

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances

AFAAD



2015

Annual Report

Table of Contents

I. AFAD’s Mission, Vision, Goals.....	1
II. AFAD’s Work in 2014.....	2
1. Introduction.....	2
2. Programs and Services.....	4
2.1 Campaign and Lobby.....	5
2.1.1 Lobbying work at various levels	5
2.1.2 Formation of National Coalitions	
Working on Enforced Disappearances.....	13
2.1.3 Country Specific Campaigns.....	16
A. Country Specific Campaign on Laos.....	16
B. Country Specific Campaign on the Philippines	20
C. Country Specific Campaign on Indonesia	28
2.1.4 Information Dissemination and Breaking Impunity.....	34
2.2 Research and Documentation.....	39
2.3 Psychosocial Rehabilitation	47
3. International Activities Conducted and the AFAD Congress	48
4. Capacity Building	52
III. Annex — AFAD Members’ Directory	57

AFAD's Mission, Vision & Goals

Mission

A world free from enforced disappearances and injustices...

Vision

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

An Asia federation of human rights organizations advocating truth, justice, reparation and empowerment for the victims and the reconstruction of the historical memory of the disappeared towards the eradication of enforced disappearances from the face of the earth.

Goals

The Asian peoples understand, respect and advocate for the right not to be subjected to enforced disappearance (by preserving the collective memory of the disappeared, learning lessons from the past, reminding 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 enforced disappearances;

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

AFAD's Work in 2014

Introduction

In the year 2014, AFAD entered its 16th year of trials and triumphs to attain its mission for a world without desaparecidos. During this Congress, the Defence for Human Rights from Pakistan was accepted as a new member of AFAD. Also earlier during the year, Shui Meng Ng, wife of disappeared development worker in Laos, Sombath Somphone, was accepted by AFAD as an individual member. This acceptance of individual membership an exceptional case because no organization could exist in Laos because of repression.

During this year, AFAD summed up its history, its milestones as well as challenges in responding to the phenomenon of enforced disappearances in the Asian region, taking into consideration also its role in the international sphere as the focal point of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances. This summing up was based on personal interviews with leaders of the Federation and from the staff and individual members of its member-organizations in different Asian countries. Important considerations in the findings of the said summing-up were based on reports and documents of the Federation during its last 16 years of existence.

It is important to note that 2014 was the year of the holding of AFAD's 5th Congress, entitled: "Consolidating AFAD's more than 16 years of Struggle Towards a Stronger Response to Enforced Disappearances in Asia." During which, the summing up results were presented before the Congress, highlighting the beginnings of AFAD that started in the Philippines with 3 organizations from the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Kashmir, India.

Like seeds that have sprouted and grown, AFAD has grown into a federation of 12 organizations from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and three

individual members. The solidarity that has been forged through the years resulted in AFAD's contribution in the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

AFAD also contributed to the signing and adoption of Republic Act 10353 or the Philippine Anti-Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012, the first and only anti-enforced or involuntary disappearance law in Asia and the promulgation of its Implementing Rules and Regulations in February 2013. In coordination with local and international coalitions against enforced disappearances, it also successfully lobbied for the signing by Indonesia and Thailand of the Convention and for the approval of regulations in favor of the victims. By dint of its track record in the work against enforced disappearance, AFAD has also been chosen as the focal point of the 55-member International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED).

AFAD has gained the support and recognition of the United Nations. It is closely working with the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances and to a certain extent, with the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances. Modesty aside, many of the AFAD member-organizations and leaders received international human rights recognition at the level of the member-organizations and the AFAD Council members. In 2014, Mr. Adilur Khan of Odhikar in Bangladesh, who was severely persecuted in his country, received in 2015, 5 international and national recognitions for his exemplary work for human rights in Bangladesh.

Convinced of the central role of the families of the disappeared in the struggle for truth and justice, AFAD also conducted series of empowerment programs for the families of the victims, e.g. Healing Wounds, Mending Scars; from Victims to Healers; Circle of Healing in

AFAD's Work in 2014

countries where it is located. These were culminated with the holding of the Third World Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice, which was held in Manila on 17-20 July 2014. It was followed by the conference, entitled: "Asian Forensics for Human Rights," which was held from 21-25 July of the same year.

Also noteworthy is the international conference that was conducted from 17-21 September 2014. The Inter-Regional Conference on Best Practices in Advocating Legislation Against Enforced Disappearances was successfully conducted, resulting in culling concrete and important learning experience that went beyond advocating legislation against enforced disappearances. The sharing of the inroads in finding disappeared children in Argentina, Guatemala and El Salvador were concrete examples and lessons especially for AFAD member-organizations in Indonesia and Timor-Leste who have a common phenomenon of disappeared children from Timor-Leste taken to Indonesia by Indonesian soldiers during the Indonesian occupation. Participated in by some 35 human rights defenders and experts from the field, it was one if not the best activities AFAD ever had in terms of sharing of experiences from Asia, Latin America, Europe, North America and Africa.

At the regional level, persecution of human rights defenders working on enforced disappearances were quite pronounced. The 2013 raid of the office of Odhikar and the arrest of its Secretary – Adilur Khan had affected the work of the local organization during the succeeding year 2014. This was responded to with several solidarity efforts from AFAD member-organizations and other civil society organizations, which then pushed for his release. But the work of the organization was never the same again as it continues to be restricted from its regular movements. Sri Lankan human rights defenders were equally persecuted, as concretely seen in the arrest of activist Ruki Fernando and Fr. Praveen. The international pressure from AFAD member-organizations, the AFAD Secretariat's picket in front of the embassy of Sri Lanka in Manila and the support of international organizations pressured

the government to release both victims.

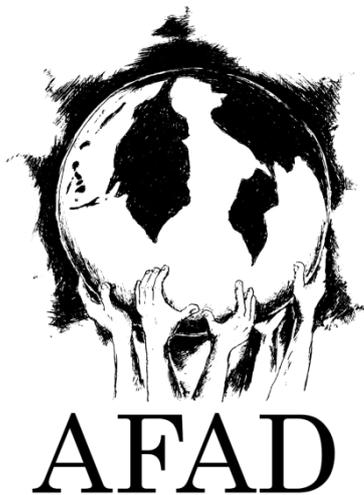
Without let up, persecution continued in Sri Lanka. One of the examples was the blocking of hundreds of families of the disappeared by elements of the security forces during the International Day of the Disappeared on 30 August. Moreover, towards the end of the year, the house of Brito Fernando was stoned, its window broken. It was followed by a hanging of a dog's head at the gate of his house. Also important to note is that on the 17th of August, the AFAD Secretary-General, Mary Aileen D. Bacalso was deported by the Indian Government, obviously because of her work against enforced disappearances in Kashmir.

The deportation was opposed by AFAD member-organizations, ICAED members and was reported to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UN WGEID), which, together with other related UN bodies, wrote a letter to the Indian Government asking for an explanation on the violation of the right to travel. While at the beginning* of the year, the AFAD Secretariat had to undergo reconstitution, necessary adjustment was done, resulting in the continued carrying out of its task as a center for service and coordination. During the 5th AFAD Congress, a new set of Executive Council and Council members were elected and plans were drawn out by the Federation's highest policy-making body.

2014 ended with challenges of learning the lessons culled from the 16-year summing-up, the plans of the AFAD Congress and the challenge of strengthening a newly reconstituted secretariat, to be beefed-up with additional members planned to be hired at the beginning of 2015.

Programs & Services

Campaign and Lobby
Research and Documentation
Psychosocial Rehabilitation



Campaign & Lobby

Lobbying Work at Various Levels:

Philippines

As a background, the Philippine government under the administration of Pres. Simeon Benigno Aquino III signed into law Republic Act 10353 or the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Act of 2012 on 21 December 2012. The law reflects the provisions of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CAED).

The Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA10353 was jointly promulgated by government through the Department of Justice, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Commission on Human Rights, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND) and the *Desaparecidos*. Financial assistance to victims have been initially implemented. A Compensation Law (RA 10368) was passed in February 2013; the Implementing Rules and Regulations promulgated in April 2014 and its Claims Board was constituted. In May it started processing claims applications. Victims of enforced disappearance during the Martial law will benefit from this.

AFAD took part in the review of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Republic Act 10368, an “Act Providing for Reparation and Recognition of Victim of Human Rights Violations During the Marcos Regime, Documentation of Said Violations, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes.” AFAD participated in a meeting convened by the Human Rights Violations Victims Claims Board in cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights. Further, AFAD sent written comments on the then draft IRR, giving focus on non-monetary reparation, e.g. moral, psychological and spiritual reparation and of going beyond monetary reparation, e.g. the importance of truth, justice, reparation, redress and reconstruction of the historical memory of the disappeared.

In the Philippines, the activities conducted by AFAD



International
Week of the
Disappeared
May 26 - 30

AFAD & FIND JOINT STATEMENT

Say no to disappearance, support the:

Convention Against Disappearance

Anti-Disappearance Law

in partnership with Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND) were focused on the implementation of the law and also for the government to ratify the International Convention Against Enforced Disappearance (CAED). Information dissemination activities regarding the law were directed at State agents such as the security sector, concerned government agencies and key publics were undertaken.

In particular, two forum-workshops were done with military personnel assigned in various camps in North-eastern Mindanao under the 403rd Brigade and those undertaking courses at the 4th Army Training School also in Mindanao (in these areas, clashes between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the New People’s Army of the National Democratic Front-Communist Party of the Philippines are frequent). These were attended by 130 soldiers. A similar activity was also done with members of the press and church leaders in the province.

A roundtable discussion was held with representatives of government agencies inside the legislative halls of Congress to lobby their support for the ratification of UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances



The activity had the online participation of Mr. Luciano Hazan, one of the members of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances. It is important to note that the event was jointly participated in by AFAD, FIND, the Free Jonas Burgos Foundation and *Desaparecidos* – under the umbrella of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), of which AFAD is the focal point. It was the first time that all these organizations conducted a joint activity.

Nepal

In Nepal, the **Conflict Victims Society of Justice (CVSJ)** and **Advocacy Forum (AF)**, together with other groups in the country continued to lobby for truth and justice mechanisms to address enforced disappearance and other human rights violations especially during the armed conflict. Two commissions were created - the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission on Inquiry of the Disappeared (COID).

However, an ordinance was passed by the legislature in March 2013 to merge the two commissions. In 2014, the move was successfully opposed by AF, CVSJ and other groups. CVSJ led victims' community filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) at Supreme Court (SC) on 24 March 2013 claiming that the ordinance is not in line with the international human rights laws and instruments. It also provides amnesty to perpetrators.

However, the Constituent Assembly of Nepal did not heed the legal arguments against the law and passed the Truth and Reconciliation Act of 2014. It was signed by the President and became a law on May 11, 2014. CVSJ and AF opposed the Act because it provides for amnesty to human rights violators.

In April 2014, the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC)

Act of 2014 was passed. The Act will create two commissions – Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission on Investigation of Disappeared Persons (CIDP). The Act is heavily criticized. The proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission is given the power to grant amnesties to those suspected of committing crimes under international law.

Victims have filed a writ against the flawed law at SC demanding amendment on certain sections of the law in which AF provided legal and technical support in the drafting process. Now, the petition is pending at the SC. AF has been rigorously lobbying to ratify the Convention against Enforced Disappearance and enact a domestic law criminalizing the act of disappearance.

Also, the government of Nepal has formed a nomination committee, which select the commissioners for the Truth Commissions in line with the current law, to which AF and CVSJ have stood against this move and been initiating debate in the national level about this issue. Hopefully, the outcome of the writ will come by April 2015.

AF is continuously having consultations with AFAD, Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), Human Rights Watch, and other international human rights organizations pertaining to the present TRC Act and overall human rights situation. Similarly, in June 2014, AF organized a special session in UN Human Rights Council for creating sustained pressure and its position on TRC Act.

AF also organized regional and national level consultations with victims' families, media persons, government authorities and local peace committee, political parties and their leaders, human rights activist, civil society and concerned stakeholders on TRC Act and recent development of TJ process. Organizing national consultations between victims representing different parts of Nepal and high level officials of different ministries concerned provided profound forum to table victims' issues and demands in result oriented manner.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, the **Families of the Disappeared (FOD)** together with other organizations continue to campaign for justice for thousands of victims who disappeared during and after the armed conflict. This happened despite increased repression and constriction of

democratic space in Sri Lanka. During the highly media-covered meeting of Heads of Commonwealth States in November 2013, it was able to organize activities in Jaffna in the North (where security is very difficult) in time for the visit of British Prime Minister David Cameron. Victims were able to meet with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay when she visited the country.

Their efforts, along with the actions of various groups around the country and the support of the international community against the backdrop of arrests of high profile human rights activists in early March 2014 contributed to increased international pressure against the Sri Lankan government regarding its ongoing violations of human rights. Thus, during its session in March this year, the UN Human Rights Council, through resolution A/HRC/25/1 voted to create an independent commission to inquire into the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. This decision was strongly opposed by the government of Sri Lanka.

In 2014, the UN Human Rights Commissioner and some foreign governments reiterated calls to address human rights issues in Sri Lanka, but the government has labeled these calls as interference in the country's independence. Relatives of disappeared Tamils who file reports with the police or government commissions are being questioned and harassed. NGOs also have to get permission from the government to be able to work with students, trade unions, civil society organizations, opposition parties. Families of disappeared Sinhalese are said to have lost interest in pursuing justice. The government also prohibits human rights groups from looking into the disappearances.

Pickets and even simple gatherings such as meetings and holding of services by the victims' families and human rights groups are often disrupted by the police or groups suspected to be working with the police, such as extremist Buddhist groups. In August 2014, for instance, about 600 people rallied at the Municipal hall of Vavuniya, Northern Province to commemorate the International Day of the Disappeared in August 2014. Police, however, blocked them from proceeding to the Presidential Commission to Investigate into Complaints Regarding Missing Persons to hand over a petition for government to act on cases of disappeared persons. Families of the disappeared, some parliamentarians and human rights activists participated in this rally.

In its February 2014 report, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN HCHR)

concluded that the government of Sri Lanka failed to ensure independent and credible investigations into past violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. In this light, "the High Commissioner recommends the establishment of an independent, international inquiry mechanism, which would contribute to establishing the truth where domestic inquiry mechanisms have failed."

Indonesia

In **Indonesia**, KontraS and IKOHI were able to sustain the campaign against enforced disappearances and other human rights violations of the past such as the victims of mass killings in 1965-1966; disappearance of 1998 student activists, massacre in Tanjung Priok, among others. The campaigns were instrumental in the Parliament's signing of the Convention. It was also able to sustain the weekly Thursday rally of relatives and friends in front of the Presidential Palace in Jakarta.

Both organizations sought a hearing with the Presidential Advisory Council for Legal Affairs and Human Rights to urge outgoing President Yudhoyono to act on the House of People's Representatives recommendation to create a Human Rights Ad Hoc Court for enforced disappearance.

The matter of ratifying the Convention was not discussed in the opening session of the Parliament in January. AFAD issued a statement calling on the Parliament to ratify it. During the reporting period, the country was preparing for the Presidential elections to be held in July of the same year. KontraS and IKOHI aligned their campaign within the elections and called on the Indonesian people to vote for candidates with human rights platforms especially in the light of the candidacy of former military General Prabowo Subianto who has been accused of human rights violations particularly the 1997-1998 enforced disappearance cases in Indonesia as well as during the Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste.

IKOHI and KontraS held a series of meetings with the political party of Presidential candidate Widodo Jokowi to lobby for the inclusion of a human rights agenda in his electoral platform. Some of these were the following:

A series of meetings with Menkopolkam and Wantimpres to: (1) give them recommendation on the workplan and substance of the presidential team on human rights and settlement of past abuses and (2) hold a series of meetings with DPR (*Dewan Perwakilan*

Rakyat, the Indonesian House of Representatives), MPR and other parliament members to push government to follow up DPRs four recommendations which include the establishment of a human rights court, among others. On the 23rd of June, a report was submitted to Bawaslu, an institution that watches the General Election Commission in relation to the latter's approval of Gen. Prabowo Subianto's candidacy. (3) hold a series of meetings with Transition Team to give them recommendation on the workplan on human rights and settlement of past abuses.

The Transition Team is a team that Joko Widodo made to help him prepare for the government transition. Also gave letters to the President and some state's institution on the resolvment of enforced disappearances cases in Indonesia. Rights advocates are optimistic that Indonesia's new president elected in July 2014, will deliver on campaign promises to address serious past human rights abuses, protect freedom of religion, reform the police and open Papua for international observers.

