conference on Psychosocial Support.

The prospects of full implementation and completion of two on-going major projects - book and film on disappearances in the Philippines and a regional coffee table book project will go a long way towards sustaining the momentum of the campaign against enforced disappearance in the Philippines and will have contagious effect on other countries.

The following present opportunities for further AFAD's organizational development: summing up of the 15-year work of AFAD; support of partners and networks at various levels; on-going re-organization of the AFAD Secretariat that enhances AFAD's strategic relevance and program orientation; intensive resource generation and preparation for the conduct of the 5th AFAD Congress which will be convened based on an on-going process of summing-up; sustainability prospects and plans, particularly for the

development of the Federation's resource base in terms of human, material and financial resources, and organizational capacity in program development, planning, implementation and evaluation.

As AFAD is in its 15th year, it faces the need to strike a correct balance at various levels of work and functions of various units of the Federation and the imperative to learn lessons from previous evaluations. These challenges and opportunities are a reminder that not one or many human rights violations can silence the courage of victims, their families, and human rights defenders, but will continue to motivate the Federation in the coming years towards its vision of a world without disappearances and injustices, at which time such a formation as AFAD will be rendered irrelevant.

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Twitter: AFAD_updates

The Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) is a regional federation of organizations working directly on the issue of involuntary disappearances in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Jammu and Kashmir-India, Nepal, Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor Leste. Founded in 1998 to promote solidarity, lobby, communications, networking and advocacy among its member organizations and network, the Federation works with international, regional and national formations from other countries.

AFAD also serves as the Focal Point of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED).