



The Voice

Standing Strong Against
Disappearances

AFAD 2013 Annual Report

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A message from the **Secretary-General**

The year 2013 ended with the Government of Argentina bestowing upon me the Emilio Mignone International Human Rights Prize on 10 December 2013. It is a recognition of the significance of the struggle against enforced disappearances in Asia that submitted the highest number of cases to the United Nations.

At the end of 2013, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Convention) garnered 92 signatories and 41 States parties. While Asia has rampant cases of disappearances, the only additional State party to the Convention is Cambodia. Not one Asian country has replicated the Philippines in enacting an anti-enforced disappearance law. In Nepal, a nagging insistence for false reconciliation between the victims and the perpetrators by merging the anti-disappearance bill with the truth commission blocks the road to a genuine and lasting peace. The much-awaited ratification of the Convention by Indonesia was not realized... No progress was seen in South Korea on victims of disappearances committed by North Korea.

As focal point of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances, AFAD initiated the countries of the month campaign to convince States to ratify the Convention. In various ways, such as knocking at doors of government agencies and entering the huge edifice of the United Nations, AFAD, in cooperation with its sister-organizations in other parts of the world, echoed the cry of the families



Mary Aileen Diez - Bacalso

of the disappeared to end enforced disappearances. Yet, Asia remains the region, bereft of regional mechanisms for human rights protection.

On the contrary, cases are unresolved and new ones occurred in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India. Glaring in countries with AFAD's presence was the persecution of Odhikar leaders and staff and the raid of its office, thus restricting documentation of human rights violations and reporting these to the international community. Of equal intensity was the intimidation caused by human rights defenders and families of the disappeared in Sri Lanka, a country infamous for its human rights record.

In many ways, AFAD struggled to attain its mission of building a world without disappeared people. Its multi-faceted activities on solidarity, advocacy, lobby and capacity-building capsulized in this 2013 report could attest to this. Let me, therefore, express the Federation's gratitude to all those who shared their invaluable support to our noble mission of eradicating disappearances from the face of the earth.

What is **AFAD**?

The Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) is a federation of human rights organizations working directly on the issue of involuntary disappearances in Asia. Envisioning a world without *desaparecidos*, the Federation was founded on June 4, 1998 in Manila, Philippines.

The Federation was established based on the common phenomena of enforced or involuntary disappearances in many Asian countries and the imperative of regional and international solidarity in order to strongly respond to the problem.

The perpetrators, being agents of states, are so powerful that an equally

strong response is needed to effect a huge impact. Since it is a violation of a number of basic human rights, civil and political as well as economic and social. Enforced disappearance is the cruelest form of human rights violation.

A Federation, whose own strength is drawn from the intrinsic strength of its member-organizations, is imperative in order to respond to the needs of the families of the disappeared. It intends to facilitate their empowerment which is necessary for the realization of a world without *desaparecidos*.

AFAD is guided by the principles of mutual support among member-organizations, transparency within the Federation and with other regional formations, and sustainability of efforts.





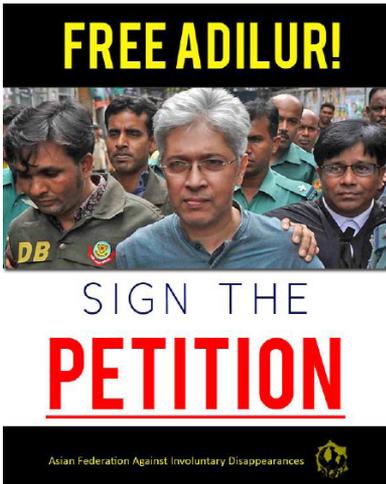
Campaign and Lobby

The establishment of a politico-legal environment that is favorable to victims and families of the disappeared and to the greater society.

Bangladesh

AFAD member, Odhikar actively participated in the Universal Periodic Review of Bangladesh last April in Geneva and worked on a joint report with the Asian Legal Resource Center (ALRC). While in Geneva, Odhikar conducted meetings with other organizations to present the worsening human rights situation of Bangladesh.

