

Distr.: General 27 September 2013

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Post-sessional document

100th session (15–19 July 2013)

I. Introduction

- 1. The present document reflects communications and cases examined by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances at its 100th session, held from 15 to 19 July 2013.
- 2. On 15 July 2013, the Working Group held a commemorative event marking its 100th session. The event provided an opportunity to reflect together with States and other stakeholders in New York on the achievements made during the 100 sessions of the Working Group and the challenges that may lie ahead in countering the crime of enforced or involuntary disappearance. It also created a space for reflection on the changing situation of enforced disappearances worldwide, and an opportunity to discuss strategies to counter this crime with a view to eradicating it and bringing truth, justice and reparation to victims. The event, which brought together international experts on enforced disappearances, Government representatives and representatives of civil society organizations working with victims of enforced disappearances and their families, consisted of two panel discussions the first focusing on achievements and prospects in relation to the 100 sessions of the Working Group; and the second focusing on strategies to counter enforced disappearances today.

II. Communications

- 3. Between its ninety-ninth and 100th sessions, the Working Group transmitted 17 cases under its urgent action procedure to Pakistan (3), Saudi Arabia (1), Senegal (1), the Syrian Arab Republic (4), Tajikistan (1), the United Arab Emirates (6) and Yemen (1).
- 4. During its 100th session, the Working Group decided to transmit 56 newly reported cases of enforced disappearance to 12 States. The Working Group also clarified four cases, in Bahrain, Colombia, Mexico and Uzbekistan. Of the four cases, three were clarified on

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the basis of information provided by Governments, and one on the basis of information provided by sources.

- 5. Between its ninety-ninth and 100th sessions, the Working Group transmitted eight communications under its prompt intervention procedure, jointly with other special procedures mechanisms, to Algeria (1), Angola (2), Colombia (1), Guatemala (1), Mexico (1), Nepal (1) and Sri Lanka (1). The Working Group also transmitted seven urgent appeals, jointly with other special procedures mechanisms, concerning persons who had been arrested, detained, abducted or otherwise deprived of their liberty or who had been forcibly disappeared or were at risk of disappearance in Bangladesh, China, Iraq, Norway and the Sudan.
- 6. During its 100th session, the Working Group also reviewed two general allegations concerning the Central African Republic and Uruguay.

III. Information concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances in States reviewed by the Working Group during the session

1. Albania

Information from the Government

7. On 10 June 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding one outstanding case. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the case.

2. Algeria

Standard procedure

8. The Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its standard procedure, concerning Ms. **Dhahbia Bouaicha**, who was allegedly taken to an unknown location from the house of an individual associated with her in dit Nouamer, commune Salah Bey, wilaya Sétif, by military agents from the Aïn Oulmane barracks, Sétif, and police officers, on 11 June 1995.

Prompt intervention letter

9. On 23 April 2013, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with four other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged excessive use of force against and arrest of Mr. **Hacène Ferhati** and 50 other individuals, including human rights defenders, who intended to participate in a peaceful protest requesting the truth regarding, and information on the fate of, those allegedly arrested or abducted in the 1990s by Algerian security services.

Information from the Government

10. The Working Group continued to process the information that had been transmitted by the Government on 5 February 2013. Information concerning 113 outstanding cases was reviewed and was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases.

11. On 26 March 2013, the Government transmitted information in relation to one outstanding case. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the case.

Information from sources

12. Sources provided information on 61 outstanding cases.

3. Angola

Prompt intervention letter

- 13. On 26 April 2013, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged arrests of Messrs. **Manuel Nito Alves, Luaty Beirão, Adolfo Campos** and **Mauro Smith** and 14 other individuals, including human rights defenders, who intended to participate in a peaceful protest calling for a Government response to the disappearances of two human rights defenders.
- 14. On 10 June 2013, the Working Group transmitted another prompt intervention letter, jointly with five other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged incommunicado detention of Mr. **Emiliano Catumbela "Ticreme"** and alleged arbitrary arrests of and excessive police actions against eight other human rights defenders during their participation in a vigil commemorating the one-year anniversary of the disappearances of Messrs. Alves Kamulingue and Cassule.

4. Bahrain

Clarification

15. On the basis of information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one outstanding case following the expiration of the period prescribed by the six-month rule.

5. Bangladesh

Urgent appeals

- 16. The Working Group transmitted one urgent appeal, on 14 June 2013, to the Government, jointly with two other special procedures mechanisms. The urgent appeal concerned the alleged enforced disappearance of Mr. **Nazrul Islam**.
- 17. On 25 June 2013 the Working Group transmitted another urgent appeal to the Government, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged enforced disappearance of Mr. **Anwarul Islam Masum**.

Information from the Government

18. On 4 March 2013, the Government transmitted a reply to an urgent appeal, sent jointly with one other special procedures mechanism on 16 November 2012, concerning serious allegations of lack of impartiality of the judiciary of the International Crimes Tribunal, and the disappearance of defence witness Mr. **Shukhoronjon Bali**. It was reported in the communication, inter alia, that "the Government of Bangladesh suspects that actually the defence side abducted Shukho Ranjan Bali prior to 25 February 2012, who was

originally a listed prosecution's witness". It was further indicated that "the concerned authority of the Government is trying to find out the whereabouts of Mr. Bali".

Observations

19. The Working Group would like to thank the Government of Bangladesh for the reply to the urgent appeal transmitted on 16 November 2012 and appreciates the information that indicates that the concerned authorities, including the police, are attempting to ascertain the whereabouts of Mr. Bali.

6. Belarus

Information from sources

20. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

7. Central African Republic

General allegation

21. On 16 July 2013, the Working Group, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, transmitted a general allegation to the Government concerning reports of flagrant and systematic human rights violations in the Central African Republic. It was reported, inter alia, that the human rights situation had worsened since the events carried out by the Séléka coalition on 24 March 2013 and that numerous human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, had been perpetrated. For example, on 14 April 2013, a staff sergeant of the amphibious battalion and a first-class soldier of the ex-presidential guard were reportedly arrested and brought to an unknown destination, and on 17 April 2013, in the Guitangola quarter, located in the sixth district of Bangui, Séléka, combatants allegedly brought a young man who was arguing with his sister to an unknown destination.

Information from sources

22. Sources provided information on three outstanding cases.

8. China

Urgent appeals

- 23. On 26 March 2013, the Working Group transmitted one urgent appeal to the Government, jointly with six other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged arrest and detention of a number of individuals in various counties in the Tibet Autonomous Region, including allegations according to which the fate and whereabouts of 18 individuals are unknown.
- 24. On 17 July 2013, the Working Group transmitted another urgent appeal to the Government, jointly with five other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged arrest and detention of peaceful protesters requesting to participate in the process preceding the upcoming universal periodic review of China, as well as the trial and alleged torture of an activist working on the same issue. It was reported, inter alia, that on 1 July 2013 a large number of the protesters had been arrested outside the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing and divided into two groups. One of the groups was reportedly released after 12 hours of interrogation but, at the time of the communication, the fate and whereabouts of the second group remained unknown.

Information from the Government

25. On 7 March 2013, the Government transmitted a reply² to an urgent appeal, sent jointly with four other special procedures mechanisms on 17 January 2013, concerning the reported "residential surveillance" imposed on Mr. **Zhu Chengzhi**. In its reply, the Government stated that:

[Zhu Chengzhi] was detained in June 2012 as a suspect on charges of crime of inciting subversion of the State's political power. In July last year, he was arrested with the approval of the office of the State prosecutor. In January 2013, the enforcement measure was changed to surveillance of residence. At present, this case is being further considered. In the process of investigating and examining the case, the public security authority guarantees Zhu Chengzhi his various rights, in accordance with the law.

26. On 28 May 2013, the Government transmitted a reply³ to an urgent appeal, sent jointly with six other special procedures mechanisms on 26 March 2013, concerning the alleged arrest and detention of a number of individuals in various counties in the Tibet Autonomous Region, including allegations according to which the fate and whereabouts of 18 individuals are unknown. In its response, with regard to the whereabouts of Messrs. **Lobsang Jinpa, Sonam Namgyal, Lobsang Samten** and **Thupten Gelek**, the Government indicated that:

In September 2012, Lobsang Jinpa was detained, in accordance with law, on a charge of suspected crime to instigate the split of the state by the Public Security organ of Chenduo county, Qing Hai Province. On 8 October of the same year, arrest was carried out on approval by the prosecution. On 26 February, 2013, the Intermediate People's Court of Yushu Prefecture of Qing Hai Province sentenced him to 5 years' imprisonment with 2 years' deprival of political rights. ... In March 2013, Sonam Namgyal, Lobsang Samten and Thupten Gelek were detained by the Public Security organ of Serxu county, Ganzi Prefecture, Sichuan Province on charges of suspected gathering to disturb public order and traffic order. Subsequently, they were arrested, upon the approval of the prosecution. At present, this case is in the process of being reviewed.

Observations

27. The Working Group would like to thank the Government for the replies received.

9. Colombia

Prompt intervention letter

28. On 7 June 2013, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with two other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged harassment of Mr. **Erik Antonio Arellana Bautista**, the founder of Fundación Nydia Erika Bautista, an organization protecting and empowering women and families of victims of enforced disappearances, and the theft of information related to the work of the organization.

Information from sources

29. Sources provided information on two outstanding cases.

² The full text of the reply is contained in the annex.

³ The full text of the reply is contained in the annex.

Clarification

30. On the basis of information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one outstanding case following the expiration of the period prescribed by the six-month rule.

10. Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Information from sources

31. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

11. El Salvador

Standard procedure

- 32. The Working Group transmitted six cases to the Government under its standard procedure.
- 33. The first case concerned Mr. **Boris Napoleón Martínez Cortés**, who was allegedly last seen on 7 September 1980 in Cantón Concepción Los Planes, San Francisco Chinameca, department of La Paz, after members of the National Police and of a civil defence group reportedly violently entered a house and killed all individuals present except the victim of the alleged enforced disappearance. At the time of the alleged disappearance, Mr. Martínez Cortés was below the age of 18.
- 34. The second and third cases concerned Ms. **Marisol Martínez** and Mr. **Nicolás Arnoldo Martínez**, who were allegedly abducted on 15 January 1981 from La Loma de los Novillos, el Carrozalito, municipality of Berlín, department of Usulután, by soldiers from the Sixth Infantry Brigade of the armed forces during a military operation in the area. At the time of the alleged abduction, Ms. Martínez and Mr. Martínez were below the age of 18.
- 35. The fourth and fifth cases concerned Messrs. **José Ángel Octavio Doño Mejía** and **Antonio Luis Chacón**, who were allegedly seen for the last time on 24 May 1982 in the Centro de Ingenieros de la Fuerza Armada (CIFA Armed Forces Engineers Centre) barracks, Zacatecoluca, department of La Paz. At the time of the alleged disappearances, Messrs. Doño Mejía and Chacón were below the age of 18.
- 36. The sixth case concerned Mr. **Pastor Omar Ayala Ortega**, who was allegedly taken on 4 November 1983 from Caserío el Jocotal, Cantón Copapayo, municipality of Suchitoto, department of Cuscatlán, to an unknown location by soldiers from the Atlacatl Battalion during a military operation in the canton. At the time of the alleged disappearance, Mr. Ayala Ortega was below the age of 18.

Information from sources

37. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

12. Guatemala

Prompt intervention letter

38. On 17 May 2013, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged acts intended to discredit and intimidate Ms. Claudia Samayoa, coordinator of the Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos (Protection Unit for

Human Rights Defenders), the alleged forced entry into the offices of the organization, and the alleged death threats against the personnel of the organization. According to the information received, the alleged harassment is related to their role in the accompaniment and protection of the witnesses in the legal process against former Head of State José Efraín Ríos Montt and former Head of Intelligence José Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez for crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, including enforced disappearances.

Press release

- 39. On 18 April 2013, the Working Group, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, issued a press release concerning the trial for genocide and crimes against humanity of Mr. Ríos Montt and Mr. Rodríguez Sánchez. In the press release, the experts stated that, as laid out in international norms and human rights standards, without justice, there cannot be a just and lasting reconciliation.
- 40. On 15 May 2013, the Working Group, jointly with seven other special procedures mechanisms, issued a press release concerning a court ruling that sentenced Mr. Ríos Montt for genocide and crimes against humanity. In the press release, the experts stated that the establishment of truth and justice in Guatemala, as well as being fundamental elements for reparation for the victims, are essential to ensure the non-recurrence of the heinous crimes that characterized the civil war in the country, including enforced disappearance, arbitrary executions, rape and forced displacement of people.

Observations

41. In relation to the press releases, the Working Group wishes to underline the importance of establishing truth and justice and ending impunity in Guatemala and to emphasize that justice is the best guarantee to prevent the recurrence of crimes committed during the civil war in Guatemala. In this respect, the Working Group would like to recall article 13, paragraph 6 ("An investigation... should be able to be conducted for as long as the fate of the victim of enforced disappearance remains unclarified"), article 17, paragraph 1 ("Acts constituting enforced disappearance shall be considered a continuing offence as long as perpetrators continue to conceal the fate and the whereabouts of persons who have disappeared and these facts remain unclarified") and article 18, paragraph 1 ("Persons who have or are alleged to have committed [acts of enforced disappearance] shall not benefit from any special amnesty law or similar measures that might have the effect of exempting them from any criminal proceedings or sanction) of the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

13. Honduras

Information from sources

42. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

14. Iraq

Urgent appeals

43. On 29 May 2013, the Working Group transmitted one urgent appeal to the Government, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged incommunicado detention of Mr. **Shawki Ahmad Sharif Omar** at an unknown location.

15. Kuwait

Information from the Government

44. On 6 May 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding one outstanding case. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the case.

16. Lao People's Democratic Republic

Standard procedure

45. The Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its standard procedure, concerning Mr. **Sombath Somphone**, who was allegedly last seen on 15 December 2012 near a police post at kilometre 3, Thadeua Road, Vientiane municipality.

Information from the Government

- 46. On 25 March 2013 and 10 June 2013, the Government transmitted replies to an urgent appeal, sent jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms on 20 December 2012, concerning the situation of Mr. Sombath Somphone, a human rights defender who has been working on issues of land grabbing in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and assisting victims to speak out about their experiences. In its first response, the Government provided information on the second briefing on the result of the police investigations to ascertain the whereabouts of Mr. Somphone. It was indicated in the reply that "the police authorities of the Lao PDR have notified ASEANPOL and INTERPOL asking them to help watch for information that might be related to Mr. Sombath and the car". It was further stated that the accusation that Mr. Somphone was detained by the police authorities was "absolutely not true". In its second response, the Government provided information on the third briefing on the result of the police investigations to ascertain the whereabouts of Mr. Somphone. It was stated that "INTERPOL has issued the yellow notice on Mr. Sombath Somphone as a missing person on 23 April 2013 and published it in the media, including [on] the Internet. ... Up [until] now, Mr. Sombath Somphone has not yet been found. The committee in charge of the case will continue to investigate".
- 47. On 10 May 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding one outstanding case. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the case.

Observations

48. The Working Group would like to thank the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic for its replies to an urgent appeal transmitted on 20 December 2012, providing information regarding the results of the police investigations on the case of Mr. Somphone. Based on information received from the sources, the Working Group decided to transmit the case of Mr. Somphone to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic under its standard procedure.

17. Mexico

Standard procedure

49. The Working Group transmitted 10 cases to the Government under its standard procedure.

- 50. The first case concerned Mr. **Rodrigo Camacho Rodríguez**, who on 30 May 2007 was allegedly taken from Colonia Adrián Castrejón, Iguala, Guerrero, to an unknown location by men in judicial police clothing travelling in black vans with tinted windows and no registration plates.
- 51. The second case concerned Mr. Carlos Enrique Ruiz Núñez, who was allegedly taken from Bernabé de las Casas 2008, between Calle Hilario Martínez and Calle Alfredo Garza Ríos, Monterrey, to an unknown location by four men, on 20 May 2010. Mr. Ruiz Núñez was reportedly later identified in images shown on the news on Televisa México, on 27 July 2010, concerning the transfer of individuals from various federal prisons.
- 52. The third case concerned Mr. **Mario Alberto Coronado Rangel**, who was allegedly taken to an unknown location by a group of armed individuals believed to be Ministerial Police officers from Apodaca municipality, on 7 December 2010.
- 53. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Rubén Limón Ramos**, who was allegedly arrested on Calle Séptima, Colonia Nazario Ortiz, by the Municipal Police and armed individuals, on 13 March 2011.
- 54. The fifth case concerned Mr. **Luis Mario Casiano Vargas**, who was allegedly taken to an unknown location from Secondary School No. 70, Avenida Solidaridad, Colonia Leonardo Rodríguez Alcaine, Acapulco, Guerrero, by individuals believed to be police officers, on 25 March 2011.
- 55. The sixth and seventh cases concerned Messrs. **Honorio Badillo Gómez** and **Adán Ramos Antonio**, who were allegedly last seen with several other individuals aboard vehicles opposite the premises of the Municipal Police in Pesquería, Nuevo León, on 29 May 2011.
- 56. The eighth case concerned Mr. **David Silva García**, who was allegedly arrested outside his home and taken to an unknown location by State police agents, on 25 July 2012.
- 57. The ninth and tenth cases concerned Messrs. **Adriel Alonso Ávila Barrios** and **Adrián Favela Márquez**, who were reportedly arrested at the home of Mr. Favela Márquez by individuals believed to be Ministerial Police officers, on 2 October 2012.

Prompt intervention letter

58. On 15 March 2013, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with two other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged acts of harassment and intimidation against Messrs. **Carlos Ernesto López** and **Miguel Flores Leonardo**, two collaborators of the Truth Commission for the Investigation of the Human Right Violations During the Dirty War of the Sixties and Seventies in the State of Guerrero.

Information from the Government

59. On 27 March 2013, the Government transmitted a communication in response to a prompt intervention letter sent by the Working Group on 21 December 2012 concerning the alleged theft of information related to reported enforced disappearances from the home of a member of the Guzmán Cruz family in the Tarejero community, Michoacán state. The Government, inter alia, stated that no local or federal ministerial authority was aware of events which could constitute a robbery, and that the General Coordinating Office for Investigations had not received any complaint in relation to the matter, although the National Human Rights Commission had opened a file on it. The Government also stated that an investigation had been opened by the Ministerio Público de la Federación de la Piedad (Federal Public Prosecutor's Office in Piedad) on 9 January 2013. The Government further stated that, because no complaint had been filed with a state or federal ministerial authority, it had not been possible to adopt measures to guarantee the physical and

psychological integrity of the Guzmán Cruz family, but that a member of the family had been invited to provide a declaration. Finally, the Government requested that petitioners present formal complaints before the competent ministerial authorities.

60. On 16 April 2013, the Government transmitted a communication in response to a prompt intervention letter sent by the Working Group on 31 January 2012, jointly with two other special procedures mechanisms, concerning alleged acts of harassment and intimidation against family members of Ms. **Elena Barajas Mejía**. The Government provided information on the investigations undertaken in relation to the alleged enforced disappearance of a member of Ms. Barajas Mejía's family, as well as in relation to the alleged acts of harassment against Ms. Barajas Mejía and her family. The Government also reported that, in order to safeguard the human rights and the physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Barajas Mejía and her family, the Unidad de Psicología y Atención a Víctimas del Delito (Psychology and Attention to Victims of Crimes Unit) under the Office of the Attorney General of Michoacán state had been put at their disposal, and a greater public security presence had been installed in the areas where the acts of harassment allegedly took place.

Information from sources

61. Sources provided information on 37 outstanding cases. One case was clarified as a result.

Clarification

62. Following the information provided by the sources, the Working Group decided to clarify one case.

Observations

63. The Working Group would like to thank the Government of Mexico for its replies, transmitted on 27 March 2013 and 16 April 2013, to the prompt intervention letters sent on 21 December 2012 and 31 January 2012, respectively. With regard to the reply of 27 March 2013, the Working Group stresses that all involved in the investigation of cases of enforced disappearances should be protected regardless of whether there is a complaint or not. In this respect, the Working Group recalls article 13, paragraph 3, of the Declaration, according to which "steps shall be taken to ensure that all involved in the investigation, including the complainant, counsel, witnesses and those conducting the investigation, are protected against ill-treatment, intimidation or reprisal".

18. Morocco

Standard procedure

64. The Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its standard procedure, concerning Mr. **Hassena Omar Skena Belaoui**, who was allegedly arrested at a hotel in Casablanca by members of the Direction de la Sécurité du Territoire (DST – secret police), on 12 June 1987.

Information from sources

65. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

19. Namibia

Information from the Government

66. On 7 May 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding three outstanding cases. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases.

20. Nepal

Prompt intervention letter

67. On 22 March 2013, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with five other special procedures mechanisms, concerning alleged threats made in various media against members of the **Accountability Watch Committee**, including Ms. **Mandira Sharma**, Chairperson of the Advocacy Forum-Nepal, and an alleged physical attack against another human rights defender.

21. Norway

Urgent appeals

68. The Working Group transmitted one urgent appeal, on 4 April 2013, to the Government, jointly with four other special procedures mechanisms, concerning Mr. **Mohammad Anwar Baloch**, an asylum seeker and human rights defender from Pakistan, who was at imminent risk of deportation from Norway to Pakistan.

22. Pakistan

Urgent actions

69. On 9 April 2013, the Working Group transmitted one communication, concerning three cases, to the Government under its urgent action procedure. The communication concerned three persons below the age of 18 who were allegedly abducted on 5 March 2013 by individuals in civilian clothes, believed to be from the Inter-Services Intelligence or the Military Intelligence, in front of Model School, near Frontier Commandant Head Quarter, city of Khuzdar, Khuzdar District, Balochistan.

Standard procedure

- 70. The Working Group transmitted four cases to the Government under its standard procedure.
- 71. The first case concerned Mr. **Muneer Ahmed**, who was allegedly abducted on 17 June 2010 by fully armed individuals in civilian clothing, believed to belong to Military Intelligence, near the main RCD Highway near the Taj Mahal Hotel, City police station area, Khuzdar District.
- 72. The second case concerned Mr. **Mohammad Hussain**, who was allegedly abducted on 26 August 2010 by fully armed individuals, some in uniform, believed to belong to the Pakistani Frontier Corps, at his shop near a bus stop on Brewery Road, Western Bypass, Quetta.

- 73. The third case concerned Mr. **Aga A. Shah**, who was allegedly abducted on 15 August 2010 by individuals in civilian clothing, reportedly belonging to Military Intelligence and the Frontier Corps, at the civil hospital in Chitkan, Panigur.
- 74. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Safeer Ahd**, who was allegedly abducted on 15 August 2010 by individuals believed to belong to Military Intelligence and the Frontier Corps, at the civil hospital in Chitkan, Panjgur.

23. Peru

Information from the Government

- 75. On 11 July 2011, the Government transmitted a communication concerning outstanding cases, which could not be processed in time for inclusion in previous reports. This information was partially processed for inclusion in the present document. Information concerning 18 cases was reviewed and was not considered sufficient to lead to their clarification. The communication also contained various documents from the Prosecutor's Office, the Judiciary and the Registro Nacional de Identificación y Estado Civil (National Identity and Civil Status Registry).
- 76. On 12 December 2012, the Government transmitted a communication concerning two outstanding cases. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases.

24. Philippines

Standard procedure

77. The Working Group transmitted three cases to the Government under its standard procedure, concerning three residents of Al-Barka, namely, Mr. Najir Ahung, also known as Tatih, Mr. Rasdie Kasaran, also known as Potong, and Mr. Yusup Mohammad, who were allegedly last seen on 3 January 2012 at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Terminal 3, Manila. According to the source, the aforementioned individuals were scheduled to continue their journey to Khartoum, the Sudan, via Doha, Qatar, on a Qatar Airways flight. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of the Sudan and the Government of Qatar received copies of these cases.

Information from sources

78. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

25. Rwanda

Information from sources

79. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

26. Saudi Arabia

Urgent actions

80. On 22 March 2013, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning Mr. **Khaled al-Natour**, who was allegedly

taken to an unknown location from King Khaled International Airport, Riyadh, on 6 January 2013, by Saudi Arabian security agents.

Standard procedure

81. The Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its standard procedure, concerning Mr. **Meghnath Bhusal**, who allegedly made a telephone call to individuals associated with him in Nepal on 2 June 2012, informing them that he had been detained at the Mallaj Police Station for 15 days and was unaware of the charges against him. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of Nepal received a copy of this case.

Information from the Government

82. On 2 April 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding one outstanding case. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the case.