In August, the Regional Campaign Officer of AFAD participated in a research presentation of KontraS on the foreign policy of Indonesia where she was asked to give her comments. She reiterated the call of AFAD for the Indonesian government to ratify the Convention and the hope that this will be tackled soon after they have a new government. The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other NGOs.

By the latter part of the year, the Convention still was not discussed. Especially because the new government still adjusting and the President decided that the resolution of the past human rights violations (including the enforced disappearance case) is not a priority yet in Indonesian government's work plan. To note, the Indonesian government already signed the Convention on September 27, 2010. Right now, in the new parliament, there is a disagreement between the pro-government coalition and the opposition, where the majority political parties who were in the opposition does not support the resolution of enforced disappearances. Thus lobbying to the new parliament will be arranged on 2015.

IKOHI and KontraS lobbied various state agencies to resolve the 1997-1998 Enforced Disappearance Cases as the witness and evidence all of a sudden opened up in the public. Meetings were conducted at the (1) National Human Rights Commission to urge them to

call Kivlan Zen, a former Army Major General, who claimed knowing who is responsible for the 1997-1998 Enforced Disappearance Case and the victims' whereabouts. Finally, the Commission did call Kivlan but he rejected to come; (2) Coordinating Ministry for Legal, Political and Security Affairs regarding the resolution of 5 cases in Aceh that happened during Military Operations there; (3) Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, regarding the resolution of 5 cases in Aceh.

In Indonesia, IKOHI and KontraS held a series of meetings with the political party of Presidential candidate Widodo Jokowi to lobby for the inclusion of a human rights agenda in his electoral

Thailand

There was a promise from the Justice Ministry of Thailand during a meeting with AFAD and other civil society organizations in Bangkok in June 2012 that it would be ready to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances at or before the end of 2014. However, the country was wracked with political instability since the latter half of 2012, which peaked with a coup and the declaration of Martial law in May 2014. Thailand, being a target state-party to the Convention, did not become so because of the change of its political situation, which is not favorable to human rights.

Timor Leste

In Timor Leste, *Asosiasaun HAK* organized a series of activities to push the State to accelerate efforts to establish the Missing Persons Commission in the foreseeable future and to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances in the future.

So far, the Ombudsman (PDHJ) continues to cooperate with Komnas HAM (Indonesia) regarding efforts to search for the missing children who were separated from their families during the conflict and who now live in Indonesia. In August, PDHJ signed another agreement with Komnas HAM – Indonesia to search for disappeared children and began circulating forms for families of missing children to complete. However, for HAK, this work is not done with any urgency and commitment. The draft laws on Reparation and Memorial Institution were yet to be decided upon by Parliament.

Also in Timor Leste, a lobby meeting was held with

members of Parliament and the government to seek their presence in the commemoration of Marabia massacre. The intention was for them to recognize and dignify the victims' sacrifices. The result was positive as there were members who attended from both Parliament and government and they promised to establish a monument.

In May and June, HAK, with partners, continued to lobby the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice (PDHJ) and the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding progress towards the establishment of the Commission, in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission for Truth and Friendship (CTF). The meeting was sought to seek information about the results of the Senior Official Meeting (SOM) held in Bali in April between senior members of the Timor-Leste and Indonesian Governments. Based on information received, the SOM completely failed to discuss the issue of disappearance as it focused on the border issue and the assets Indonesia was claiming in Timor-Leste.

Worse still, it was obvious that both sides lacked any serious will to discuss the substantive issues around building the Commission, especially the means by which they would search for any separated children. For many years, the members of the victims' associations have used a variety of methods to approach and lobby our leaders, starting with political and religious leaders so as to gain support for the victims so they get recognition from the State through the law on reparations and the Institute of Memory.

Frequently, they have also taken the initiative to organize commemorations of massacre anniversaries. However, many of the events organized by the victims' families are not attended by representatives of the State, despite invitations. This further insults the victims.

On 6-7 November, Sisto dos Santos, represented HAK at the Forum ASIA Member Conference on the economic situation in Asian society in 2015. During the conference, there was a detailed discussion on the risk of enforced disappearances faced by human rights defenders fighting for community rights in the face of natural resource development and exploitation. They also discussed the situation of families fighting for their disappeared relatives. It was a new experience for HAK to realize that differing fora can work in solidarity with each other, to complement their work and struggle.

Following this broad discussion, HAK together with

colleagues from KontraS, Imparsial (Indonesia), and other colleagues from Malaysia and the Philippines (including the new Director of Forum Asia), took the opportunity to further discuss a number of cases of disappearances, including Sombath Somphone, and particularly the link between the phenomenon of disappearances of human rights defenders and authoritarian regimes.

Mr. dos Santos then remained in Jakarta to attend the Ikohi Congress for Victims of Disappearances, from 11-13 November. HAK the opportunity to provide a solidarity message to the Congress. This message was delivered on 12 November 2014, a significant day in the struggle of Timor-Leste being the anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre. It was an opportunity to remind Indonesian friends of our struggle against enforced disappearance and justice, that we continue to search and that perhaps another 10-20 years are needed before truth and/or justice might be realized but the struggle continues together.

During the conference, Sisto, together with two other Timorese activists, attended the weekly demonstration in front of the Presidential Palace to express our support and solidarity.

Jammu and Kashmir, India

In Jammu and Kashmir, India, the **Association of Parents of the Disappeared (APDP)** continued its monthly sit-in programs with more zeal and enthusiasm on 28th of every month. The regular sit-ins increased the participation and also invited the attention of those families who were yet to be part of APDP. Members from different districts and towns travelled and assembled in a local park in Srinagar to reiterate their demands for truth and justice.

During the sit-in activities the association issued statements asking government to inquire and investigate into all the cases of enforced disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir. The association continued its persistent demand for comprehensive forensic investigation into all unmarked and mass graves in Kashmir. The media covered the programs widely and turned up with follow up stories on the issue of enforced disappearance.

The relentless campaigning of APDP between July to December substantiated in exploring new ways towards addressing the problem of enforced disappearance, thereby constructing a spirit of solidarity within the

community which generated collective conscience against the phenomenon of disappearance. The practice of disseminating and sharing of information by APDP with the support of volunteers and community promoters, helped in building local understanding about the phenomenon of enforced disappearances and made people aware about the need of putting pressure on government for impartial investigation into all the cases of disappearance and delivering justice to the families of victims.

South Korea

In 2014, AFAD Council members, Khurram Parvez and Mary Aileen D. Bacalso visited South Korea, during which a forum on enforced disappearances in South Korea and other parts of Asia were presented. It was successfully conducted with the high level participation of several embassies. Split into two sessions, the conference, the first half focused on case studies from India-governed Kashmir, the Philippines and North and South Korea. The second half closely examined the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, which South Korea has not yet ratified.

Representatives from the German and Argentine embassies spoke about their respective countries' ratifications of the Convention and approaches to enforced disappearances. His Excellency Ambassador Jorge Roballo from Argentina delivered congratulatory remarks. NKHR called upon the South Korean government to sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance to show its will in taking enforced disappearances as a serious outstanding social issue.

It was also an opportunity for AFAD and its member-organizations in South Korea to strengthen their cooperation by discussing areas of further cooperation in the near future.

In Bangladesh, the situation is similar to what is happening in Sri Lanka. After the recently-concluded Presidential election which was boycotted by the main opposition, Odhikar noted an increase in human rights violations and the constriction of democratic space. Persecution against human rights defenders like the leaders and staff of Odhikar and those others perceived as critical of the government are ongoing.

In mid- January, a hearing on the case lodged against two Odhikar officials who were released on bail – Adilur Rahman Khan and Nasirrudin Elam at the Cyber Crimes Tribunal was held and the lawyer for the accused argued for the lack of basis on the charges against them. The government also restricted the avenue for human rights organizations like Odhikar to access funds, thus their operations are very limited aside from the serious security concerns.

Given this context, Odhikar continued to monitor and document the human rights situation and sought the attention and action of UN bodies and the broader international community. In March, it conducted a post Universal Periodic Review briefing in collaboration with the Embassy of Switzerland. The briefing showed that the government failed to comply to its promise to act on recommendations made during its UPR in 2013. Hence a domestic law addressing enforced disappearance is still far from becoming a reality at this point.

During the UPR for Bangladesh, the members of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) were mobilized to write letters to the UN expressing concern on the sorry state of human rights in the country.

Human rights award giving bodies recognized the work of Adilur Khhan who was bestowed a number of awards – the Gwangju Human Rights Award of 2014, the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award for 2014, the 2014 International Bar Association Human Rights Award and the 2014 National Bar Association Human Rights Award. He is also a finalist of the Martin Ennals Award Laureate for 2014. These awards serve as his security shield at the same time opportunity to speak to these international bodies and expose the real situation of his country.

International lobbying

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

On the 7th of March, AFAD was invited at a side event organized by the International Commission on Jurists on “Enforced Disappearances of Human Rights Defenders in Southeast Asia at the Palais des Nations.” AFAD Secretary General was a speaker where she detailed the situation of enforced disappearance in Asia and the call for the ASEAN to act now and address the problem.

On the 24th of March, AFAD as focal point of ICAED organized a public event to commemorate the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. It also coincided with the last week of the 25th session of the UN HRC where the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) simultaneously held its 7th session. The CED Chair, Emmanuel Decaux gave a keynote speech and three other ICAED members spoke including AFAD’s Secretary General. An open forum followed where the concerns of those present concerning their work and problems were answered by Mr. Decaux.

As focal point of ICAED, AFAD also organized the first ICAED General Assembly, which were participated in physically and online by 15 member-organizations, including Geneva-based member-organizations. Results of the activities are posted in the ICAED website: <http://www.icaed.org>. A general statement and several specific statements in solidarity with countries with gross human rights violations, including enforced disappearances were issued.

Sri Lanka

Council and called attention on the following: Twenty-four civil society organizations from Sri Lanka including the Mannar Citizens Commission wrote to the Human Rights Council:

1. Failure of the government to implement the recommendations of the Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) to deal adequately with issues of accountability;
2. The rise in religious extremism and the clear and present danger of further polarization between their peoples. A hate-campaign against the Muslim community has been intensified over the past two years; there is the sudden escalation of violence against Christian communities as expressed by the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka, which represents over 200 indigenous churches in the country;
3. The massive presence of the Army in the North which continues to heavily impact on civilian life on a daily basis;
4. Increased gender -based violence in the post-war context;
5. The increasing authoritarianism of the government expressed in the increase in the systematic repression and harassment of political critics, human rights defenders and NGO activism, employing the military and draconian provisions of the law; and
6. The culture of impunity extends to the media.

The letter expressed that there is no alternative but the establishment of an international mechanism for inquiry into human rights abuses, accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity with a UNHRC technical cooperation team and a time bound action plan.

Participation and Interventions in International Fora Munich, Germany

In April 2014 the World Uyghur Congress and Conference held in Munich, Germany had AFAD, through its Secretary-General Aileen Bacalso, as one of the speakers. Her presentation was entitled Reflections and Commentaries On China’s Policy of Fear, Intimidation and Coerced Conformation and on Strategies, Challenges and Possibilities in the Struggles Against Enforced Disappearances of the Uyghurs.”

The meeting was intended to highlight the issue of enforced disappearance of Uyghurs and other stateless peoples. The conference was aimed “to lift the veil of

secrecy surrounding the violent, systematic and widespread violations of minority human rights, to raise awareness about the growing practice of enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and extra-judicial killings as a tactic of silencing dissent, and finally, to create a platform for dialogue on the opportunities for ways forward.” (<http://www.unpo.org/article/16923>).

Bangkok, Thailand, Conference on Memorialization –

Impunity Watch, Swiss Peace, and Forum Asia organized a memorialization conference in the first week of November. In this conference, AFAD’s Secretary-General, Mary Aileen Diez-Bacalso was the only Filipino participant. She delivered a presentation on efforts in memorialization in the Philippines as well as in other parts of Asia.

Manila, Philippines, 6th Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum

AFAD Executive Council members participated in the said event held on December 3-5, 2014. AFAD maximized its participation in this conference by holding a photo exhibit at the conference venue as well as asking the organizers to incorporate a moment of silence into the opening ceremonies. AFAD also ensured that the work against enforced disappearance is mentioned and supported in the conference statement.

Formation of Coalitions Working on Enforced Disappearances

There are functioning coalitions, which were able to respond to issues on enforced disappearance in various degrees and a new one was formed in time for a big issue of national significance. These are reflected in the following countries:

Philippines

In the Philippines, CAED was formed to campaign for the enactment of laws and policies against enforced disappearance. Its members were also active in key activities and related campaigns such as the “United Against Torture Campaign” and in advocating for reparation of victims of human rights violations.

Some CAED members were able to participate in AFAD activities like the picket at the Embassy of Sri Lanka in March to call on the Sri Lankan government to release human rights defenders Ruki Fernando and Fr. Praveen Mahesan, a Catholic priest. They were following up on the case of a detained widow and daughter of disappeared victims in the North of the country, but they too were arrested and detained.

AFAD and FIND actively participated in the meetings on the operationalization of the National Monitoring Mechanism. The NMM is an inter-agency and multi-sectoral body that seeks to monitor progress in resolving extra-legal killings (ELKs) and enforced disappearances (EDs) in the past as well as those of the present.

Unfortunately, it has been more than two years since the NMM has been conceptualized and yet it has not taken a concrete shape and direction. One major problem is the issue of redundancy concerning another inter-agency body, the A.O. 35, which has the same mandate but without a civil society (CSO) component.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, a new coalition, called the Indonesian Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (local ICAED) was formed in the light of the Presidential elections. It is called the **Coalition Against Forgetting**, composed of KontraS, IKOHI, Impartial, Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation, Setara Institute, and other relatives of victims. It was at the forefront of the electoral campaign.

The Coalition put human rights, primarily addressing the crimes of the past into the electoral agenda. It called on the people to choose a candidate who will address these issues and at the same time it exposed the human rights record of former Army General, Prabowo Subianto, the other Presidential candidate. The general had the backing of the outgoing administration with well-oiled campaign machinery.

The coalition also coordinated 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. The coalition pushed for government accountability on past crimes of enforced disappearance. It is active in the every Thursday rallies of families of disappeared in front of the Presidential palace.

In May, the Coalition visited the Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) and asked that the human rights background of Presidential Candidate, former General Prabowo be investigated. In the last week of June, during its weekly Thursday rally, KontraS and IKOHI, with the Coalition, called on the public to vote for a candidate who is not a human rights violator. The group also proceeded to Komnas Ham and sought a dialogue regarding its earlier

demand for investigation on the case of Prabowo. It also asked for updates on the status of the 1998 disappeared students, among other cases. Another team from KontraS and other members of the Coalition proceeded to the Election Commission to push for its demand for the disqualification of Gen. Prabowo. Its key leaders were also invited in primetime news and public affairs shows and other media channels.

To note, the **Coalition Against Forgetting Movement** was formed by KontraS, IKOHI and other human rights organizations to put human rights and justice for crimes of the past into the electoral agenda.

Nepal

In Nepal, the **Accountability Watch Committee (AWC)** has been challenging the TRC Act of 2014 at the local and international level. Their efforts resulted in the issuance of a note of concern by the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). A series of meetings were undertaken with victims' groups, legal organizations, academe and diplomatic missions.

The AF explored the formation of a loose forum of senior human rights activists and got consolidated the concept with the establishment of the AWC. Taking lead of the AWC, AF has been challenging every negative aspect that the government of Nepal stepped ahead and provided substantial inputs in any issues of human rights to the government. During the course, AF held series of meetings with victims' groups, legal organizations, academics, media persons, international communities and government authorities, including ministries.

With the aim of mitigating the risk during the fight against impunity in order to advocate for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nepal, AF has strategically been mobilizing AWC and issued press releases and expressed criticisms of transitional justice process and declared their unwillingness to be in any part of such a flawed process. Further, AF in collaboration of **Conflict Victims Society for Justice (CVSJ)** Nepal extended its network to different districts of Nepal and different victims' groups are reformed and strengthened.

AF and CVSJ Nepal are working in integrated and comprehensive manner in strengthening victims' group network aiming to pressure the government of Nepal

from the ground level to central level for the ratification of Convention Against Enforced Disappearances and enact laws that criminalize the act of disappearance.