ICAED's country-of-the-month campaign for Bangladesh was jointly coordinated by ICAED Focal Point, ICAED members and Odhikar during the UPR period, in which 15 organizations from ICAED and AFAD wrote lobby letters to the government. Skills training on fact-finding, report



FREE ADILUR!

**SIGN THE
PETITION**

Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances

AFAD joins the call to free Mr. Adilur Khan



AFAD member since 2010

writing, and advocacy were also conducted, wherein skills learned were useful in actual fact-finding mission.

The year 2013 was a very difficult year for Bangladesh in view of the arrest and detention of its Secretary and AFAD Council Member, Adilur Rahman Khan, the consequent raid of its office and the persecution of other constituents, e.g. the Director and the staff. AFAD wrote two statements on this and submitted these to the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (UN WGEID).

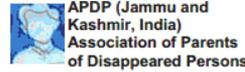
There were efforts on the part of the AFAD Council to join missions to Bangladesh organized by the OMCT and the Forum Asia, but for one reason or another, these were not made possible. In as far as AFAD is concerned, the physical participation of Odhikar members were constrained and in fact, it was not able to physically participate in the AFAD Council meeting held in Timor Leste.

Kashmir - India

In February 2013, AFAD member organization in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) condemned Police Bill 2013, a Bill which was aimed to further empower police agencies, which have already been largely involved in committing human rights violations. In its condemnation, the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) indicated that the state is trying to legalize repression.

The association observed that the initial reading of the Draft Jammu and Kashmir Police Bill, 2013, suggests that the Government seeks to formalize previous draconian practices and activities. The APDP also consistently struggled to build pressure on the government of India to put an end to the phenomenon of ED and also to deliver justice to the victims and their families.

So far, the government is reluctant to constitute an impartial enquiry commission under the Commissions of Enquiry Act 1957 to probe into all the cases of enforced or involuntary



AFAD member since 1998

disappearances in J&K and does seem to be in a disposition to ratify the Convention. The Indian state is also still in denial of conducting impartial investigations into unmarked and mass graves despite constant calls and pressure from international institutions.

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

alleged
PERPETRATORS
Stories of impunity in Jammu and Kashmir

INTERNATIONAL PEOPLES' TRIBUNAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE
IN INDIAN ADMINISTERED KASHMIR

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

The APDP, in April, campaigned against the Indian states' claim of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and its unconcerned approach about the alarming issue of ED and mass graves in J&K.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Marty Natalegawa met for the first time with the AFAD Chairperson and Secretary General in March. The Minister reiterated its commitment to work towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Convention) and stated that it has been preparing the necessary documents on this matter to be forwarded to the President.

A meeting with the Deputy Chairperson of the Office of the Ombudsman, Republic of Indonesia (ORI), Mrs. Azlaini Agus with representatives of AFAD members, The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS) and Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI) as well as AFAD Chairperson and Secretary General was done in March. It was meant to follow-up on the progress of two clarification letters sent by the ORI to the President in relation



AFAD member since 2000



IKATAN KELUARGA ORANG HILANG INDONESIA
Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared

AFAD member since 2003

AFAD and its members also had a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs which resulted in the latter's indication of support to the efforts to ratify the Convention. Also, some members of government were engaged as resource persons during the launching of results of research on best practices in its advocacy

against ED.

The Indonesian Coalition Against Enforced Disappearance met in January and agreed to focus on tracking the progress of government's moves towards ratification of the Convention.

The coalition has a long-term activity that will document and update any progress on the ratification and is intended to hold lobby meeting with the Parliament and other government agencies related to the issue. It was able to coordinate with "Pita Hitam Coalition" composed of various



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

students' groups from different universities, in support of the enforcement of human rights in Indonesia and the settlement of gross human rights violations in past, including ED cases.

Nepal

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



AFAD member since 2006



न्यायको लागि
दुर्गुणपीडित समाज, नेपाल

CVSJ

AFAD member since 2011

organizations.