27. Senegal

Urgent actions

83. On 20 June 2013, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its urgent action procedure concerning Mr. **Saul Ndow** (also known as Saul Ntow), who was allegedly last seen at the departures lounge of Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport in Dakar on 28 April 2013. It was reported that Mr. Ndow may have been arrested by Senegalese agents near the border between Senegal and the Gambia. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of the Gambia received a copy of this case.

28. Sri Lanka

Standard procedure

- 84. The Working Group transmitted 12 cases to the Government under its standard procedure.
- 85. The first case concerned Mr. **Mohamed Hakeem Mohamed Naleer**, who was allegedly abducted on 21 March 2009 by individuals travelling in a white van of the kind reportedly used by the Sri Lankan security forces, on Crow Island, Mattakuliya, Colombo 15, Western Province.
- 86. The second, third, fourth and fifth cases concerned Mr. **Muralitharan Nadesan**, his wife, Ms. **Krishnakumari Muralitharan**, and their two children, both below the age of 18, who were allegedly last seen on 18 May 2009 on a military bus in Vettuvahal, Mullaitivu District. According to the source, prior to the alleged disappearance, on the morning of 18 May 2009, Mr. Nadesan had surrendered himself, together with approximately 100 members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), to the Sri Lankan army.
- 87. The sixth case concerned Mr. **Selvaruban Yohanathan**, who was allegedly last seen on 20 May 2009 on a military tractor going towards Vavuniya, on Mathalan Road, Mullaitivu District.
- 88. The seventh case concerned Mr. **Suganthan Selvarasa**, who was allegedly last seen on 23 May 2008 near the Buddhist temple on Kandy Road, Vavuniya. According to the

source, on the day of the alleged disappearance of Mr. Selvarasa, Vavuniya was reportedly under the control of the Sri Lankan army.

- 89. The eighth case concerned Mr. **Satheeskumar Krishnapillai**, who was allegedly last seen on 15 May 2009 in Mullivaikkal, Mullaithivu District. According to the information received, prior to the alleged disappearance of Mr. Krishnapillai, on 14 May 2009, the Sri Lankan army had taken control of the nearest village (Vellamullivaikkal) and was reportedly taking persons perceived to be affiliated with the LTTE into custody.
- 90. The ninth case concerned Mr. **Tharmasingan Thangathurai**, who was allegedly abducted on 4 September 2008, on his way home, by a police officer from the Criminal Investigation Division.
- 91. The tenth case concerned Mr. **Anton George Antony Suhanthiram**, who was allegedly arrested at Lourdu Annai Church, on 10 May 2008, by a number of individuals in civilian clothes, believed to be from the navy.
- 92. The eleventh case concerned Mr. **Thayaparan Rasathurai**, who was allegedly abducted on 20 April 2008 by officers from the Criminal Investigation Division and members of the Karuna Group when he was on his trishaw in Thambalakamam.
- 93. The twelfth case concerned Mr. **Kogulan Krishnamoorthy**, who was reportedly arrested on 6 June 2011 at his home by military officers.

Prompt intervention letter

94. On 5 April 2013, the Working Group transmitted a prompt intervention letter, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the situation of about 600 human rights defenders, including relatives of disappeared persons, from the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu, Mannar and Vavuniya, who were prevented from travelling from Vavuniya to Colombo to attend a peaceful demonstration.

Information from the Government

- 95. On 8 May 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding 94 outstanding cases. Based on the information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided, at its 100th session, to apply the six-month rule to one case. Regarding the remaining cases, the information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases.
- 96. On 6 June 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding two outstanding cases. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases.

Information from sources

- 97. Sources provided information on five outstanding cases.
- 98. At its ninety-eighth session, the Working Group decided to transmit information concerning one case to the source in order to verify whether the case was a duplicate (A/HRC/22/45 and Corr.1, para. 384). In the absence of a response from the source within the specified time limit, the Working Group decided to consider the case as a duplicate of an existing case. The duplicate was subsequently eliminated from the Working Group's records.

29. Sudan

Urgent appeals

99. On 16 April 2013, the Working Group transmitted one urgent appeal to the Government, jointly with five other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the alleged incommunicado detention of Mr. **Hatim Ali Mohammed** and Mr. **Sharf Eldein Tia**, including allegations according to which their fate and whereabouts were unknown.

Information from the Government

100. On 19 March 2013, the Government transmitted a reply to an urgent appeal, sent jointly with six other special procedures mechanisms on 23 November 2010, concerning the situation of a number of human rights defenders and journalists. In its reply, the Government of the Sudan provided information on the whereabouts of Messrs. **Derar Adam Derar** (Derar Adam Abdalla in the urgent appeal transmitted), **Abdelrahman Abuelgasim Abdeljabar** (Abdelrahman Adam Abdalla in the urgent appeal transmitted), **Abdelrahman Adam Abdelrahman** (Abdelrahman Adam Abdalla in the urgent appeal transmitted), **Jaafar Alsabki Ibrahim**, **Zakaria Yacoub** and **Abuelgasim Mohamed Ali** (Abugasim Aldin in the urgent appeal transmitted), Ms. **Manal Mohamed Ahmed** and Ms. **Aziza Ali Idris**. The Government also provided information on existing legislative, administrative and judicial measures that have been put in place to prevent and eliminate enforced disappearances in the Sudan.