Advocacy Forum (AF) released a Special Briefing Paper entitled "Transitional Justice at a Crossroads in Nepal" in January 2014 where it laid down its arguments against the Ordinance and the amnesty provisions. The Supreme Court, in a ruling on the Public Interest Litigation case filed by CVSJ on 24 March 2013 on the matter, declared on January 2, 2014, the ordinance unconstitutional and violates international human rights laws.

AF has provided legal assistance to the victims' families to file cases at different courts on 128 conflict era cases. In December 2014, the District Court, Dailekh, issued a final verdict on the murder of Scriber Dekendra Raj Thapa. Journo Thapa was abducted on 26 June 2004. He was then reportedly injected severe torture and buried alive. The case had been sub-judice for the last 22 months. Despite UCPN Maoist led coalition government's direction, on 9 January 2013 to immediately halt all investigations into the case, the Court finally ruled its verdict.

The Court delivered the final verdict after hearing the arguments of both the plaintiff and the defendants, keeping open the provision to grant amnesty to the perpetrators and reparation to the victims. The Court sentenced two years of imprisonment to Nirak Ghartimagar, Harilal Pun and Jaya Bahadur Shahi. Lakshiram Ghartimagar and Bir Bahadur KC were ruled for one and a half years and one year of incarceration respectively. Also, the court asked the District Prison to release Bir Bahadur and Lakshiram, stating that they had served their terms by the time. All the five convicts were remanded into judicial custody for two years. The court has also decided to keep on hold the cases of four other accused who are at large.

Though this verdict is not that much encouraging in relation to sentencing for a serious crime, it however, has deconstructed the notion hovering around Nepalese transition that the existing criminal justice system is not binding to look after the conflict-era cases and that these cases will be attracted under TRC Law. Also, this has depicted the truth that seeking justice for victims of conflict in Nepal is still much challenging. Similarly, AF has submitted 8 conflict era cases representing 17 individuals at the UN Human Rights Committee, using individual complaint mechanism under the First Optional Protocol of International Covenant for Civil

and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, more organizations collaborated with FOD in terms of information sharing on cases of enforced disappearance. These are Home for Human Rights, Mannar Citizen Committee, CID, International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism, Law and Society Trust, CPPHR – Trincomalee, and Rights Now. During the visit of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, 4 other networks collaborated and were able to mobilize 800 participants composed of families of victims, fisherfolk and farmers. These organizations include: Network – Colombo, Trincomalee, Kurunagala – Platform for Freedom, NAFSO - IDP camps from three areas.

An organization called Relatives Searching for the Disappeared Family Members” was formed in Vavniya, Mulathive, Kilinochchi through the initiative of FOD and Mannar Citizen Committee (MCC).

The formation of these organizations and coalitions enabled more relatives of victims to participate and be heard in the overall struggle for truth and justice for victims of human rights violations especially the disappeared. Given the increasing political repression in the country, the visible presence of these coalitions in demanding justice for enforced disappearance victims and other human rights violations and in exposing ongoing repressive government policies and actions resulted in a UN Human Rights Resolution in March 2014 for the creation of an independent investigation.

8 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 believe their relatives were part of those buried in the Matale mass grave submitted affidavits and 14 were collected. Early this year, FOD and other groups monitored the hearings conducted by the Commission on Inquiry of Disappearances and documented its observations.

There were increased activities in the North with the formation of the “Relatives Searching for the Disappeared Family Members” in Mannar, Vavniya, Mulathive, Kilinochchi through the initiative of FOD and Mannar Citizen Committee (MCC). The human

rights situation in the North was also highlighted in local and international media with the arrest in March of prominent human rights defenders Ruki Fernando and Fr. Praveen Mahesan, a Catholic priest.

International organizations and foreign governments from Europe and North America condemned the arrests. The government of President Mahendra Rajapaksa buckled to international pressure and released Messrs. Fernando and Fr. Mahesan. Solidarity protest actions were conducted by AFAD and member organizations in some countries such as in partnership with FIND and other members of the Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance (CAED). Other member organizations sent the statement of AFAD to the concerned embassies in their own countries.

In April, representatives from various organizations met to discuss the implications of the Prevention of Terrorism Act and their possible actions. They acknowledged the need to “put forward a well-coordinated effort, especially at this time when we are getting ready for an important program ahead because arbitrary arrests may continue.”

Country Specific Campaigns

A. Country Specific Campaign for Laos

AFAD has a short term solidarity campaign on Laos. It supported Shui-meng, wife of disappeared Lao disappeared development worker, Sombath Somphone, to submit his case to the UN WGEID. As stated in this report's introduction, Shui meng was accepted as an individual member of AFAD since July 2014. Since then, AFAD and its member organizations have been campaigning on the case of Sombath.

Shui-meng had been invited in the two international conferences of AFAD held in Manila in July 2014, i.e. the World Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice and the Asian Forensics for Human Rights. During which, activities were simultaneously conducted with her, details of which could be found in the country

specific activities, particularly on the Philippines, related to Solidarity with Laos, as both conferences mentioned were held in the Philippines. AFAD received some support for solidarity with Laos campaign, hence, on the occasion of the 2nd anniversary of Sombath on 15 December 2014, it conducted regionally-coordinated activities in several countries as stated below:

Solidarity with Sombath in Pakistan

"Shui Meng! We are with you", members of Defence of Human Rights Pakistan, conveyed this message in a demonstration in front of Parliament Building in Islamabad on December 15. Led by its Chairperson, Amina Masood Janjua, whose husband also disappeared, the event was an expression of solidarity for Shui Meng, wife of Sombath Somphone who disappeared in Laos on December 15, 2012.

A delegation presented a memorandum to the UN representative Mr. Timo Pakkala at Islamabad. The memorandum calls upon the UN to increase its efforts for the abolition of enforced disappearance from the world. Amina Janjua also handed over a letter for the President of Laos for the recovery of Sombath



Somphone.

Relatives wrote to Shui Meng at the DHR office and scanned copies were sent to Shui Meng. Defence of Human Rights also released a press statement.

Solidarity with Sombath in Thailand

On December 15, a talk on “Imagine there’s no abduction...” with Sombath Somphone's friend, Pratubjit Neelapaijit (daughter of human rights lawyer Somchai Neelapaijit), and Pinnapa Preuksapan (wife of Karen community leader Porlajee “Billy” Rakchongcharoen) was conducted.

Shui-Meng was joined at the press conference by three other speakers: Angkhana Neelapaijit, wife of disappeared Thai human rights lawyer Somchai Neelapaijit and Sam Zarifi of the International Commission of Jurists; and Matilda Bogner, Southeast Asia representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Earlier, on December 11, a press conference was organized and held at Foreign Correspondents’ Club, Bangkok.



Solidarity with Sombath in the Philippines

As mentioned earlier in the report, Shui Meng Ng was invited to participate in AFAD’s international conferences on psychosocial support as well as on forensics for human rights both held in Manila in July 2014. During which, simultaneous appointments were made for her to meet important people in Manila.

These meetings, focusing on the case of Sombath, on the situation of Laos and on the importance of the signing and ratification of the Convention on Enforced Disappearances, were with the following offices:

- Ramon Magsaysay Foundation
- Representative Walden Bello
- Representative Risa Hontiveros – Baraquel
- Commission on Human Rights Chairperson Loretta Ann Rosales.
- Focus on the Global South
- Chief of staffs of Senators Grace Poe and of Senator Pia Cayetano

These activities enabled Shui meng to get some support on the case of her husband in various ways.

On 15 December, the Focus on the Global South with other partners went to the Lao Embassy and hand over a letter co signed by AFAD to the Lao Embassy representative, did some singing, delivered messages and brought images of Sombath, including small banners asking for his safe return. No one opened the gate so they left the letter at the door. The participants took photos of the front of the embassy with their posters calling on the government to surface Sombath.

AFAD conducted a roundtable discussion with relatives of the disappeared with members of the Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance with the support of Ramon Magsaysay Foundation. On December 15, from 11:00-1:30, ten photographers from major newspapers and tabloids came to cover the activity. The correspondent from UCAN also attended and stayed all throughout to cover the event. 45 people, including families of the disappeared in Manila, attended the discussion with the theme: “Different lives, different stories, one struggle.”

The CCTV on Sombath stopped by the police was shown and also the message of Shui Meng. A video of solidarity messages from the US, Europe and Middle East members of ICAED was also shown. Such video were also posted in AFAD’s social media.

A representative of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation Award also delivered a solidarity message.

Relatives and representatives from Amnesty International, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND) and Jonas Burgos Foundation

gave their messages.

Participants then signed the letter prepared by AFAD to the Lao government with the message: **Two years are indeed long enough. We need answers. We ask your government to Return Sombath Safely.** A big tarpaulin for the roundtable discussion was produced. A standee poster was also positioned at the gate of the venue. Flyers and posters with the message: **“Where is Sombath?”** were produced. Digital files were sent to members of AFAD for them to use in their respective activities.

14 December, AFAD Secretariat members had a group photo posted on its Facebook page with the face of Sombath and the words:

Where is Sombath?

12/15/12

12/15/14

Solidarity with Sombath in Jammu and Kashmir, India Association of Parents of the Disappeared

Dec. 16, 2014 - A very meaningful Skype meeting between APDP members and Shui Meng. The families of the disappeared were inspired by Shui Meng. The 16 family members of the disappeared and other APDP officers were very happy to speak to Shui Meng. They also saw different videos of Shui Meng and also saw the CCTV footage of Sombath's disappearance. A letter to the Laos Embassy in New Delhi was also faxed.

Solidarity with Sombath in Sri Lanka



Silent protest and handing over a petition to UN Office Sri Lanka on Sombath's disappearance on the case of Sombath were conducted by the Families of the Disappeared (FOD) on 16 December 2015.

Staff of Families of the Disappeared and other organizations gathered in front of the UN Office Colombo from 3:00 to 3:30 PM, with a banner. 20 participants were wearing T-shirts and others in uniform of the "Against craze – Street protest" movement. At 3:30, as the residential coordinator was not in the country, on behalf of the UN Permanent resident officer, one of the staff members, Mr. Steve Pantling, UN Deputy Security Advisor received the petition in front of the UN Office. He said he will forward the petition to the necessary section of the UN





office and through the UN mechanism. They will try to involve with the Laos Government to find the truth according to the UN mechanisms. 38 persons, including 3 lawyers, representing 9 organizations were present.

Solidarity with Sombath in Bangladesh

Dec. 20, 2014 — Discussion on Sombath was included in the "Capacity Building Training on Enforced Disappearance," among 25 participants consisting of human rights defenders, victims' family members and civil society members.

In the morning of 20 December, before conducting the inaugural session of the training programme, human rights defenders who are associated with Odhikar and the families of the disappeared made a human chain in front of the CARITAS Building and expressed their solidarity for the return of Ramon Magsaysay Award laureate and Development Worker of Laos, Sombath Samphone, who was disappeared on December 15, 2012.

Adilur Rahman Khan, expressing solidarity with the

disappearance of Lao Developmental worker Sombath Somphone, said that all persons including political activists and professionals who were disappeared in Bangladesh will have to be returned to their families. He said, mass prevention needs to be created through a democratic movement in order to stop gross human rights violations like enforced disappearance, by creating mass awareness.



B. Country Specific Campaign for the Philippines



Test Case Using the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Law

In preparation for the filing of an enforced disappearance case under RA 10353, the Anti-Enforced or Anti-Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012 for the PICOP 6 victims, consultation with FIND’s volunteer coordinator in its Northern Mindanao Chapter was maintained in order to get updates from the families of the victims involved in the case as well as the case witness. Follow-ups were also made with the solicitor assigned to the appeal filed by Corporal Billones against the decision issued by Patin-ay Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Dante Luz N. Viacrusis, but there has been no final resolution yet.

AFAD and FIND successfully organized a case conference where a plan was put in place to ensure the progress of the PICOP 6 case. AFAD is now working closely with FIND along with its legal counsel to ensure that there is progress in the PICOP 6 case that will be used as test case under the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Law (RA 10353).

Film Production, “Walang Paalam” or “No Goodbyes”

The production of the KaSaMa Indie Film Project supported by the Spanish Embassy and Commission on Human Rights under the KaSaMa Search 2011 has been finished in March this 2013. A private screening was held with representatives from AFAD, FIND, Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and Dakila. All films were finally produced and approved by all stakeholders as one full-length film entitled “Walang Paalam” (No Goodbyes). But due to the tight deadlines, the target public screening date of December 10, 2014 was not met. It was then agreed that next best date to hold the public screening was around the EDSA Anniversary of the following year.

In addition to the planned February 26 screening, “Porferia” and “Celio” were made in theaters as standalone short films. “Porferia” was screened at Ayala Mall Cinemas in November 2014 as an entry to the Cinema One Film Festival. The theatrical screening was followed by a series of screenings on Cinema One CableTV. “Celio” was shown at the Trinoma Cinemas as an entry to the QCinema (Quezon City Cinema) Film Festival.

Reform of the Armed Forces: A Forum-workshop in Bukidnon with Philippine soldiers

On the previous report to Misereor, AFAD highlighted one of its new trailblazing initiatives: engagement with the armed forces through fora, trainings and workshops. As part of the International Week of the Disappeared, AFAD went to the province of Bukidnon in the south of the Philippines to conduct a series of trainings and workshops for different sectors. Bukidnon is a hotspot of military activity due to the strong presence of insurgents in the area.

Under the present reform-oriented administration, the leadership of the Armed Forces of the Philippines launched a sweeping reform project aimed at



AFAD and FIND poses with Philippine soldiers after our forum-workshop

establishing “A world-class Army that is a source of national pride.” One of the pillars of this vision, according to AFP, is a strong commitment to protect and promote human rights. This is an opportunity that AFAD and FIND enthusiastically took as AFP, according to statistics from FIND, has been and remains to be the government agency reported to have the most number of enforced disappearance cases perpetrated.

AFAD and FIND conducted two forum-workshops with 403rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army and 4TH Army Training Group in Camp Bahian, Malaybalay City Bukidnon. The former do not have battle experience while the latter mostly having battle experience. The response of the army personnel who participated in the activities were mostly very positive, many even committing to raise awareness about the issue. Still, some soldiers expressed contradicting views, which are essentially disagreements over the non-derogability of the right not to be disappeared.



AFAD Project Coordinator, Ron de Vera, sharing his experience as son of a disappeared during the presentation of the results of the research on the Security Sector's level of awareness of enforced disappearance

AFAD maximized these activities by allowing the participants to participate in our research aimed at gauging the level of public awareness about enforced disappearance and testing our teaching/training methods. Facilitated by AFAD’s Regional Campaign Officer, the training revealed that there was a very low understanding on human rights and enforced disappearance. There was a marked improvement of the said understanding after the activity. Some participants, especially those who confessed to have committed violations, made a commitment not to repeat what they committed in the past.

Due to the positive outcomes, AFAD and FIND envision to expand this training program to more military camps in the Philippines.

Discussion with Army Leaders

AFAD and FIND's activities in Bukidnon also provided them with a chance to talk to army leaders. This engagement gave them insights on the power structure and the decision-making process of the military, its reform agenda, especially on human rights.

Working with the AFP Human Rights Office

In the last few years, AFPHRO has been very cooperative with AFAD. It has consistently responded to AFAD's invitations. This year they sent representatives to the round-table discussion on the Convention and assisted AFAD in organizing its activities in Bukidnon. AFAD considers the AFP HR Office as an important partner in its goal to be part of army reform.

As a follow up to the activities of the previous reporting period, AFAD completed the loop by going back to the security sector and presenting to them the results of the research on the level of awareness around enforced disappearances. Although it is too early to see any impactful changes within the security sector, it would be safe to say that this follow up activity, along with the activities of the previous reporting period, has further strengthened the working relationship between the said sector and AFAD.

Besides the military, AFAD and FIND targeted two equally important sectors: the church and media in Bukidnon. In a joint forum-workshop, representatives from different church and media organizations learned about enforced disappearance and the role of their

respective sectors in reporting and preventing the crime.

Meeting with families of the disappeared in Bukidnon, FIND took this opportunity to gather and meet relatives of the disappeared for the first time in Bukidnon. Although an area with a long record of enforced disappearance, FIND has not established a chapter in Bukidnon. Through the help of Ms. Rose Deano, a FIND member based in a nearby province, the meeting gathered a number of relatives of the disappeared and other human rights violations. The meeting had an opportunity for FIND and AFAD to discuss enforced disappearance, the Anti-Disappearance Law, the Convention and the Reparation law.