Meanwhile, the political situation in the country continues to deteriorate. In late January, the government started to use force against protesters, mostly women, in



the Occupy Baluwater Movement (Baluwater Satyagrah) that called for justice for victims of rape and other gender-based violence and who camped out for a month in front of Baluwater, the Prime Minister's residence.

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

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

Philippines

In the Philippines, the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 10353, otherwise known as the Anti- Enforced Disappearance Act of 2012 were jointly promulgated by government through the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) and Families of the Desaparecidos for Justice (Desaparecidos).

A Task Force has been formed to flesh out the details of the IRR. In the light of the implementation

MISEREOR
IHR HILFSWERK

Philippine Project

of this new law, the Department of Health (DOH), in April, issued a Memorandum to all direct health services providers and practitioners under the Department to include reporting of inquiries on reported disappeared persons' whereabouts.

Members of the Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (CAED) organized and/or participated in various activities. The first forum-workshop on the effective

implementation of the Anti-enforced Disappearance Act was attended by key figures from the government, foreign embassies, human rights movement, academe and the coalition. Workshop results comprised of identification of roles and doable actions to ensure the effective implementation of the law particularly on investigation, prosecution and rehabilitation.

Joint activities for the commemoration of the International Week of the Disappeared and series of meetings were conducted to discuss media messaging for broader public support to the issue of disappearance with the support of DAKILA, a group of individuals advocating for social

change. A diplomatic briefing was conducted by AFAD, FIND and the Ateneo Human Rights Center which was attended by local NGOs and the embassies of Spain, France and Japan. The content of the said event was the importance of the Philippine government's ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the corresponding lobbying strategies.

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



Forum-workshop on effective implementation of Anti-Disappearance Law

as part of the whole process of discussing the ratification of the Convention.

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

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

The conduct of public events are not only traditionally used to popularize the issue but also



to create avenues where different stakeholders are brought together to share their views and plans in addressing the issue. During this period, AFAD and FIND organized their own separate activities aimed at getting the wider support from the public.

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



Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, a formation called “Relatives Searching for the Disappeared Family Members” in the districts of Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi was established through the initiative of FOD and Mannar Citizen Committee (MCC) after discussions with the activists in said districts. The formation of this organization is a big step considering the difficult security situation in the area.

A network consisting of 19 organizations was also formed; wherein six are involved with some work against ED. Four committees were formed: Media and Publicity; Data Collecting and Reporting; Legal; and, Campaign and lobby. The Data Collecting committee was able to prepare a general list of 2,300 cases with the help of the other organizations in the network. This effort will hopefully address the problem of double reporting in the future, as the committee planned to



AFAD member since 2010

report 500 cases by the end of 2013 to the UN WGEID.

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



SRI LANKA commemorates International Day of the Disappeared.

South Korea

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



AFAD member since 2012

AFAD facilitated cooperation between the Citizens' Alliance of North Korean Human Rights and the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. At the beginning, upon the authorization of the Citizens' Alliance on North Korean Human Rights, the AFAD Secretary-General brought up individual cases. NKHR representatives later personally had meetings with the UN WGEID who admitted a number of cases.

Thailand

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



AFAD member since 2006



Relatives Committee of
the May 1992 Heroes

AFAD member since 2000

The AFAD Secretary-General and the President of the Justice for Peace Foundation jointly had a meeting with the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances in March 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting principally focused on the unresolved case of Somchai Neelaphajit and many other cases in Southern Thailand and the general human rights situation in Thailand.

Timor Leste

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



AFAD member since 2008

briefings before interviews with media were also implemented.