Observations

101. The Working Group thanks the Government of the Sudan for the substantive reply to an urgent appeal transmitted on 23 November 2010, providing information on the whereabouts of eight individuals.

30. Syrian Arab Republic

Urgent actions

- 102. The Working Group transmitted four cases under its urgent action procedure.
- 103. On 27 March 2013, the Working Group transmitted two cases to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning Mr. Ali Al Shihabi, who was allegedly arrested on 17 December 2012 by the Palestine Branch of the Syrian Military Intelligence at a checkpoint between Al-Zahra district and Al-Yarmouk Refugee Camp; and Mr. Mohammed Mazen Naji, who was allegedly arrested on 18 January 2013 at the home of individuals associated with him in Al-Baramkeh district, Damascus, by four presumed Air Force Intelligence agents in civilian clothes.
- 104. On 3 May 2013, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning Mr. **Mohammad Atfah**, who was allegedly last seen on 15 March 2013 in a military intelligence service detention centre in Homs. According to the information received, prior to his alleged disappearance, on 3 February 2013, Mr. Atfah was reportedly arrested without a warrant at a checkpoint on Al-Brazeel Street, Al-Enshaat neighbourhood, Homs, by members of the armed forces in military uniforms.
- 105. On 19 June 2013, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning Mr. **Suhaib Swaidan**, who was allegedly last seen at the Military Intelligence Prison, Homs. According to the information received, prior to

his alleged disappearance, on 23 May 2013, Mr. Swaidan was reportedly arrested at a Military Intelligence checkpoint by Military Intelligence officers in uniform.

Standard procedure

- 106. The Working Group transmitted four cases to the Government under its standard procedure.
- 107. The first case concerned Mr. **Nidal Issa**, who was allegedly arrested on 2 September 2012 at his place of work by members of the Military Intelligence in civilian clothing, without an arrest warrant.
- 108. The second case concerned Mr. **Ahmad Bakdones**, who was allegedly last seen in the latter half of December 2012 at Damascus Central Prison, Adraa.
- 109. The third case concerned one person below the age of 18, who was allegedly arrested on 20 November 2012 in Al-Midan during a raid of the neighbourhood, by the authorities.
- 110. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Muhammad Maher Anbari**, who was allegedly arrested on 22 March 2013 while sitting with a friend in a shop called Arab Art of Manuscripts on Baghdad Street, Al-Oqaiba District, Damascus Governorate, by individuals in Air Force Intelligence uniforms accompanied by unidentified gunmen.

Information from the Government

111. On 24 April 2013, the Government transmitted a reply to an urgent appeal, jointly sent with two other special procedures mechanisms on 8 November 2012, concerning the alleged enforced disappearances of Messrs. **Abdelaziz al-Khayer**, **Iyas Ayash** and **Maher Tahan**. In its reply, the Government indicated that "the concerned authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic have confirmed that the abovementioned individuals are not in the custody of any law enforcement or security authority in Syria, and that no information is available regarding their whereabouts".

Observations

112. The Working Group acknowledges the reply from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to an urgent appeal transmitted on 8 November 2012. In this respect, the Working Group would like to recall article 13, paragraph 1, of the Declaration, according to which: "Whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an enforced disappearance has been committed, the State shall promptly refer the matter to that authority for such an investigation, even if there has been no formal complaint. No measure shall be taken to curtail or impede the investigation."

31. Tajikistan

Urgent actions

113. On 3 June 2013, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its urgent action procedure concerning Mr. **Salimjon Shamsudinov**, who was last seen on 15 March 2013 near Vodii Vakhsh Park, in the centre of Kurgantube City, Tajikistan. According to the source, the alleged disappearance of Mr. Shamsudinov may be related to his involvement in politics, including his participation in a group lobbying to change the laws regarding presidential elections and his statements about violations of the rights of the ethnic Uzbeks in Tajikistan.

32. Thailand

Standard procedure

- 114. The Working Group transmitted four cases to the Government under its standard procedure.
- 115. The first case concerned Mr. **Jahwa Jalo**, who was allegedly arrested in October 2003 by approximately 30 rangers wearing black uniforms with red scarves at a lychee orchard where he worked.
- 116. The second case concerned Mr. **Baruhum Ma-ela**, who was allegedly taken in March or April 2003 by army personnel near a highway intersection after he left a market in Su-Ngai Kolok District with a friend on a motorcycle.
- 117. The third case concerned Mr. **Sata Labo**, who was allegedly last seen on 9 January 2004 at a police checkpoint in Narathiwat District on his way from home to renew his driving license.
- 118. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Jatea Ja-ha**, who was allegedly taken on 31 January 2006, by several armed individuals believed to be from the Drug Task Force 5th Regiment, on Route 107, connecting the districts of Fang and Chiang Mai, in the province of Chiang Mai