Radio interviews

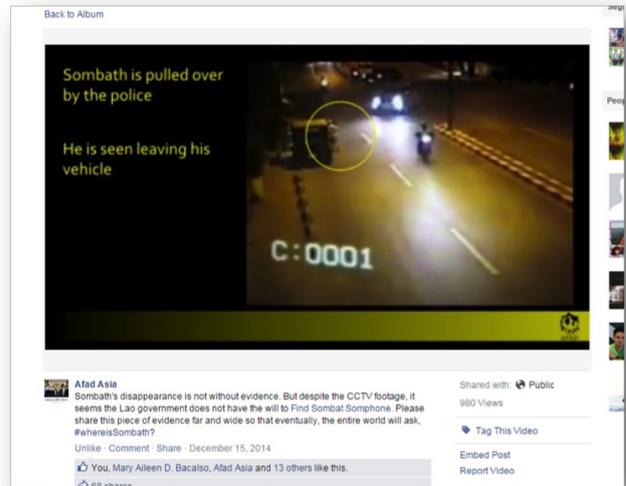
AFAD and FIND identified the radio as an important medium to inform the public about the issue of enforced disappearance. This view is shared by other local and international human rights organizations and supported by radio usage statistics in the Philippines. AFAD and FIND attended a number of radio interviews, mostly to explain what is enforced disappearance, its effects, and the different mechanisms already in or should be in place to address the crime.

In a radio interview held in Malaybalay Bukidnon, AFAD and FIND also helped explain to the general public the new reparation law and the contacts needed to make victims of martial law aware as to where they would send their applications to avail of the monetary reparation for victims and their next of kin. The activity





Video clips showing Sombath’s abduction and Shui Meng’s message



was very important because the radio is the most popular means of getting information especially by the majority of the Filipinos from remote areas.

Connecting through social media

In an effort to reach a younger and wider audience, AFAD continues to improve its social media presence through regular and timely posting of statements, event updates, campaign calls, and news on enforced disappearance and other human rights violations. AFAD’s social media audience is increasing. We have also started to use Facebook promotions to attract more followers.

Screenshot of one of five solidarity videos from human rights defenders around the world

The second half of 2014 has been a strong part of the year for AFAD in terms of social media presence. AFAD was able to produce a series of short videos of solidarity messages from human rights all over the world, which it released on the International Human Rights Day.

In addition to the solidarity videos, AFAD also produced a short video as supplement to its solidarity work with the Sombath initiative. The video was released on the commemoration of Sombath Somphone’s disappearance on December 15.

AFAD maximized its use of its website. Instead of waiting for traditional media outlets to carry AFAD’s statements, AFAD was able to use its website as a platform to instantly convey and share its messages. AFAD released timely and relevant statements on several occasions.

Campaign materials

AFAD produced campaign materials to complement its campaign activities. The materials focused on the Convention as there is a big need to raise awareness about the said treaty. The materials include t-shirts, bottle containers and bag –tags. AFAD received positive responses from the campaign materials.

As part of its international solidarity with ICAED as well as its member organizations, AFAD produced an updated ICAED brochure which has been distributed widely. AFAD also released its yearly desk calendar. For the year 2015, AFAD decided to come out with a calendar that not only has a unique design, but also offers relevant information on the status of the Convention

In addition, AFAD also produced campaign materials in support of the Sombath initiative. Campaign materials included campaign folders, posters, brochures, as well as flyers. These were released on the commemoration of the second year of Sombath Somphone’s disappearance.

AFAD Campaign Materials

AFAD's new campaign shirts for the Convention.



A campaign folder and a flyer for the Sombath initiative. AFAD also produced posters and brochures.

AFAD's 2015 Desk Calendar which includes information on awards it received, its major 2014 events, as well status of ratification of the Convention



Networking

FIND – Kalbaryo ng mga Bayani

With a pre-dominantly Catholic population, religious traditions such as the observance of the Holy Week continue to be important events for Filipinos. FIND joins the observance of the Holy Week every year by commemorating the “Kalbaryo ng mga Desaparecido” (Calvary of the Disappeared), linking the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the cross with the ordeals faced by a victim of enforced disappearance.

Partnership with the Free Jonas Burgos Movement and the *Desaparecidos*

AFAD expands its horizon by establishing partnerships with the Free Jonas Burgos Movement and the *Desaparecidos*, two very active organizations working on the issue of enforced disappearance in the Philippines. Earlier this year, upon the invitation of AFAD, the two organizations joined the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance for which AFAD is the Focal Point.



Kalbaryo ng mga Desaparecido held in Bantayog ng mga Bayani - 2014 Holy Week.



Project Coordinator, Ron de Vera, performing a short story reading in front of other families of the disappeared during FIND's activity on the Nov 2 Philippine Day of the Disappeared (photo by FIND Member, Celia Lagman-Sevilla)



AFAD continues to nurture its relationship with FIND. Whenever possible, AFAD and FIND have found ways to support each other in activities.

Partnership with Free Jonas Burgos Movement

Aside from working closely with FIND, AFAD's partner organization in the Philippines, AFAD also works closely with the Free Jonas Burgos Movement (FJBM) as a co-member in the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance (ICAED). In November, AFAD played a key role in facilitating the



Asian representatives of ICAED member-organizations, Aileen Bacalso, Edita Burgos of Free Jonas Burgos Movement (FJBM) and Shuimeng Ng at the Second World Forum on Human Rights in Marrakech, Morocco

participation of FJBM in the Second World Forum on Human Rights in Marrakech, Morocco.

Hosting Shui-Meng Ng

After attending the Forensic Conference on Human Rights, AFAD Member Shui Meng Ng was hosted by AFAD in the Philippines and as earlier mentioned, facilitated her other engagements in the country:



Shui Meng delivers a speech about her disappeared husband, Sombath Somphone to participants of the Forensic Conference on Human Rights held in July, 2014

Embassy Visits

In the second half of the year, AFAD was able to strengthen its relationship with the embassies of Germany, Argentina, Belgium, and Timor-Leste. Although AFAD received varying levels of commitment, these visits will serve as important entry points for AFAD in the future.

More embassies participated in the public events which were organized by AFAD during their two major international conferences held both in July and September.



AFAD Staff with Timor-Leste Office of ASEAN Affairs to discuss ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

Engaging the government

AFAD continued to engage with the Department of Foreign Affairs in order to maximize its role in influencing other ASEAN states, with the specific intent of lobbying other governments to sign and ratify the Convention as well as to lobby its own Philippine government to do the same.

Working towards ratification

One of AFAD's major accomplishments (in partnership with FIND) in the period was its substantial activity engaging the Honorable Senator Pia Cayetano during the International Day of the Disappeared.

Although it was a one day red letter date, the activity extended throughout the week with a **photo exhibit** at the Philippine Senate. The week-long activity was a one

day red letter date, the activity extended throughout the week with a photo exhibit at the Philippine Senate. The week-long activity was opened with a forum on enforced disappearances and a privilege speech delivered by Sen Pia Cayetano to her fellow senators, where she mentioned the case of Sombath Somphone, Jonas Burgos and the importance of the Philippine Government's ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

In addition to AFAD's work in strengthening its social media presence, AFAD was still able to find a place in all three aspects of traditional media; TV, radio, and print.

Secretary-General – AFAD's Secretary-General was interviewed by a radio station in Australia regarding enforced disappearances. The interview was broadcast as part of their radio show during the International Day of the Disappeared

Shui Meng and Free Jonas Burgos Movement – During the time that Shui Meng was being hosted by AFAD in the Philippines. A major broadsheet, Philippine Daily Inquirer conducted an interview with her as well as with Mrs Edita Burgos of the Free Jonas Burgos Movement. The article came out both on the printed broadsheet as well as on the website of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Project Coordinator – AFAD's Project Coordinator was interviewed by a major news outlet, GMA.



AFAD Christmas Party with families of the disappeared in the Philippines

To cap the year, AFAD partnered with FIND in organizing a Holiday Celebration Party in December for the families of the disappeared. The gathering was not just an opportunity for families and the secretariat to unwind from a year of hard work against enforced disappearances, it was also AFAD and FIND's way of showing appreciation for the participation the families of the disappeared had in the work for the disappeared.

C. Country Specific Campaign for Indonesia

July

1. Public Discussion

KontraS made a public discussion on 4 July 2014 to review the Soldier Honorary Council's decree regarding Prabowo's dismissal from the army in 1998. There were 2 speakers, one of them is a Commissioner of Central Information Commission, and the other one is a retired intelligence army. This discussion attended by the media, university students and NGO network.



2. Reject presidential candidate who violates human rights

KontraS sent a caveat against the Indonesian National Army Commander on 15 July 2014 because Indonesian National Army did not want to give the document of the Soldier Honorary Council's decree regarding Prabowo's dismissal from the army in 1998. This document should be accessible though, for it is considered as public information.

August

1. Press Release

KontraS made a press release on 15 August 2014 in KontraS office to advise the President into making a committee under the President. This committee's job is to make sure the solvement of the cases and so the victims and their families got rehabilitation.

2. Tribute to IDD 2014

28 August 2014, in front of the Transition House. KontraS made a symbolic action with some of the victims and victims families to demand the new President (Joko Widodo) performing his commitment to solve the gross human rights violation in the past. For the theatrical performance, there were 2 wayang (human puppets in traditional performance).

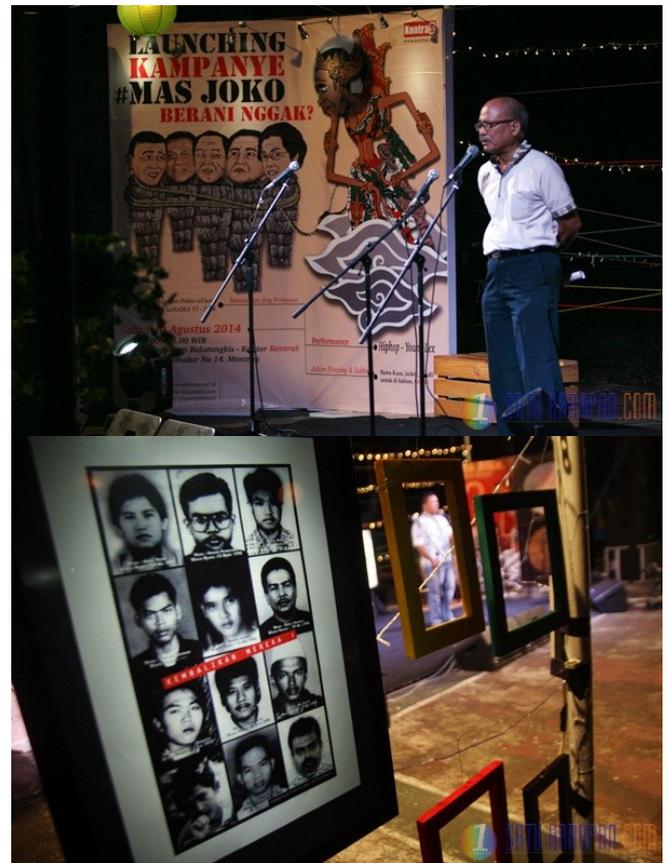
The wayang names are Arjuna and Kurawa. We expect Joko Widodo is dare like Arjuna, and not choosing ministers, who is evil like Kurawa, in his cabinet. KontraS submitted a poster that contains 9 recommendations for Joko Widodo agenda. Also a poster that reads "Mr. Joko, do you dare or not?" with caricatures of some people who support Joko Widodo politically but they are involve in the human rights violation cases. These posters is accepted by Andi Widjajanto, one of the Transition Team deputies.





29 August 2014, in the National Human Rights Commission office. Together with the victims' families of 1997-1998 enforced disappearance case, KontraS held a hearing with the Human Rights Commission to appreciate and to follow up the Commission works in asking the Court to force calling Kivlan Zen. This hearing was attended by Vice Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission. The Commission said that they have been asking the Central Jakarta District Court to force calling Kivlan Zen. KontraS urge them to file a lawsuit against Kivlan Zen if he didn't show up as a witness.

30 August 2014, in Lap. Bulutangkis Pancasila. To commemorate the IDD 2014, KontraS combined it with the response after the General Election regarding the solvement of enforced disappearance case in Indonesia. In this event, KontraS also launched a campaign with the tagline "Mr. Joko, do you dare or not?" This campaign meant to guard Joko Widodo's work regarding the solvement of enforced disappearance case. This event is addressed to the young generation, along with closing of "seHAMA" 2014. This event filled with greetings from the Embassy of Canada, Embassy of Swiss, the Asia Foundation, testimonies from the victims' families of 1997-1998 enforced disappearance, and also song/music from "seHAMA" students and a hip hop band called Young Lex.





September

1. Public Discussion

On 11 September 2014, KontraS made a public discussion to map out the steps and policies that the elected-president should be taking in order to resolve the human rights violations. There were 2 speakers, one of them is the delegation from a political party that support Jokowi in the election; and the other one is a political observer. This discussion attended by the media, university students and NGO network.

2. Press Release

KontraS made press release on :

a. 12 September 2014 in KontraS office to commemorate 30 years Tanjung Priok Case on 12 September 1984. Also to remind President Jokowi not to follow President SBY who broke his promise on the resolution of this case.

b. 20 September 2014 in KontraS office to respon a statement from one of the Transition Team deputies. He said that the country do not have the funds to establish an ad Hoc court for Human Rights.

3. Advocacy on Enforced Disappearance Case period 1997-1998

On 16 September 2014, KontraS made a lawsuit to the Central Information Commission (KIP $\frac{3}{4}$ Komisi Informasi Pusat) on information dispute with the Indonesian National Army. For the they didn't answer KontraS' request for the document on Prabowo dismissal from the army in 1998.

4. Commemoration of Semanggi II Case

21 September 2014, in Bundaran HI. KontraS accompanied the university students from Atmajaya University and University of Indonesia to collect public signatures in support of the establishment of Human Rights ad Hoc Court.

23 September 2014, in Transition House. KontraS accompanied the university students from Atmajaya University and University of Indonesia to meet the Transition Team and gave them the document of Semanggi II Case and the public signatures from the 2 days before.

24 September 2014. KontraS accompanied the university students to make a sympathetic action to the Transition House and a reflection night in the university where one of the students died in this tragedy.

5. Black September

Because there's many human rights violations happened back then during September, so during this month KontraS put the chronological and the legal process of each case in social media (Twitter). It's part of public education, so that public (especially the young generation who usually use the social media) know about the case and who is responsible for the stagnation of the legal process.



October

1. Advocacy on Simpang KKA (Aceh) Case

On 21 October 2014, KontraS sent a letter to the National Human Rights Commission asking for the document of the Commission's investigation result on Simpang KKA incident. This incident happened during Aceh insurgency which resulted in 52 people dead after the Indonesian military randomly shot at hundreds of peaceful protesters against an earlier shooting incident at Cot Murong, Lhokseumawe. The Commission started this investigation in November 2013.

2. Women's Wednesday

It's a small talkshow every Wednesday in the afternoon in a cafe in front of the other visitors of the cafe. This event is organized by Indonesia's National Commission on Violence against Women. This talkshow focus on the world of women, such as the movement of women, violence against women, or victimization experienced by women. The speaker is different each week. She can be an activist, survivor, or still being a victim. The purpose of this talkshow is to publicize that there are problems as to be reported by each speaker. It's strengthening the victim also by giving them a space to talk about their problems and feelings.

On Wednesday, 22 October 2014, KontraS collaborated with Indonesia's National Commission on Violence against Women to bring Mrs. Yulia Siregar and Mrs. Maryam Poniem as the speakers in this talkshow. They are survivors from the 1965 Tragedy.

3. Press Release

KontraS made a press release on 25 October 2014 to reject the the appointment of Gen. [ret] Wiranto and Gen. [ret] Ryamizard Ryacudu as ministers candidates in Jokowi's government. One day later (26 October 2014), it turned out that Gen. [ret.] Ryamizard Ryacudu got the position as the Minister of Defense.

4. Documentation of Torture in the 1965 Tragedy

This activity is a part of advocacy efforts in uncovering the practice of torture that occurred at the 1965 Tragedy. This documentation activities meant to explore in detail the practice of torture and the condition of the victims. Also, it helps the victims to recover and documenting their dark history records in a report that will be read by public and the government.

We're hoping with their stories, public and the government can take lessons so that similar incidents do not recur in the future. Furthermore, the goal is for the government earnestly fulfill the rights of the victims. We're doing in-depth interviews of approximately 28 victims in 3 provinces: Jakarta, Banten, and West Java for 2 months (October-November). This activity is in collaboration with AJAR (Asia Justice and Rights).