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



AFAD Council meets with the President of Timor-Leste, H.E. Taur Matan Ruak

Public campaign & Info dissemination

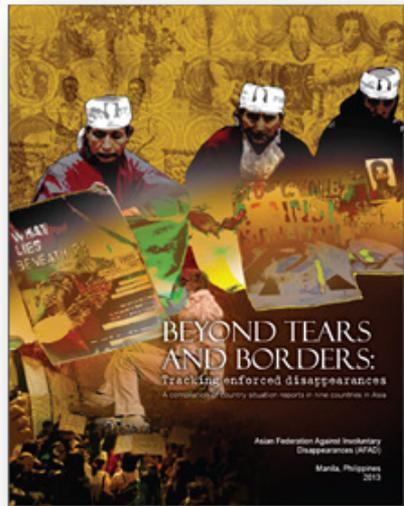
Statements were issued in response to a violation committed, as expression of solidarity in traditionally commemorated events and pressure in relation to Convention ratification. AFAD members continuously responded to urgent appeals cases, particularly for incidents and situations which involve AFAD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

AFAD undertook the production and dissemination of campaign materials and other publications of the Federation. Some of these were: AFAD 2013 calendar; AFAD magazine, *The Voice*; 6th edition of the Primer on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; compilation of case documentation results

entitled, “Beyond Tears and Borders”; commencement of a research for the production of a Coffeetable book on disappeared democracy champions in Asia.

Copies of brochure, program-related papers, booklet, poster and a regional video documentary to highlight the situation of enforced disappearance in Asia were also produced. Keynote papers on the legal dimension of enforced disappearance were also prepared. Other creative forms such as songs, poems, video, and social media contents in terms of campaigning were used and produced, while a common petition letter participated in by members of the federation was signed.

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





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 a very minimal cost.

International Lobbying

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

The AFAD and ICAED facilitated referrals of contacts to Odhikar during UPR Review of Bangladesh as well as the participation of Shui Meng, wife of Lao disappeared development worker, Sombath Somphone in Geneva human rights events in November. Too, AFAD's application for UN ECOSOC status was followed-up.

Participation and Interventions in International Fora and Advocacy

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

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

Country-of-the-Month Campaign

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

As the ICAED Focal Point, the AFAD, in coordination with the selected

country-of-the-month prepares template letters addressed to government authorities of selected countries.

The Focal Point then requests all 50 members of the ICAED to send letters which are made available in three languages: English, French and Spanish. Sample letters were drafted, circulated in English, French and Spanish versions, signed by the representatives of member and network organizations and sent to the authorities of government of particular countries. Selection of the country-of-the-

month was done by the ICAED Steering Committee members composed of 10 international NGOs and federations and associations of families of the disappeared from different parts of the world. From January to November 2013, the focus-countries were Indonesia, Burundi, El Salvador, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Canada, Philippines, Georgia. An average of 15 organizations per month from different countries participated in this campaign.

Recognition

In June 2013, the focal person of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), who is also the AFAD Secretary-General, Mary Aileen D. Bacalso was awarded the Patrick Rice Human Rights Award by the Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC) in Washington DC. She shared the award with Mr. Juan Mendez, the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture.

On 10 December 2013, the Government of Argentina bestowed upon the AFAD Secretary-General, Mary Aileen D. Bacalso the Emilio Mignone International Human Rights Prize in Buenos Aires. It was the first time that the award was given to an individual on the occasion of Argentina's 30 years of democracy.





A student of the National University of East Timor while being interviewed for a research in Timor - Leste

Research & Documentation

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

Support to Research and Documentation

Personnel support to eight (8) Documentation and Research Staff members (DRS) was sustained. The DRS who will take charge of country-level field documentation and case encoding in the AFAD database were hired by local organizations in each of the 8 countries and are being coordinated by the AFAD Regional

Research and Documentation Officer (RDO). These personnel underwent capacity-development activities related to documentation work. This contributed to more focused and strategic research and documentation work at the country and Federation levels.

Database Management

The Federation currently maintains a regional database system referred to as the AFAD Accumulated Database which is linked to nine databases managed by the member organizations in eight countries. Continuing and more advanced documentation, reporting and monitoring capacity development activities were implemented in 2013. The continued development and improvement of AFAD's regional database ensures regional and global visibility of the theme of enforced disappearances.

While AFAD completed the encoding cases under the partnership with the Southeast Asian Centre for e-Media (SEACeM) for the ARMS in 2012, an on-going effort to sustain this partnership is the discussion with SEACeM regarding the synchronization of AFAD Accumulated Database with the ARMS. It is to be noted that the same system utilized by ARMS

was adopted in establishing AFAD's regional and country-level databases.

