



ຂະບວນການ ລາວ ເພື່ອ ສິດທິ ມະນຸດ (ຂລສມ)

**Mouvement Lao pour les Droits de L'Homme (MLDH)**

**Lao Movement for Human Rights**

**MESSAGE TO**

**THE ASEAN FEDERATION AGAINST INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES**

**Paris, 6 December 2017.** The Lao Movement for Human Rights wishes success to the 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of The Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances.

Enforced disappearance is a violent and unacceptable violation to our basic rights and an infringement of international law. It is an odious crime that deeply and painfully affects the victim's close ones who desperately seek information and find themselves in front of walls of denial, silence and indifference from the authorities. Too often, it involves the acquiescence or complicity of state officials and instills fear within civil society and human rights community in the country.

In Laos, enforced disappearance is all the more a serious human rights roll back when it strikes figures like Sombath Somphone, disappeared in December 2015, who always worked, advocated and strived for environment, land rights issues, equitable and sustainable approach to national development or less known citizens like Kingkeo, Somchit, Soubinh, Souane, Sinpasong, Khamstone, Nou, Somkhit, and Sourigna who disappeared in November 2009 after being arrested for planning to participate in pro-democracy demonstrations.

It is high time for ASEAN governments to amend the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to ensure that the body effectively addresses human rights violations, including enforced disappearances.

The Lao Movement for Human Rights stands in solidarity with The Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, with our sister Shui Meng as well as with all the victims families and reiterates its will to continue endlessly to work for a world without enforced disappearances and human rights violations.

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