NOVEMBER

1. Commemoration on Semanggi I Case

On 13 November 2014, KontraS commemorate Semanggi I tragedy together with IKOHI and universities students. There are some events that the students conduct in their own universities, such as scatter flowers petal in the crime scene, public discussion regarding the resolution of the case and standing in front of the State Palace to urge the resolution. Then, the main event is the universities students gather in



2. Advocacy on Talangsari Case in 1989

Victims and families of Talangsari tragedy together with KontraS on 14 November 2014 report Hendropriyono to the police for he insulted the victims who died in that tragedy. In an interview with a United States journalist, Allan Nairn, Hendropriyono said that Talangsari victims died from suicide. This statement was published in the journalist's blog, www.allannairn.com. Whereas the results of National Human Rights Commission's investigation has concluded that there has been a murder of at least 130 people, instead of suicide. Therefore, the victims' families have an interest to restore the good name of the victims who have been killed or forcibly disappeared.



3. Advocacy on 5 cases in Aceh

When the President Soeharto and President Megawati stated that Aceh is a Military Operations Area in 1989-2003, many human rights were violated. There were enforced disappearances and mass killings. When finally a peace agreement, called MoU Helsinki, signed by Indonesia's government and Aceh Independence Movement (GAM - Gerakan Aceh Merdeka), the deal is that a Human Rights Court and Truth and Reconciliation Commission should be formed in Aceh. But until now none of those deals formed. On 26-28 November 2014, KontraS conduct some hearings with Aceh Governor and Aceh People's Representative Council to urge the establishment of Aceh Regional Regulation on Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Aceh.

December

1. Press Release

Together with the victims, KontraS made a press release on 4 December 2014 in KontraS office to respon a statement from Coordinating Minister for Legal, Political and Security Affairs. He said that the State now should not bring up human rights violations issue in the past.



2. Advocacy on 5 cases in Aceh

On 5 December 2014, together with KontraS, Aceh victims did some hearings with the Coordinating Minister for Legal, Political and Security Affairs and Minister of Justice and Human Rights. Unfortunately, the Coordinating Minister for Legal, Political and Security Affairs couldn't meet KontraS and the victims, so his staffs substitute for him and he said that he will forward the victims report to the Minister.



On 8-9 December 2014, together with KontraS, Aceh victims did demonstration for 2 days and 1 night in front of the National Human Rights Commission. The Commission started an investigation on Aceh's cases since November 2013, but until now there has been no explanation about the investigation. Therefore, the victims demand the Commission to issue a letter to explain about the Commission investigation on 5 cases in Aceh.



3. Commemoration on International Human Rights Day

On 9 December 2014, IKOHI gave a letter to the President on a national workshop with other civil organizations and state institutions. The letter is about IKOHI's input on the resolvement of Enforced Disappearances Case in 1997/1998.



On 9 December 2014, KontraS made an event to commemorate International Human Rights Day. There is a stage and screening a movie about society opinion on human rights. There are some choir performances from the victims and music performance by Hip Hop group.



Information Dissemination and Breaking Impunity

Philippines

AFAD Secretariat conducted four **forum-workshops** to educate the target audience on the problem of enforced disappearance, the domestic law and the need to ratify CAED. These activities were also linked to the research to measure the level of public awareness on enforced disappearance. Three of these activities were conducted in the province of Bukidnon (Mindanao) during the International Week of the Disappeared, with 152 attendees in two fora with the Philippine Army; 60 from the lay leaders of the Catholic Church and media and another one in Manila with 77 seminarians from Our Lady of the Angels. The primer on CAED and the need for its ratification by the Philippine government was distributed together with campaign t-shirts and posters “Say No to Enforced Disappearance, Support the CAED”.

The AFAD Secretariat, in solidarity with the AFAD member-organization in Sri Lanka, together with FIND and other members of CAED staged a picket in front of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Manila on the last week of March to demand the release of Ruki Fernando, Fr. Praveen Mahesan and Balendran Jeyakumari who were arrested in Kilinochi, North of Sri Lanka. A letter was also sent to the Embassy in Manila as well as its Permanent Mission office in Geneva. A mass was also held in one of the churches of the Franciscans in partnership with Focus on the Global South. Another mass was also held on the 30th of June in the Pontifical Seminary inside University of Sto. Tomas to coincide with the 18th month disappearance of Sombath Somphone. The activity was held in partnership with Focus on the Global South.

Indonesia

During the election campaign, KontraS and IKOHI had campaign shirts, posters and pins calling on the government and candidates to address human rights violations of the past such as the 1998 disappearance of activists among the many cases. A t-shirt has this call: *Don't choose a presidential candidate who violates human rights!* A pin worn during the rally at the State Palace has this message: *Don't choose a presidential candidate*

who kidnaps and violates human rights. Bring back all of them who had been kidnapped and enforcedly disappeared!

Bangladesh

Posters saying “Say ‘NO! to Enforced Disappearances” were disseminated during the International Week of the Disappeared. Odhikar also regularly publishes its quarterly and semi-annual human rights monitoring reports.

Jammu and Kashmir

One of the developments of APDP's incessant campaign against impunity reflected in the month of March, after APDP through reliable sources received information about the cancellation of the deputation of a perpetrator with the UN peace keeping forces, who had been recommended by the government of Jammu and Kashmir.

APDP's timely engagement and communications to the Principal Secretary to Government, Home Department, Jammu and Kashmir, and to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations [DPKO], New York, resulted into the cancellation of deputation of a perpetrator. The association in its communication to the UNDPKO had raised objection to the perpetrators' deputation to the UN peacekeeping and had also questioned his role. APDP's appeal to the UN about the matter had got wide publicity and with the perpetrator barred from enjoy the benefit. Such a response from UNDPKO forms a part of the APDP's ongoing campaign to expose the Indian State, its institutions, and its criminality.

Organizing Sit-In Programs

Between July and December 2014 the association organized few sit-in programs with increasing

participation from family members of the disappeared as well as volunteers of the association. During the recent activities some new families have got involved with APDP because as the association has extended legal support to the said families.

The programs as proved to be successful in uniting and consolidating the APDP's struggle against disappearances. These programs attracted wider attention of the public and thus, initiated debates and discussions within the community about the worrying phenomenon of enforced disappearances. During the activities, victims' family members put forth their demand for enquiry into all cases of enforced disappearances and asked for truth and justice to the disappeared.

Seeking Information and legal intervention from Government and its institutions

Since July, the APDP had continued to file applications under Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act – 2009 before the government and its institutions, asking them to furnish records and case diaries about the disappearances cases. So far most of government institutions have failed to furnish information to the association and in this regard APDP wrote letters to the top officers in the administration and asked for instant furnishing of information on the issue of disappearances. The association also submitted appeals to the Government and its institutions as why the concerned authorities have failed to provide the information sought by the association.

From July, APDP submitted half a dozen disappearances cases before the State Human Rights Commission and asked for inclusive investigation and immediate compensation in favor of the affected families. APDP also individually approached many district administrators and requested for instantaneous disposal of the relief cases pending before them. The compensation awarded to the families helps the children of disappeared to sustain their education.

In Bangladesh, Odhikar challenged the legality of the Information Technology Act of 2013 used to arrest and detain two of its leaders. The international support generated on the case highlighted the continuing impunity in the country and government's lack of accountability. It also conducted a fact-finding mission where seven people were allegedly disappeared by the

members of RAB in exchange of money by ruling party's influential leader at Narayanganj.

In Indonesia, an online petition "Find My Father" initiated by Dinis, daughter of an enforced disappearance victim was launched and generated 3,482 signatures. The President Advisory Council received this petition at public event. A campaign with the tagline "Clean Coalition #Vote Clean Politician" was also launched where a series of information and public events were undertaken to encourage the voters to choose a clean politician – and avoid those with poor human rights track record. A website containing information of track records of politicians and their political party on human rights was created.

Between May to June, a campaign towards the Completion of Actions on Enforced Disappearance Case in 1997-1998 was undertaken. This campaign was part of putting human rights in the electoral agenda. KontraS launched a campaign with the tagline "Mr. Joko, do you dare or not?" This campaign meant to guard Joko Widodo's work regarding the solution of human rights violations in the past including enforced disappearance case.

In Nepal, the Truth and Reconciliation Act of 2014 is continually challenged within the legal framework of the country and in public spaces. At the international level, the United Nations Human Rights Council was asked to make a position and it did sent a note of concern after finding the law a violation of the country's international human rights commitments.

Media Events

Several statements were issued by AFAD in 2014. All these statements are posted in the AFAD Facebook and the AFAD website. See link to the statements: <http://afad-online.org/news>.

During the IWD, AFAD and FIND guested in two radio interviews – Veritas in Manila and Radyo Bandilyo (Bukidnon), both Catholic radio stations. In the radio interview held in Malaybalay, Bukidnoon, AFAD and FIND also helped explain to the general public the new reparation law and the contacts needed to make victims of martial law aware as to where they would send their applications to avail of the monetary reparation for victims and their next of kin.

Jammu and Kashmir

On 28 June, APDP issued a statement regarding reports of destruction of evidence concerning unmarked graves. It called on the state's responsibility to carry out comprehensive forensic investigations of the unknown, unmarked and mass graves in Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of an international forensic institution.

In the month of July, APDP invited internationally acclaimed academician and eminent historian Professor Mridu Rai, to speak to a public forum in a local hotel, but the program was banned by the authorities and the government threatened action against the hotel if they allowed the event to proceed. This ban was consistent with the government's policy of disallowing human rights, academic, cultural and other such activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Then the association managed to hold the forum meeting at another private venue. Prof. Mridu Rai, despite the government's attempts to stifle her voice, addressed a more limited audience on "Languages of Violence, Languages of Justice: the State and Insurgent Kashmir." The professor termed the ban on her speech by police action as tragedy and said that if people like her are not allowed, it is a tragedy. She further opined that her lecture indeed was referring to the fact how greater violence is to ensure that voices are not heard, which in fact happened on the day of the event.

Meetings and interview sessions of member families with media personnel from local as well as external organisations have proved to be helpful in strengthening the relation between victims' families and the media organisations, with the result the media under complex political circumstances continued its effective role in highlighting the issue of enforced disappearances and have also been doing follow-up of the cases studies and programs undertaken by the association.

Indonesia

On May 5, KontraS held two press conferences with the Coalition Against Forgetting in response to Kivlan Zen's statement that he knew the whereabouts of the missing 13 activists and (on 18th of May) with Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation asking the state to act on Kivlan's statement and the call to reject abusive leaders. In June, KontraS, IKOHI and the Coalition Against Forgetting called media attention as they continued to question the candidacy of former Gen. Prabowo Subianto. Their statements and activities were carried in print and broadcast media. They also guested in primetime TV programs. (e.g. this interview with IKOHI and AFAD Chairperson, Mugiyanoto:

<https://news.vice.com/article/activist-on-being-tortured-by-the-man-who-could-be-indonesias-next-president>).

On August 5, organized by KontraS to a meeting advise the President of Indonesia to form a committee in order to resolve human rights violations and to lobby that victims and their families get rehabilitation.

On 20 September, Transition Team deputies said that the government does not have the funds to establish an ad Hoc court for Human Rights;

On 25 October, KontraS and IKOHI campaigned for the rejection of the appointment of former Gen. Wiranto (alleged perpetrator of human rights violations during Indonesian occupation in Timor Leste and Trisakti, Semanggi I-II Tragedy) and former Gen. Ryamizard Ryacudu (known as a General who is anti-democracy and human rights) as ministers' candidates in Joko Widodo's government.

Timor-Leste

On 20 February, HAK issued a press release on comfort women (Jugun Ianfu) to commemorate the Japanese invasion of Timor-Leste. On the 24th of March, a press release was also issued to commemorate the International Day for Truth and the Dignity of Victims. In April, a press release was also issued on the commemoration of the Liquisa Church Massacre. An article on enforced disappearance in Timor-Leste written by HAK (Sisto Dos Santos) was published by Asia Pacific Human Rights Information Center.

In May, HAK coordinated with UCA News for exclusive interview with families' representative and the victims who lived in Viqueque district regarding the Kraras massacre in 1983. During this trip, direct testimonies were obtained concerning the violent circumstances they suffered during the period. They were seven people interviewed and the results of the interview was published through UCA News and also published by local media (Jornal Independent) in June in connection with the role of Indonesian Presidential candidate, Gen. Prabowo Subianto in the massacre. A separate article was also published by UCAN still on the Viqueque case focused on the tacit support of the government of Australia to the Indonesian government when it occupied Timor-Leste.

A short interview with the families of victims from the Marabia/Dili massacre on 10 June was published through the local newspaper. On 23 June, HAK issued a press release to commemorate International Day of

Widows and the 34th anniversary of the Marabia Massacre.

On 19 October, HAK coordinated a number of victims in Liquisa to conduct interviews with UCA news. This was an opportunity for the victims to share their feelings and expectations about Government policy towards victims of the Liquisa Church Massacre, particularly on the issue of the reparation law.

On 20 October, HAK then followed these interviews up by meeting with the President of Commission in National Parliament, Carmelita Moniz, to confirm the status of the reparations law. She explained that Parliament will discuss this law next year, 2015, because there are still numerous laws that Parliament must finalise this year. She admitted the law really depends on what the Prime Minister, Xanana Gusmao wants.

Bangladesh

Due to increased repression inside the country, the media's role to publish press statements has also been affected. Hence, international networks of Odhikar had been very helpful. In January, a joint statement signed by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists called for a stop to the harassments against Odhikar and to drop the charges against its leaders – Adilur Rahman Khan and Nasirrudin Elan. AFAD and member organizations also issued statements on the matter as well as succeeding incidents of surveillance and harassments of his wife and other staff members.

In April, press statements were issued in light of the award received by Adilur Rahman Khan from the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights and as finalist in the 2014 Martin Ennals Human Rights Award and the succeeding awards received during the year, e.g. the National Bar Association's Human Rights Award; International Bar Association's Human Rights Award and the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award.

Updates on the case against Adilur Rahman Khan and Nasirrudin Elan were also regularly released aside from the quarterly and semi-annual human rights report.

Social Media Campaigns

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.

The AFAD website contains the statements released by the federation and some from its member-organizations. Technically, the website is completely upgraded. It is now responsive, meaning it can now adapt to the screen size of the device being used to view it – whether on desktop, laptop, smartphones or tablets. Old contents with old HTML formatting and deprecated codes are being cleaned-up and reformatted to suit the new responsive/mobile website. On the resources section, four books are now initially migrated, with one completed.

All published copies of The Voice are already on the Website. Some are in PDFs while others are already converted to HTML. All issues of The Voice will be converted to HTML and will replace the PDF versions. The PDF files will then be made available for download. In addition, The Voice is also being turned into eBooks. Currently, issue 1 and 2 are already available. The rest will also be made available for download when completed. The site is also regularly backed-up and monitored.

The AFAD Facebook is also active. During the IWD, live blogging was experimented starting with the roundtable discussion held at the House of Representatives. The Facebook page also posts updates from other organizations and some ICAED members from time to time.

Activities conducted by member organizations in six countries were posted in the AFAD and members' respective Facebook accounts.

Conferences undertaken by AFAD in July and September including its 5th Congress were also posted in the AFAD Facebook page.

AFAD started to monitor its Facebook usage only

recently and the following data shows which posts generated great interest:

On average, each new article gets viewed 200 to 300 times.

Popular articles like the *“Justice for the 43 Mexican Students!”* (286 views), AFAD *“Congress Statements”* (493 views) and *“Address 10 Years of Injustice for the Murder of Munir! Make Public the Result of the Fact Finding Team (TPF) and Re-open His Case!”* (573 views) get the highest views.

This is with the exception of *“Third Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth And Justice for Victims of Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Extrajudicial Execution”* which had 1025 views!

Most articles have 200 views more or less, with newest articles having less than 100 views.

Video Documentary Screening

The film “Unsilenced”, produced by AFAD in 2010 was presented in the forum-workshops conducted in Bukidnon during the IWD. The video proved to be a very powerful visual aid to explain to the viewers the problem of enforced disappearance. Even members of the security sector were affected by the film based on observations of their non-verbal expressions. On the other hand, the regional video, “Beyond Tears and Borders” was screened at the ICAED activity in Geneva last March 2014.

Nepal

The information was widely disseminated from grass root level to policy makers through different media. Media Briefings, press note, interaction with media persons

Publications:

AFAD also undertook the production and dissemination of campaign materials and other publications of the Federation. Some of these were: AFAD 2014 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. ”

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.