Field documentation was also crucial to the documentation and research staff's work at their respective countries. From this documentation work, AFAD's documentation system has, to date, 142 entries from Bangladesh, India (Jammu & Kashmir), Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Of these entries, more than half or 74 are already reflected in the regional database.

Reporting of cases of enforced disappearances was also among the accomplished tasks during the implementation of the documentation work. Case submissions were submitted to the UN WGEID from Indonesia (27), Sri Lanka (1), Nepal (3), Philippines (3); Follow up on previous communication Bangladesh (5); and a General Allegation submitted from Jammu and Kashmir

Regional Level - Research and Documentation

At the Federation level, the following activities in relation to general research and documentation work were conducted:

- Justice Trail: Regional Documentation, Monitoring and Reporting Training Workshop
- Continuing development of the country-level training manual
- Production phase and launching of the regional video documentary
- Writing, editing, printing, launching and distribution of Beyond Tears and Borders: country situation reports

- Preliminary meetings re the Urgent Appeals System
- Database development and improvement
- Participation of the NHRK in the database system
- Discussion with SEACEM re synchronizing of AFAD Accumulated Database and ARMS
- Reporting of cases; submission of follow-up communication to the WGEID
- Assistance to the issuances of urgent appeals – Nepal
- Coordination and networking with Focus on the Global South Bangkok office re campaign to return Sombath safely
- Coordination with FIND re finalizing TOR, orientation of DRS and documentation unit hired for the project of AFAD, orientation to the database system and participation in the regional documentation training.
- Access to the AFAD country database provided to FIND as documentation partner in the Philippines
- Acquisition of new books and maintenance of the AFAD Resource Collection (RC)
- Expansion of networking effort by member organizations in civil society and government actors in Sri Lanka and Indonesia
- Consolidation and strengthening of existing linkages
- Opportunities for networking as a result of capacity building work
- Database and documentation work facilitated some member organizations' networking with local organizations

Researches

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

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

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

SRI LANKA: AFAD member, FOD, conducted 50 interviews on perspective of victims, families & human rights workers and on the importance of commemorating the memorial

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

law. In lieu of Timor, AFAD Secretariat finished design, methodology and data gathering and processing of the research on the level of awareness.

Jammu and Kashmir - India

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

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

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



Psychosocial Rehabilitation

Families of the disappeared have undertaken another level in AFAD's psychosocial rehabilitation programs through the provision of psychosocial peer support to other families.

Direct and local psychosocial support efforts

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

the Philippines. AFAD members in Nepal continued with the psychosocial rehabilitation, Circle of Healing, for victims of conflict and human rights violations, under a directly-sourced new project supported by the UNVFVT.

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

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

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

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

For the families' associations in Jakarta, they are concerned more with income-generating activities for victims of human rights violations in Jakarta; and, establishment and facilitation of legal identity of victims' cooperatives.

For the Philippines, a comprehensive psychosocial and rehabilitation plan that will also

cover reparation and restitution as mandated by the Anti-Disappearance law is being mapped out.

Pending activities for the Jammu and Kashmir project supported by the WWDP were monitored by AFAD EC members. In the follow-up AFAD Treasurer, Mandira Sharma personally visited the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons. In this regard, the APDP conducted a two-day Psychosocial Rehabilitation Workshop.

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

Regional and International Experience Sharing on Psychosocial rehabilitation

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



Organizational, Administrative and Finance Management

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

LEADERSHIP

The leadership of the Federation, through the AFAD Council and Executive Council continued to guide the Federation carrying out its avowed mission, vision and goals. Membership is developed and maintained through efforts at expansion, resource generation, capacity development and solidarity work.

The day-to-day work of the Secretariat as the center for service and coordination has, like in previous years, been an indispensable part in ensuring the implementation of AFAD's work at the national, regional and international levels. Consciousness in ensuring regular planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects and personnel both through internal efforts and with the help of external facilitators helped much in the attainment of the work of the Federation.

