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# International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

## PRESS STATEMENT

ANTONY J. BLINKEN, SECRETARY OF STATE

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On this International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, we stand in solidarity with those who have been subjected to the anguish of separation from their families and friends. We also extend our support to the family members, legal representatives, and human rights defenders who tirelessly champion the cause of the victims. Regrettably, these advocates often encounter severe harassment and reprisals themselves.

The issue of enforced disappearances and missing persons is a global concern. The United States calls on all governments to confront the issue of disappeared or missing individuals. We urge those responsible for enforced disappearances to immediately cease this practice, disclose information about the victims to their loved ones, and either release the victims unconditionally or return the remains of those who have tragically lost their lives. Furthermore, we call upon governments to halt any harassment and retaliatory actions against individuals advocating for the rights of victims of enforced disappearances.

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