Research & Documentation

For the period of January to August 2014, the Federation with its member organizations achieved the following:

AFAD Accumulated Database

As of 12 June 2014, there were 350 cases encoded in the database by the member organizations. 217 of the cases were synchronised to the AFAD Central Database. Member organizations are presently in the process of verifying information collected, translating documents to English before the actual encoding in their respective databases.

Documentation of cases. As of the latest report of the Secretary General during AFAD's Fifth Congress (September 2014), 329 cases involving 760 persons have been documented and submitted to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance.

- The number of documented cases could be more; countries visited for this historical review reported a higher number of cases that they have documented but not submitted yet to the AFAD secretariat. Still and all, documentation work needs to be improved, better coordinated, and completed as soon as possible since information and informants/eyewitnesses could be lost over time, especially the case of disappearances that took place more than ten years ago.
- Monitoring and reporting of new cases of disappearances have been timely.

Documentation of victims and visits to families

In the Philippines, during the period, ten (10) cases of enforced disappearance during Martial Law were documented by the project staff.

The following families in the National Capital Region

were also visited for further documentation of the case of their missing kin who were forcibly disappeared:

The project staff also assisted 37 surfaced victims and families of still missing victims in the filing of their applications to avail of financial assistance as provided for in Republic Acts 10353 and 10368.

1. **Encoding of victims' information in the AFAD database.** A total of 25 victims' information was encoded in the AFAD database, bringing the current total to 100 victims already encoded in the said database.

Summary of the Research and Documentation Program Work

JAMMU AND KASHMIR-INDIA

(Association of Parents of the Disappeared)

1. AFAD-APDP Accumulated Database

As of 12 June, 42 cases were encoded by APDP in the centralized database.

2. Field documentation

- A. APDP's research and documentation team was able to document 40 cases. Supplementary case documents such as missing reports, First Information Reports (FIR), legal documents and other records about the case were gathered by the team. Case profiles and supplementary documents collected are sorted and stored in the organization's filing system. After finalizing the information needed, the cases will be encoded online in the AFAD-APDP database.

- B. **Field visits** - APDP organized monthly meetings with the executive members of the association. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss and strategize the expansion of the research and documentation work in Jammu and Kashmir. During the said meetings, volunteers expressed their interest to support APDP in the conduct of this work. The executive members also identified which cases can be considered as high-profile and which cases will be subject to APDP's legal intervention. Profiles of family members have been discussed and recommended remedies that are available have been considered by the organization. Members of the APDP have reached an agreement to seek information from the present administration regarding cases of disappearances in the families' native areas.
- C. **Follow-up work on the unknown and unmarked mass graves** - Letters and appeals were sent to international organizations. The communications urged for public support to pressure the Government of India to investigate the cases of enforced disappearances and to look closely into the discovery of the unmarked and mass graves in Jammu and Kashmir. The communications urged that DNA tests and forensic examinations are necessary to determine the identity of the remains the 7,000 unmarked graves with the support of the families and relatives of the disappeared. A concern has also been raised regarding the desecration of the sites located in Uri, Baramulla district. Dogs have dug some of the graves and some of the parts of the buried remains have been taken away. Another grave site at the Boniyar area was destroyed by the Forest Department. The said department has created a road leading to its nursery that also passed through the grave site. Other incidences were similarly reported - grave site inside a government office in Shopian was used as a Special Operations Group camp. The area is now used as a health center. APDP also believes that the reported incidences of desecration are often deliberately conducted to destroy any forensic evidence that may result from an independent investigation.

2. Networking with other civil society organizations

APDP has consistently related to local and international media to popularize the issue of enforced disappearances and draw attention to the discovery of mass graves. Stories of disappearances were shared to various media organizations.

3. Capacity building work

The organization has participated in different human rights trainings and capacity building activities for its members and staff members. Training on human rights were provided to community leaders and students. After the training, students who attended have expressed interest in working as volunteers for APDP under the research and documentation work of the association.

4. Legal intervention for documented cases

Submission at the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC)

APDP submitted 25 cases of disappearances before the High Court, various District and Session Courts and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The petitions sought to conduct investigation into the submitted cases and also asked for relief and compensation of the families of the victims. SHRC resolved a case in favor of the family members and have recommended for monetary compensation from the government.

APDP attended hearings of the State Human Rights Commission and other local courts to monitor the status of the cases. Rejoinders were filed before the SHRC wherein subsequent recommendations were issued to further investigate the cases.

Demanding information and state accountability

under the Right to Information Act of 2009

The APDP filed applications under the Right to Information Act of 2009 on enforced disappearance cases. The APDP submitted follow up communications regarding previous engagements to demand for information specifically the exact number of disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir under the Right to Information Act. Disappeared persons' reports filed by the concerned police stations were also requested.

For issues related to disappearances, APDP observed that the government and its institutions are hesitant to provide information while in other cases, information was provided and was able to assist in the legal aspects of the case.

APDP has also engaged with the State Information Commission wherein the said intervening body has directed some institutions to provide information to the association.

Lobbying for accountability of perpetrators

The APDP lobbied to prevent the deputation of one perpetrator to the UN Peacekeeping forces. The organization sent separate communications to the Principal Secretary to the Government Home Department, Jammu and Kashmir and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), New York which states the objection of the association to the deputation itself. The lobbying resulted in the deputation being cancelled and has received wide media publicity.

NEPAL (Advocacy Forum)

1. AFAD-AF Accumulated Database

Advocacy Forum's database contains 38 cases of disappearances as of 12 June 2014.

2. Field documentation

Advocacy Forum was able to document a total of 6 cases of enforced disappearances. All the cases were documented during the conflict. From the 6 cases, there are 2 cases that are considered as strong cases in terms of the evidence and information available to the families and advocates. These cases will be encoded in the AFAD database.

3. Campaign-related work

Advocacy Form facilitated the drafting of the writ petition that challenged the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act and convened various stakeholders

such as the NC, CPN-

UML, UCPN-M among others groups to amend the said act. The groups remain vigilant that the said Act will not grant amnesty for human rights violations.

4. Networking with other civil society organizations

Advocacy Forum mobilized the Accountability Watch Committee (AWC) to assist in the campaign against the amnesty provision.

SRI LANKA (Families of the Disappeared)

1. AFAD-FOD Accumulated Database

FOD has encoded a total of 81 cases of disappearances as of 12 June 2014.

2. Field Documentation

Cases of enforced disappearances are continuously collected through the joint efforts of FOD, the Mannar Citizens' Committee and other organizations in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

Field visits

- 25 - 26 January 2014: A meeting was conducted by the Mannar field workers to discuss about completing the details of some of the cases that have been documented and submitted for submission to the UN WGEID.
- 25-26 April: A meeting was also organized in Matale with the families of the disappeared in preparation for the submission to the UN WGEID. The cases discussed during the meetings are related to the discovered Matale mass grave.
- February 2014: FOD staff members met Mannar field workers including some family members to recheck the reported cases.
- April 2014: Another meeting with the field workers in Mannar was conducted to complete the reported cases. The cases are documented in the local Tamil language and translated to English for the submission and data encoding.

3. Reporting of cases to the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UN WGEID)

FOD reported 13 cases to the UN WGEID from January to August 2014. The first set of submission was made on 4 April 2014 while the second set was sent on 11 August 2014. Cases that have been documented were translated. There were 31 cases translated and are currently being finalized for submission to the UN WGEID. 29 cases of disappearances have been prepared for submission using the UN WGEID template.

4. Research, Information and Education Work

- a. During the project period, FOD has prepared and submitted a letter to the Commission of the Disappearance appointed by the Government of Sri Lanka.
- b. FOD has also distributed leaflets in Sinhala and Tamil languages in Vavuniya town during the August 30 commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared.
- c. The translation of AFAD-FOD's country documentary is still on-going. The said documentary is presently being translated to Sinhalese and Tamil.
- d. FOD is continuously uploading content about the advocacy against enforced disappearance in the two websites:

<http://www.right2lifelanka.org/new/sinhala>

<http://www.aithiya.lk/index>

5. Campaign-related activities

FOD and AFAD along with some Philippine civil society organizations conducted a solidarity campaign action for Sri Lanka following the arbitrary arrest and detention of Balendran Jeyakumari and the subsequent "detention" of her daughter. Balendran Jeyakumari is the mother of a disappeared Tamil youth and was accused of being in connivance with a former LTTE leader who at the time has reportedly escaped from prison. Soon after the arrest and detention of Jeyakumari, human rights defender Ruki Fernando along with Fr. Praveen Mahesan were both subjected to the same act of arbitrary arrest and detention following a field mission to document the incident of Jeyakumari's arrest.

Ruki Fernando's work involved years of documenting

and reporting of cases of disappearances during and after the war between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Government of Sri Lanka.

Posters held by Filipino families of the disappeared during the public action at the Sri Lankan Embassy in the Philippines on 28 March 2014. The event was done simultaneous with the UN Human Rights Council's discussion on Sri Lanka.

AFAD, FOD and Philippine groups organized a solidarity mass calling for truth and justice in Sri Lanka on 27 March 2014. A protest action was also conducted in front of the Sri Lankan embassy on 28 March 2014 calling for the release of Balendran Jeyakumari, the protection of rights of human rights defenders, and justice for the victims of disappearances and human rights violations in the country.

E-poster for the Philippine solidarity action for the release of Balendran Jeyakumari and for the broader call for justice for victims of disappearances and other human rights violations.

Organization and Participation of FOD in campaigns

- a. FOD participated in the hearings of the Commission on Disappearances in Kilinochchi on January 18 and 19, 2014.
- b. On January 24, the organization also commemorated the 3rd year of the disappearance of journalist Prageeth Ekneligoda.
- c. FOD has also participated as the main speaker for the program, "Release from Fear" in Matara. This activity was held last March 2.
- d. March 2014: A protest was organized in Vavuniya against the arbitrary arrest and detention of Balendran Jeyakumari and her daughter Vibooshika. Both mother and daughter were active in the advocacy against disappearances. After the arrest they were brought into custody by the Terrorist Investigation Department. About 300 individuals joined the protest action.
- e. 17 March: FOD representatives attended the court case in Kilinochchi of Vibooshika, the daughter of Balendran Jeyakumari.
- f. 18 March: A press conference and a discussion was organized in Colombo against the arbitrary arrest and detention of human rights defenders Ruki Fernando and Fr. Praveen Mahesan. Both HRDs were also taken into custody by the Terrorist Investigation Department. 37 media reporters and other advocates attended the press conference and

approximately 70 individuals attended the discussion.

- g. 9 June: A discussion with lawyers and family members was conducted by FOD.

6. Networking with other civil society organizations in Sri Lanka

FOD has been participating in discussions organized by the Sri Lanka Bar Association regarding the issue of a Gazette order which provides police powers to the Sri Lankan military in all districts. The said order has severe implications especially in the continuity of the engagements and work of FOD in the North and South of Sri Lanka. FOD was appointed as part of the organizing committee.

Networking initiatives conducted by FOD:

- 6 January: FOD representatives discussed with one group in Sila Watura. The group was composed of 9 family members in Mannar district. FOD had individual discussions about the organization's activities and how the families can participate and join FOD.
- 18-19 January: FOD participated as observers and encouraged the families to attend and participate in the hearing of the Commission on Disappearances in Killinochchi.
- 7 January: A meeting was held individually with some key persons working on disappearances regarding the conduct of future discussions in Vavuniya.
- 10 June: FOD organized a discussion with the Anuradhapuraya - family of the disappeared victim Madushka. The disappearance occurred last 2 September 2013. The possibility of sending the case to the Human Rights Commission was also discussed.

Meetings with foreign delegations and various embassy staff members

The FOD continued organizing dialogues with special envoys e.g. US Assistant Secretary of States Nisha Bishval, British and South Asia Head of Mission Julie Scott, Canada Desk Office on Sri Lanka among others. It has also met with UNHRC Resident Representative Cynthia Veliko.

The FOD has maintained links with other international

organizations. The organization attended meetings with the Human Rights Watch (HRW).

TIMOR LESTE

1. AFAD-HAK Accumulated Database

As of 12 June, HAK has encoded 2 cases in the database.

The HAK database is presently being translated to Tetum as an effort to resolve the language problems posed by the documentation of cases in local language vis-a-vis the English content required in the AFAD Central Database.

At present, the organization has reassigned the previous documentation and research person - Rogerio Soares to another position. The organization is working to orient newly assigned staff members to the AFAD project with the guidance of the former documentation and research staff.

2. Field documentation

HAK is in the process of reviewing the documented cases in Tetum. HAK has also been working on gathering evidence regarding one perpetrator. In the process of evidence gathering, the organization also reviewed the existing documentation on the Kraras Massacre of 1983 and is presently working to complete supplementary documents for a subsequent legal action.

There were field visits organized to meet and interview families from the Kraras Massacre. There were 7-8 interviewees and initial data gathering was conducted in preparation for a succeeding comprehensive documentation.

A field visit was also organized in Marabia area on 10 June where 5 interviews were scheduled for initial data gathering. A follow up visit was conducted in July of 2014 wherein 5 persons were interviewed.

Researches of AFAD members

Indonesia:

Research on the best practice in campaigning and lobbying for the Convention in. – Still waiting for the English version and print output.

Philippines:

The **Research on the legislative advocacy for the adoption of a law defining and penalizing the practice of enforced disappearances in the Philippines** was completed by the two French interns and a draft report was submitted in December 2013. The report is up for editing. The research focused only on the progression of the bill since its first filing in 1993 until a law was finally signed in 2012, after 16 years of advocacy. This is due to time constraints as the researchers were only here until the first week of December.

Philippines: Research on the level of awareness on enforced disappearance (ED)

An additional 130 respondents from the security sector (soldiers from the 403rd Brigade and 4th Army Training Group) were surveyed during the information dissemination activities conducted in the province of Bukidnon, in North-eastern Mindanao during the International Week of the Disappeared. The results were collated and will be included in the earlier data gathered. Most of the soldiers who participated in both activities recommended that similar activities be undertaken in various camps around the country so that they will be made aware of the law against enforced disappearance. Some of them promised to share what they learned to their fellow soldiers when they return to their units.

Through the help of another intern (a journalism student from the College of Mass Communication, University of the Philippines) an initial research was undertaken to find out about earlier victims of enforced disappearance prior to Martial Law. Highlights of both researches will be presented to an inter-regional conference to share best practices in advocating for legislations against enforced disappearance in September to be organized by AFAD.

A research validation was conducted with the security sector on 25 November, 2014. It was attended by 40 officers from the human rights offices and some training schools of the major commands of the Armed Forces of the Philippines – Army, Air Force and Navy. They essentially agreed with the findings of the research and provided insights and recommendations.

The findings will be integrated in the research report.

A research on the role of international actors in campaigning for the adoption of human rights instruments was produced within the period. Entitled “Diplomatic influence of international actors in the adoption of human rights instruments in the Philippines”, the research was conducted by a French intern. This study was built on the first research on legislative advocacy for the adoption of a law penalizing the practice of enforced disappearance in the Philippines. It concluded that the international actors have a role to play within the bounds of national sovereignty.

Nepal:

Taking reference of this research report, we conducted meetings, consultations with victims' groups and the government authorities, including ministries, in issues of families of enforced disappearances. This report is first time researched in Nepal, as we did not have any such historic document before. It is used to make the policy makers attention and aware in issues of enforced disappearances and the constraints that the families have faced.

Bangladesh:

A research publication is going to be published by Odhikar in collaboration with the German Embassy in February 2015. The publication would be based on the trend analysis of the incidents of enforced disappearances from 2009-2014.

Documentation and Research Team Meeting:

The Documentation and Research Team Meeting was held on 21 July 2014 at the Bayview Park Hotel. The meeting included a discussion of the status of the documentation and research work at the country level. Reference points used during the discussion were sections of AFAD's Progress Report (Assessment) Form for member-organizations. The status of the project was discussed along with observed positive and negative outcomes as well as hindering and facilitating factors

during the project implementation. Recommendations were also solicited from the documentation and research team staff members and representatives.

After the meeting, HURIDOCS Communications Specialist Friedhelm Weinberg provided a training on enhancing digital security protocols. Among the key points discussed were the classification of levels of document confidentiality for an individual's set of files. Guides in identifying strong passwords were also shared.