This program on organizational, administrative and finance

AFAD Executive Council Members

Mugiyanto <i>Indonesia</i>	Chairperson
Mary Aileen D. Bacalo <i>Philippines</i>	Secretary- General
Mandira Sharma <i>Nepal</i>	Treasurer

AFAD Council Members

Adil Khan Bangladesh	Odhikar
Parvez Imroz Kashmir, India	Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP)
Yati Andriyani Indonesia	Commission for the Disappeared Victims of Violence (KontraS)
Yetti Sikumbang Indonesia	Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared (IKOHI)
Ambar Raut Nepal	Advocacy Forum (AF)
Janak Bahadur Raut Nepal	Conflict Victims Society for Justice (CSVJ)
Brito Fernando Sri Lanka	Families of the Disappeared (FOD)
Angkhana Neelaphajit Thailand	Justice for Peace Foundation (JPF)
Boonthan Verawongse Thailand	Relatives Committee of the May 1992 Heroes
Sisto dos Santos Timor Leste	Perkumpulan HAK (The HAK Association)
Lilian Lee South Korea	Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights (NKHR)



AFAD Council
meeting in Dili
Timor-Leste

management were vital to the results and activities of the other programs, thus support for this program was indeed of key value to the general advocacy and federation work of AFAD.

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

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

During the last quarter 2013, the AFAD Council conducted a physical meeting on November 18 - 24 in Dili, Timor Leste. It was an opportunity for the Council to review the Federation's Vision-Mission-Goals and assigned the Executive Committee to reformulate it to make it more attainable to assess the work

planned, discuss social, political, organizational and human rights situations focusing on enforced disappearances in different countries and to conduct planning for 2014. The AFAD Council also discussed matters related to AFAD Secretariat Restructuring and Policies and Guidelines. In time too for the Council meeting, lobby meetings with representatives from Timor Leste government were attended by Council members and guests and the AFAD regional video was also launched.

FINANCE

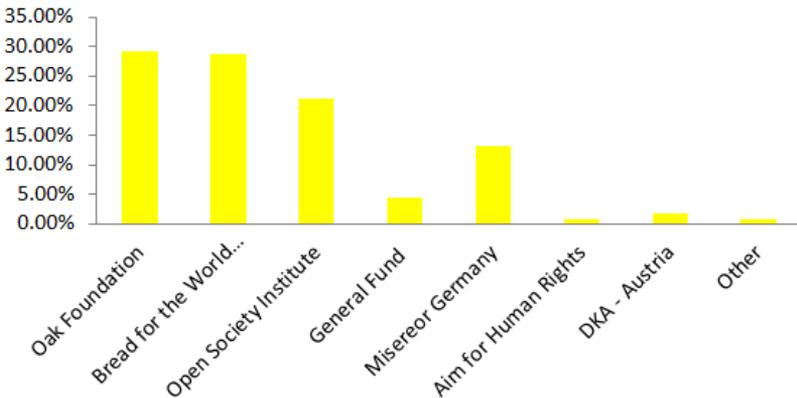
The actual finance situation of AFAD in 2013 speaks of the continuing support of its partners. Considering its comprehensive work in the Asian region, not to mention its international work as the focal point of the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED), AFAD's funding pales in comparison with the actual needs. While several efforts were conducted to raise funds, producing new sources of support was an uphill battle. To the best that it could, the Federation ensured optimum use its existing resources

In principle, federation is ideally supported by its member-organizations in many respects. For AFAD, it is remains a challenge. Relevant activities of the Federation included establishment

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

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

2013 AFAD FUND SOURCES



CONCLUSION

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

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

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

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

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

A summing up of AFAD's 15 years of struggle for a world without disappeared people is called for as it enters its 16th year of work. It is envisioned that quantitative and qualitative leaps of the Federation in terms of organic and political outcomes be achieved to respond to the increasing challenges of the phenomenon of enforced disappearances in the Asian region in particular and in the rest of the world in general.

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