The training also included an introduction to Yubikeys¹, a gadget that allows the automatic generation of a complex set of code whenever the Yubikey is inserted into a laptop. This item is recommended for documentation and research staff members for accessing the OpenEvsys database.

Other recommendations for the participants are the following:

1. Secure files through the use of anti-viruses, Firewall and CC Cleaner
2. Use secured password managers such as KeePass² for storing of online accounts with their respective passwords.
3. Regularly ensure that files have a back-up as a means of protection for data loss.
4. Have awareness on how to secure communications such as off the record settings, etc.

The HURIDOCS resource person had a separate meeting with the AFAD Secretary General to explore areas of cooperation in the near future. This includes, among other possibilities a meeting with the embassy of Germany which is open to give funding for support to Asia.

Country-level Implementation

BANGLADESH (Odhikar)

1. AFAD-Odhikar Accumulated Database Odhikar was able to upload 46 cases of enforced disappearances to the OpenEvsys database as of 12 June 2014.
2. Field documentation Odhikar documented 31 cases of disappearances from March to August 2014. These cases were verified by grassroots organizations and other human rights defenders. A fact-finding mission was also organized by Odhikar

during the project period. The case was about 7 victims disappeared allegedly by the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) in exchange for money by the influential leader Narayanganj.

3. Campaign-related work Activities for the International Week of the Disappeared were organized by Odhikar in four divisional headquarters - Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong, and Sylhet. Activities include discussion meetings, protest rallies, and public actions. The said actions were conducted in front of Shahid Minar (Martyr Monument) and Press Club
4. Networking with other civil society organizations Odhikar participated in the creation of the Moulik Odhikar Surokkha Committee (Committee to Protect Fundamental Rights). This committee is a loose formation of different civil society groups which aims to primarily raise and project the voices of the families of the disappeared. On August 30, the committee organized a public action which gathered 100 members of the families of the disappeared. The families issued their testimonies, demanded the return of the victims and called for justice.

Forensics

A series of trainings on forensics were conducted:

May 2000 in Manila in cooperation with FIND and the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, (EAAF); June 2010 in Bogor Indonesia, in cooperation with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team; 2012, in Thailand by the Thai forensic experts in cooperation with the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team; July 2014 in the Philippines by Philippine Forensic Anthropologist Prof. Jerome Bailen. This tackled scientific standards in Forensic work and was organized by AFAD in cooperation with the Asian Forensics for Human Rights.

While there seems to be a need to periodically update cases documented, the AFAD database offers the most recent count of cases tracked. As of February 2014, AFAD's database contains 329 case events involving 760 disappeared persons in eight countries.

Uses

Data from Research and Documentation have been used in the following:

- Cases and general allegations submitted to UN
- Evidence for filing of cases: Since 2011, APDP has submitted 50 disappearance cases to the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), Jammu & Kashmir High Court and various District and Sessions Courts to conduct investigations
- Basis for demanding reparation and accessing benefits/compensation and social services from government: Indonesia Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK)
- Rationale of laws: Memorial Law, Timor Leste (2008 to 2009)
- Statements, appeals, letters of concern and press releases.

Philippines

Preparations for the filing of an enforced disappearance case under RA 10353, the Anti-Enforced or Anti-Involuntary Disappearance Act of 2012 for the PICOP 6 victims

Two family members of the PICOP 6 victims, accompanied by FIND volunteer coordinator, Ms. Rose Deano, went to the Clerk of Court at the Court of Appeals in Cagayan de Oro City on 28-29 March 2014 to personally inquire on the status of the case as well as to request for certified true copies of the affidavits that were attached to the case information when the case of kidnapping and serious illegal detention against Corporal Billones was filed at the Patin-ay Regional Trial Court in Agusan del Sur. According to the legal counsel that has agreed to help in the filing of a court case invoking RA 10353, the said affidavits can be used to support the new case.

Periodic inquiries from the Office of the Solicitor General with the handling lawyer of the appeal filed by Corporal Billones were also undertaken. This helped FIND to be kept updated on the status of the appeal case. The said solicitor also offered suggestions on what the families can do to help follow up on the case.

Documentation of victims under the Benigno Aquino administration as well as past cases and visit to families of victims.

A team composed of Wilma Tizon, Alberto delos Reyes, Grace Viray and Corazon Estojero arranged a visit to the family of Bernardino Manansala Fabian who was reported missing since May 28, 2012. The said visit took place on May 31, 2014. His family refused to

time staff to take charge of writing work and administrative and finance work, respectively. FIND's resources at the moment are very limited and could not provide for staff to perform those functions as it has in the previous period. FIND's officers and some members however are providing volunteer work to augment this situation. The meeting also resulted in identifying the next target batch of victims to be interviewed and for documentation.

AFAD Accumulated Database As of 12 June 2014, there were 350 cases encoded in the database by the member organizations. 217 of the cases were synchronised to the AFAD Central Database. Member organizations are presently in the process of verifying information collected, translating documents to English before the actual encoding in their respective databases.

AFAD and FIND successfully organized a case conference where a plan was put in place to ensure the progress of the PICOP 6 case. AFAD is now working closely with FIND along with its legal counsel to ensure that there is progress in the PICOP 6 case that will be used as test case under the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Law (RA 10353).

The Project Coordinator, along with the Secretary-General, was also able to attend an orientation on the database (OpenEvsys) being used by AFAD and its member organizations in order for him to have a better understanding of the documentation process.

Through the partnership with FIND, the total entries in the database have been increased from 75 to 100. Details of FIND's contribution through the formal partnership may be read in the attached annex.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation

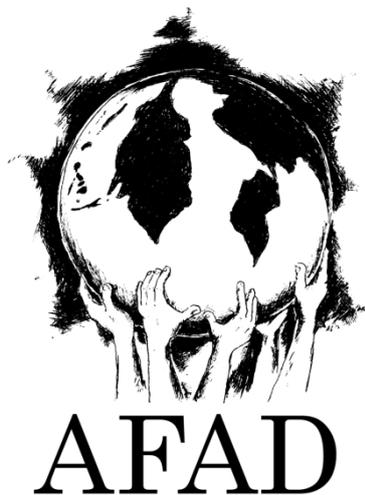
AFAD member-organizations conducted their own psychosocial rehabilitation work with families of the disappeared. Projects on psychosocial rehabilitation were conducted in both Indonesia and Nepal, where IKOHI and Advocacy Forum were supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.

At the regional level, after three years, AFAD finally successfully hosted the Third World Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice, which were participated in by representatives of families of the disappeared from all countries, selected psychologists and forensic experts where AFAD member-organizations are based. The said conference was participated in by representatives from countries where AFAD member-organizations are based and the AFAD's partners in Colombia and Guatemala.

In the conference, the Minimum Standards on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice were reviewed and discussed, with an effort to apply the said document to the human rights work in Asia.

International Conferences

conducted by AFAD and the AFAD Congress



International Conferences and the AFAD Congress

AFAD organized a series of meetings with some members of the Philippine Senate and Congress and the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation to seek support for the case of Sombath Somphone of Lao. This was timed with the holding of the “*Third Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice for Victims of Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Extrajudicial Execution*” held in Manila where Shui Meng Ng, wife of Sombath was invited.

The stories of Shui Meng and Mrs. Edita Burgos, mother of Jonas, one of the well known cases of enforced disappearance in the country were covered by media, including a front-page story in the major paper in the country, Philippine Daily Inquirer.

See link: <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/108167/2-women-share-a-wound-that-never-heals-disappears>

During the period, AFAD organized three regional conferences with international participants. The conferences were consolidating activities for members of AFAD as they exchanged experiences; learn new ideas and inputs from resource speakers in the three conferences. Plans were also agreed upon. Particularly for Timor Leste, the experiences shared by El Salvador and Guatemala on locating disappeared children were very insightful. Proceedings were edited and produced into a book, entitled: “From Grief to Courage.” Attached is the electronic version of the book.

These conferences were:

“Third Conference on Psychosocial Support in the Search for Truth and Justice for Victims of Enforced Disappearances, Torture and Extrajudicial Execution”

July 17-20, Manila with 60 participants from Asia and Latin America (one speaker from the US). This conference was a follow up to the first two world conferences held in Guatemala in 2003 and in Colombia in 2010, during which, a Minimum Standards in the Search for Truth and Justice were formulated and approved and had to be particularized and disseminated in the Asian region. The said Minimum Standards were reviewed and agreed to be implemented in the context of Asia at the national levels. On the whole, conference was able to achieve the following:

1. To give families and victims of human rights violations in Asia full access to psychosocial support in the process of their search for truth, justice, reparation and redress.
2. To give visibility to the situation of enforced disappearances, torture, extrajudicial execution in Asia, a continent that submitted very high number of human rights violations to the UN and is bereft of strong national and regional human rights mechanisms for protection.
3. To strengthen and consolidate the Minimum Standards and its application in Asian countries.
4. To serve as a venue to make visible the campaign for the ratification by Asian States of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and its enabling mechanism/s and the Convention Against Torture especially in the Asian continent where ratifications are very few as compared to the huge number of cases of enforced disappearances and torture in a number of Asian countries.
5. To serve as a venue to exchange experiences on the implementation of the Minimum Standards in different countries and its visibility at the

international level.

6. Sum up performance of the level of implementation of the Minimum Standards since the previous congresses and come up with updated and relevant recommendations.

Asian Forensic Conference

July 22-25, participants from Asia (many attended the earlier psychosocial conference) – As a follow up to the activities conducted in the last four years. Forensic practitioners from various parts of Asia were convened to exchange expertise and experiences in the field. It was attended by AFAD member organizations from various Asian countries and various institutions such as the University of the Philippines, the Commission on Human Rights, the Public Attorney's Office (PAO), the Quezon City Health Department, the Tangerang Hospital of Indonesia and Tribhuvan University of Thailand.

The Forensic Conference was aimed to strengthen the foundation for the search for truth and justice through the use of forensic science and to sustain and strengthen the forensic network in Asia. The conference culminated with a planning of the network and setting of immediate schedules for 2014.

Training on Digital Security

In between the two major conferences in July, e.g. the World Conference on Psychosocial Support in Search for Truth and Justice and the Forensic conference, a digital training participated in by AFAD documentation staff was given by HURIDOCS. It was part of AFAD's documentation work in the Philippines and in other parts of Asia. FIND was represented in the said training.

Best Practice Conference in Advocating for Legislation Against Enforced Disappearance

September 17-20, 35 participants from 17 countries from Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America.

The conference aimed to:

1. Serve as a venue to share lessons from countries who were able to domestically criminalize enforced disappearance as a separate offence.
2. To serve as a platform to share proven strategies.
3. To facilitate multi-level collaboration and cooperation in solving the lack or absence of domestic legislation.
4. To facilitate the formulation of comprehensive civil society action plans to strengthen legal norms at the national, regional and international levels.
5. To generate important inputs for a training module on effective campaigning for domestic legislation against enforced disappearance.

The conference turned out to be a very enriching sharing of experiences not only in terms of advocating for domestic legislation against enforced disappearances but also in terms of various facets of the work against enforced disappearances, e.g. reparation, search for disappeared children, the international treaty against enforced disappearance and the imperative of the codification of the offense of enforced disappearance, litigation, the use of ASEAN Inter-Governmental Human Rights Commission as a new mechanism in Asia.



AFAD Secretary-General Mary Aileen Diez-Bacalso leading a moment of silence for the disappeared during the 6th Asian Regional Human Rights Defenders Forum in Manila

Fifth AFAD Congress

Manila, Philippines, September 2014

It is also important to note that in 2014, AFAD conducted its 5th Congress with the following theme: **“Consolidating AFAD’s 17 Years of Struggle towards a Stronger Response to Enforced disappearances in Asia”**.

Objectives of the Congress include the following:

1. To revisit AFAD’s work since its conceptualization in 1997 until the present through the conduct of a comprehensive summing-up and through a presentation of its results;
2. To gain inspiration from and concrete partnership with its existing network at the regional and international levels.
3. To formulate and approve a comprehensive yet realistic General Plan of Action and corresponding resources needed for the period of October 2014 – 2020.
4. To elect a working set of Council and Executive Council members that will lead the Federation in the next four years.
5. To formulate a Congress Statement with concrete resolutions for implementation based on the Congress discussions, deliberations and conclusions.

The AFAD 5th Congress was a consolidating activity for the organization. It was held in Manila, Philippines from 21-25 September 2015 and participated in by 11 out of its then 12 Member-Organizations. It was able to elect new officers and share plans for the coming years. The summing up of AFAD’s more than 16 years of work was also a major undertaking that culled lessons put forward by member organizations. These will help AFAD improve its work in the coming years.

Also prepared and shown was a video on AFAD’s history, highlighting the situation on enforced disappearances in different Asian countries, the responses of the AFAD member-organizations, milestones and challenges. During the AFAD Congress, AFAD Secretary General and Chairperson

presented their respective reports for the period of 2010 to 2014. Written reports of all AFAD member-organizations were also incorporated in the Congress kits. Based on which, plans were conducted by each country, the result of which was consolidated as bases of actions for action until the next Congress in 2017.

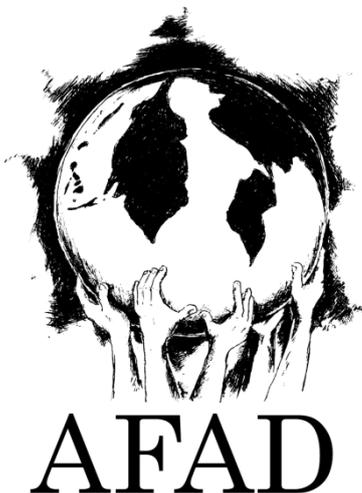
A new set of officers were elected: Khurram Parvez as Chairperson; Angkhana Neelaphaijit as Treasurer and Mary Aileen D. Bacalso as Secretary-General. A Congress Statement was formulated and signed to culminate the activity. During the Congress, the Defence for Human Rights of Pakistan, whose Chairperson, Amina Masood was invited, was accepted as the 12th AFAD member-organization.

It was also during this occasion that the Free Jonas Burgos Movement of the Philippines verbally expressed its intention to be a member of AFAD. This was later followed by a written application submitted before the end of 2014.

It is important to note that several solidarity messages were received by AFAD network in the Philippines, in Asia and in other regions of the world. Some members and the chairpersons of both the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances gave their messages of solidarity.

Capacity building

- Conference on ASEAN
- Training on Environment
- Training to media persons and workshops and consultations
- Other Country-Specific Trainings & Consultations



Capacity-building Activities

Conference on ASEAN

The AFAD Secretariat attended the ASEAN Vision for the 2015 organized by the Philippine Social Science council. The conference dealt mainly with the visions and prospects of the ASEAN community as it faces the challenge of the 2015 integration.

The protection and promotion of human rights is one aspect that continues to beset the region with the view that ASEAN is all talk and no teeth. The case of Sombath Somphone is a textbook example showing how ASEAN continues to evade any accountability to act on the matter, citing its template response of non-interference, touted as a key principle of the ASEAN formation.

Present during the conference were Undersecretary Bala of the ASEAN Secretariat and a representative from the Laos Embassy. AFAD took this opportunity to ask Usec. Bala about pertinent questions on the prospects of a better human rights protection and promotion mechanisms in ASEAN and also to project the case of Sombath Somphone by explaining his ordeal to the audience.

Training on environment

With a deeper interest on economic, social and cultural rights, AFAD attended an environmental symposium upon the invitation of the Columban Fathers in Malate. Through the symposium, AFAD staff members learned about dire effects of the present economic system on the environment, and alongside that is the value, and urgency of sustainable development. The symposium also provided AFAD with insights on how indigenous peoples in Latin America struggled against the destruction of their forests and homelands, a similar phenomenon experienced by IPs in the Philippines. The activity also became a venue for networking as AFAD got to know different environmental groups and activists.

Timor Leste:

The commemoration of two anniversaries of massacre days in Liquica (5 – 6 April 1999) and Marabia/Dili massacre on June 10, 1980 was organized with the relatives of victims. It was a way of strengthening their organization as they get to meet and update each other of the situation and renew their call for the government to address their demands for truth and justice.

On 24-27 August, Celeste from AFAD travelled to Timor-Leste, to conduct an evaluation of AFAD's program in Timor-Leste. This gave another opportunity for HAK to meet with the Victims' Associations, and other partners, such as AJAR, to discuss enforced disappearances and AFAD's work with broader stakeholders in Timor-Leste.

On the first day, AFAD met with all HAK staff and the board members, then on the second day, AFAD meet with the Victims' Association representatives. HAK was able to share its vision and mission, as well as its role in the issue of enforced disappearances before we became a member of AFAD.

Through this discussion, we were able to reflect and realise that there had been big changes in our understanding of the issues, namely that the need for victims' to obtain the truth about their families was a separate need and required different advocacy steps to that of the struggle for justice. Importantly, we realized that although as individuals we may not see a benefit, we all, victims', families, activists, human rights defenders, contribute something to the struggle and in the end together we will produce a result for everyone.

During the AFAD Congress and Best Practice, 17-25 September 2014, HAK took the opportunity to meet regularly with colleagues from Ikohi and KontraS to discuss our strategies to develop partnerships in the search and reunification of disappeared Timorese children now living in Indonesia. This discussion was then continued in Jakarta, following HAK's attendance at the Forum Asia member conference, when Sisto dos Santos represented HAK and ANTI at the Ikohi Congress on Victims of Enforced Disappearances.

During the conference, HAK meet with colleagues from Ihoki (Mugiyanto, Wilson) AJAR (Vitor da Costa), KontraS (Yati Andriyani) and AFAD (Angkana) and concretised certain strategies for us to utilize in the search for disappeared and missing children, particularly the relationship between HAK, Ikohi, KontraS, and AJAR through the AFAD network.

On 24 November, to follow up discussions that took place in Jakarta, HAK met with colleagues from AJAR and JSMP (two important NGO partners in Timor-Leste) to share the strategies discussed in Jakarta, and to concretise networks and relationships in Timor-Leste that will be necessary to ensure achievement of project objectives in 2015.

Jammu & Kashmir

In Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir state, APDP is continually conducting its weekly prayer and sit in with relatives of the disappeared where families are strengthened and updated of developments. In January, half-widows and members of the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons [APDP] observed one day fast (Hunger strike) as a part of the then ongoing global campaign: “Fast for Freedom: Return our Political Prisoners, Return our Martyrs’ remains.”

The half widows through an open appeal called on the Government of India to release all political prisoners of Jammu and Kashmir who have been languishing in different jails of India for many years now. They also asked that ICRC must be allowed to play a greater role in investigating and examining secretive detention centers used by the Indian State, in and outside of Jammu and Kashmir. They believed that some of their disappeared husbands may still be incarcerated in secretive detention centers. The said global campaign by Kashmir activists included APDP’s ongoing demand for the investigations into all the unmarked graves and their relationship to those who have disappeared in Jammu and Kashmir since 1989.

Since January, APDP organized some awareness cum training workshops. During these workshops members of the association from different districts and students as well as research scholars were invited to participate. The programme were organised to build the capacity and to expand the struggle and campaign against disappearances. These small scale workshops were organized with an intention to build capacity and strong network within the society, which would help

the organization in reinforcing larger campaign of association. Some students studying in various educational institutions of India have expressed to create awareness across India about issue of disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir and the struggle of APDP.

In February, a seminar on Women’s Resistance Day, participated in by many civil society and human rights activists, scholars, writers, columnists, social workers, students and volunteers was undertaken. The seminar looked back at the twenty four years where the women of Jammu and Kashmir have been subject to widespread and systematic gendered human rights violations, including rapes, sexual assaults, abductions, disappearances, extra judicial executions, and torture perpetrated by the Indian state’s- paramilitary, army and Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The speakers emphasized that throughout the conflict, the women have struggled for truth, justice, refused to let their voices be silenced, recognized their resilience and courage against different forms of human rights violations i.e. they publicly exposed official attempts at cover ups, organized women’s groups, or approached the State Human Rights Commission [SHRC], or legal forums for justice.

In April, the 10th death anniversary of Aasiya Jeelani was commemorated with a roundtable discussion entitled “Elections under Occupation”. The participants expressed that Aasiya’s work and commitment continues to inspire and remain relevant in today’s times, as people of Jammu and Kashmir are faced with yet another election process.

They emphasized that the history of elections in Kashmir have always demonstrated that elected members have always been used by the Indian state to introduce draconian laws like Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), Disturbed Areas Act, and Public Safety Act to rule Kashmir. The speakers deliberated that participation in election would not bring anything until human rights are protected and justice is delivered.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, IKOHI in June held a national consolidation meeting to unite the organization on their analysis and position on the Presidential elections.

Members from different parts of the country gathered in Jakarta for three days. Victims from the 1965-1966 massacres were also represented. The members present decided to vote for a candidate who carries a human rights platform. On the last day the participants sought a dialogue with the Commission on Human Rights regarding the status of their cases as well as their demand to investigate the human rights background of Gen. Prabowo. They also staged their weekly Thursday rally in the afternoon along with members of the Coalition Against Forgetting.

Nepal

In Nepal CVSJ and AF conducted discussions with relatives regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Ordinance and later the Truth and Reconciliation Act of 2014, its objections and proposed actions. This has been an important activity because there are groups in the country who welcomed these mechanisms. So there is a clash of perspective and relatives need to be enlightened.

Training to media persons and workshops and consultations

Philippines

In the Philippines, during the Holy Week, AFAD participated in the yearly activity of FIND the “Kalbaryo ng mga Desaparecido” (Calvary of the Disappeared), linking the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the cross with the ordeals faced by a victim of enforced disappearance. The regional campaign officer of AFAD was one of the speakers, where the gender dimension of enforced disappearance was highlighted.

AFAD Secretariat in partnership with FIND met the relatives of disappeared victims from some towns of the province of Bukidnon in Northeastern Mindanao during the International Week of the Disappeared. Most of these relatives were not yet members of FIND.

It was hosted by the former Chair of FIND, Mr. Resus who is already 85 (?) years old. His son disappeared during the dictatorship. His presence provided an inspiration to the relatives, many of them still showed signs of fear.

It was their first time to know that there is an organization helping victims of human rights violations and that there are two important laws – anti-enforced disappearance and compensation that they are entitled to benefit from. For AFAD and FIND, it was an occasion to hear directly from them their own experiences of violations and also to learn that there were so many other victims from far flung barangays and towns whose cases remain undocumented.

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, Odhikar observed the International Week of the Disappeared (IWD) between May 29 and June 2, 2014 in four divisional headquarters- Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rajshahi where human rights defenders associated with Odhikar organised rallies, human chains and discussion meetings. Human rights defenders also read out a paper on the situation of human rights focusing on enforced disappearances in front of the Shahid Minar (Martyr Monument) and press club. During this week Odhikar condemns the failure of the government of Bangladesh to protect the citizens from enforced disappearance and extends solidarity to the families of the disappeared victims.

- 39 reported incidents of enforced disappearances have been documented by Odhikar. Such information was verified by its grassroots level network of human rights defenders. Odhikar also carried out three fact-finding missions. In one incident where seven people were disappeared allegedly by the members of RAB with exchange of money by the ruling party’s influential leader at Narayanganj.
- Every last week of May, the international community, especially the Associations of the Families of the Disappeared, commemorates the International Week of the Disappeared (IWD). Accordingly Odhikar observed the IWD between 29 May and June 2, 2014. The IWD was initiated by Odhikar in four districts- Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet and Rajshahi where human rights defenders associated with Odhikar organised rallies, human chains and discussion meetings.
- Human rights defenders also read out a statement

on the situation of human rights focusing enforced disappearances in front of the Shahid Minar (Martyr Monument) and press club. Odhikar condemned the failure of the government of Bangladesh to protect citizens from enforced disappearances and extended its solidarity with the families of the disappeared victims during the week.

- Organised rallies and human chains in four divisions- Khulna, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet to mark the International Day of the Disappeared on August 30, 2014. – do you have figures of how many attended; breakdown of men and women?
- Joined a meeting organised by Moulik Odhikar Surokkha Committee (Committee to Protect Fundamental Rights) in Dhaka on August 30, where about 60 families of the disappeared were gathered and presented their testimonies.
- Organised rallies and human chains in four divisions- Khulna, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet to mark the International Human Rights Day on December 10, 2014. Odhikar circulated a statement regarding the International Human Rights Day where issues of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and custodial torture were focused. Odhikar also joined a meeting organised by Moulik Odhikar Surokkha Committee (Committee to Protect Fundamental Rights). Where victims' families and adverse group of protesters on December 10, 2014 demanded an independent probe into all the incidents of enforced disappearances, extra judicial killings and custodial torture committed in last 10 years.
- Odhikar, being a member of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), has been working against enforced disappearance and consistently campaigning for the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. As part of this campaign Odhikar, in collaboration with the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) organised a two-day capacity building training course for human rights defenders on enforced disappearance. The training programme was held in the CARITAS Development Institute in Dhaka on 20-21 December 2014. Twenty participants, mainly human rights defenders from different districts of Bangladesh; and members of the victim families attended the training. The training programmes were aimed to equip human rights defenders on the methods and techniques necessary for working on this issue.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, on 10th of April, Families of the Disappeared (FOD), together with other civil society organizations (including the trade union) had a discussion on the implications of the Prevention of Terrorism Act which has been used by the state as basis in the recent arrests of Balendra Jeyakumari, Fr. Praveen and Ruki Fernando. The meeting highlighted the importance of a coordinated action among them. In their analysis, there is need for people in the South to be also involved as the organizing and campaigning have been focused only in the North and East.

They also have to conduct broad political discussions with political parties, civil organizations, trade unions, religious leaders including respected individuals; organize public meetings and discussions in Colombo and other districts and maximize the UN Human Rights Council to address their issues. The discussion also pointed to new threats on their security as the state puts forward the message that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) have revived their organization. Some of the recent arrests were linked to the LTTE.

III. ANNEX - Directory of AFAD member-organizations in 2014

Organization	Address	Contact Number	Council Member	Nature Of Organization	Member Since	Reg. Number
Odhikar (Bangladesh)	House No. 35 93 rd Floor, Road No. 117 Gulshan Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh Email odhikar.bd@gmail.com Website www.odhikar.org	Phone 008802 9888587 Fax 008802 9886208	Mr. Adilur Rahman Khan Email adilkhan.rahman@gmail.com Mr. Adilur Rahman Khan	Odhikar has been able to established itself as one of the leading human rights organisations of the country. It has developed a strong network of partners and human rights defenders not only all over Bangladesh, but also in the region.	2010	No. 924
Asosiasaun HAK (Timor Leste) The HAK Association	Rua Gov. Serpa Rosa, T-091 Farol, Dili, Timor-Leste Email info.asosiasaunhak@gmail.com Website www.hakti.org/en	Phone (+670) 3313323	Sisto dos Santos Email lanarra.del@gmail.com Sisto Dos Santos	Vision: A Timorese society which has prosperity, equality and no discrimination as to human rights, so that we may have everlasting peace. Mission: To promote, protect and spread the principles of human rights throughout society and the state institutions of Timor-Leste.	2008	No. 191
KontraS (Indonesia) The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence	Jl. Borobudur Bo. 14 Menteng, Jakarta, 10320, Indonesia Email kontras_98@kontras.org Website www.kontras.org	Phone 0062 21 3926983 / 3928564 Fax 0062 21 3926821	Ms. Yati Andriyani Email yatiandriyani@gmail.com Yati Adriyani	With a powerful alliance behind it, KontraS became a leading organization confronting the authoritarianism of the Soeharto regime. During that period, the tactical and strategic nature of the task at hand dominated KontraS' performance.	2000	
APDP (Jammu and Kashmir, India) Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons	The Bund, Amirakadal, Srinagar-190001 Jammu & Kashmir, India Email p_imroz@yahoo.com.in Website www.apdpkashmir.blogspot.com	Phone 0091- 8803929741 / 0091-9419013553	Ms. Samreen Mushtaq Email samreen.mq@gmail.com	APDP actively campaigns for an end to the practice and international crime of involuntary and enforced disappearances at local, national and international platforms. Members of the APDP have been engaged in documenting enforced disappearances in Kashmir since 1989 and have collected information on over one thousand such cases, so far.	1998	
IKOHI (Indonesia) Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared	Jl. Matraman Dalam II No. 7, RT/RW19/08 Kel. Pegangsaan, Jakarta Pusat 10320, Indonesia Email kembalikan@yahoo.com Website www.ikohi.blogspot.com	Telefax 0062 21310060	Wanmayetti Yetti Email wyo1sikumbang@gmail.com	IKOHI, Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared, was set up on September 17, 1998 by the parents of victims and survivors of disappearances. The objective of the organization is to empower survivors and relatives of victims and to enhance the participation and involvement of the survivors and their families to defend their rights. The existence of IKOHI brings a strong victim's perspective to the Indonesian human rights movement in general.	2003	
Defence of Human Rights (Pakistan)	40-C/1 Westridge, Nagi Road, Rawalpindi, Pakistan	Phone 051- 5511686	Amina Masood Janjua Email mrsjanjua@gmail.com	Defence of Human Rights was established by Amina Masood Janjua in 2005 after the abduction of her husband Masood Ahmad Janjua, a famous Businessman and Educator of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Not only that the movement gave hope and courage to the relatives of disappeared but also achieved results. Around 400 illegal detainees have been traced in the last 5 years, winning support of the masses and enjoying matchless reputation internationally. Similarly in last 9 years 650 detainees have been traced.	2014	No. 1608

Organization	Address	Contact Number	Council Member	Nature Of Organization	Member Since	Reg. Number
Advocacy Forum (Nepal)	Shantiniketan Marg 94/14, Gairidhara, Kathmandu, Nepal Email info@advocacyforum.org.np Website www.advocacyforum.org	Phone +977-1-4415789, 4004007, 4004008 Fax +977-1-14426698	Chudamani Acharya Email advocate.chudamani@gmail.com	Advocacy Forum (AF) is a leading non-profit, non-governmental organization working to promote the rule of law and uphold international human rights standards in Nepal. Since its establishment in 2001, AF has been at the forefront of human rights advocacy and actively confronting the deeply entrenched culture of impunity in Nepal.	2006	
CVSJ (Nepal) Conflict Victims' Society of Justice	Naxal, Kathmandu, Nepal Email conflictvictimssociety@gmail.com		Janak Raut Email conflictvictimsociety@gmail.com	CVSJ-Nepal is the central-level establishment of the survivors of violence and relatives of those killed and disappeared at the hands of both the state and the then Maoist rebels during the decade-long armed conflict in the country. Formally registered on Sep 25 2008, the society aims at uniting conflict victims of all complexions in their simultaneous quest for truth and justice.	2011	
FOD (Sri Lanka) Families of the Disappeared	No. 555, Negombo Road, Katunayake, Sri Lanka Email fodlanka@gmail.com Website www.right2lifelanka.org	Telefax 0094 312221604	Brito Fernando Email britojfdo@gmail.com	Vision: A civil movement where people learn about their rights specially in their daily life and to stand collectively to demand the rule of law by using the prevailing system in maximum Mission: To build up several activists with a good knowledge of the rights and give the leadership to other people who do like to active in their need Goal: To develop a human right respected and promoted society in the country.	2010	
Justice for Peace Foundation (Thailand)	24/158 Ladprow 21 Ladprow, Jatujak Bangkok, Thailand Email Angkhana_nee@hotmail.com Website www.wgjp.org	Phone 0066 29759975	Dr.Pratubjit Neelapaijit Email tubjit@gmail.com	The Justice for Peace Foundation has been working since 2006 to strengthen non-violent efforts to protect human rights, promote access to justice and to end impunity in Thailand's restive southern border provinces.	2006	No. KO. To. 1915
Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes (Thailand)	43/92 Moo7 Tambon Kookot, Lulooka Pathumdhani 12130 Bangkok, Thailand Email kongkanit@kongkanatat.com	Phone 0066 29948513 Fax 0066 29948517	Boonthan Verawongse Email bverawongse@gmail.com	In July 1992 the Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes was founded, comprising families of the "disappeared", those killed or disabled.	2000	
Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights	3F, Gyemyeong Bldg., 186 megeun-dong, seodaemun-gu, Seoul, 120-120, Korea Email bongsa@nkhumanrights.or.kr Website www.nkhumanrights.or.kr	Phone +82-2723-1672, 2671 Fax +82-2-723-1671	Michele Park Sonen Email citizens.nkhr5@gmail.com Miri Cha Email citizens.nkhr6@gmail.com	With a firm belief in the spirit of humanity and compassion, the Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights endeavors to improve the situation of human rights in North Korea and to provide assistance and help for North Korean refugees. Our advocacy campaign expands in cooperation with other international human rights organizations and engages an enthusiastic young generation in various programs to help new North Korean settlers adjust to life in South Korea.	2012	



AFAD 5th Congress

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