Information from sources

119. Sources provided information on two outstanding cases.

33. Turkmenistan

Information from sources

120. Sources provided information on one outstanding case.

34. United Arab Emirates

Urgent actions

- 121. The Working Group transmitted six cases under its urgent action procedure.
- 122. On 16 April 2013, the Working Group transmitted one communication concerning five cases to the Government under its urgent action procedure.
- 123. The first case concerned Mr. **Saud Kulaib al-Tenaiji**, who was allegedly arrested on 29 December 2012 by airport personnel in civilian clothes at Dubai International Airport when he was on his way to Saudi Arabia for a pilgrimage to Mecca.
- 124. The second case concerned Mr. **Mohamed Mahmoud Ali Shahdah** (born in Egypt), who was allegedly arrested at his home on 30 December 2012 by members of the security forces of the United Arab Emirates in civilian clothes. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of Egypt received a copy of this case.
- 125. The third case concerned Mr. **Abdulmoneim Ali al-Said Atyea** (born in Egypt), who was allegedly arrested at his office in Dubai, on 3 January 2013, by members of the security forces of the United Arab Emirates. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of Egypt received a copy of this case.

- 126. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Mohamed Abdulmoneim Mohamed Mahmoud** (born in Egypt), who was allegedly last seen at Al-Sharjah Hospital on his way to Al-Sharjah Airport on 7 January 2013. According to the information received, prior to his disappearance, Mr. Mahmoud had reportedly planned to go to Egypt for a funeral. On 3 January 2013, his passport was allegedly confiscated by the authorities of the United Arab Emirates at Al-Sharjah Airport without any explanation being provided. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of Egypt received a copy of this case.
- 127. The fifth case concerned Mr. **Mahmud Abdulrahmane Al-Jaidah** (born in Qatar), who was allegedly arrested at a security checkpoint in Dubai International Airport, United Arab Emirates, on 26 February 2013, by the security services of the United Arab Emirates, on his way back to Qatar from Thailand. In accordance with the Working Group's methods of work, the Government of Qatar received a copy of this case.
- 128. On 7 May 2013, the Working Group transmitted another case to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning Mr. **Abdulwahed Hassan al-Badi al-Shuhi**, who was allegedly arrested on 26 March 2013 at the Ministry of Public Works by a female in police uniform and individuals in civilian clothes.

Standard procedure

- 129. The Working Group transmitted nine cases to the Government under its standard procedure.
- 130. The first case concerned Mr. **Ibrahim Abdulaziz Ibrahim Ahmad**, who was allegedly arrested on 15 December 2012 by State security agents of the United Arab Emirates at his home.
- 131. The second case concerned Mr. **Saleh Farag Dhaifullah**, who was allegedly arrested on 21 November 2012 at his home by 10 individuals in civilian clothes believed to be State security agents of the United Arab Emirates.
- 132. The third case concerned Mr. **Ahmad Mahmoud Taha**, who was allegedly arrested on 19 December 2012 at Dubai International Airport by State security agents of the United Arab Emirates.
- 133. The fourth case concerned Mr. **Medhat Mohamed Mustafa al-Ajez**, who was arrested on 30 November 2012 at his home by approximately 13 alleged State security agents of the United Arab Emirates, including two women, in civilian clothes.
- 134. The fifth case concerned Mr. **Ali Ahmad Ibrahim Sonbol**, who was allegedly arrested at his home without a warrant on 19 December 2012 by 10 State security agents of the United Arab Emirates in civilian clothes.
- 135. The sixth case concerned Mr. **Abdullah Mohamed Ibrahim Zaza**, who was allegedly arrested on 11 December 2012 at his private dental practice in Umm al-Quwain, United Arab Emirates, by police officers in civilian clothes.
- 136. The seventh case concerned Mr. **Salah Mohamed Rezq al-Mashad**, who was allegedly arrested on 11 December 2012 at his house in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, by State security agents of the United Arab Emirates, without an arrest warrant.
- 137. The eighth case concerned Mr. **Ahmad Gafar**, who was allegedly seen for the last time on 14 December 2012, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. According to the information received, on the day of his alleged disappearance, Mr. Gafar reportedly received a call from the Dubai Police asking him to go to their office.

138. The ninth case concerned Mr. **Mourad Mohamed Hamed Othman**, who was allegedly arrested on 19 December 2012 at Dubai International Airport by State security agents of the United Arab Emirates.

35. Uruguay

General allegation

139. On 14 May 2013, the Working Group transmitted a general allegation, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, concerning the closure and potential closure of certain judicial cases related to enforced disappearances, torture and executions carried out during the Uruguayan dictatorial period, as a consequence of the rulings of the Supreme Court of Justice, which considered several articles from Law No. 18.831 of 2011 that enabled the investigation and indictment of the crimes committed during the dictatorship unconstitutional.

Press release

140. On 25 June 2013, the Working Group, jointly with three other special procedures mechanisms, issued a press release expressing concern regarding the rulings of the Supreme Court of Justice that led to the closure of at least two cases in which serious allegations of torture, enforced disappearances and killings committed during the dictatorship in the 1970s and 1980s were being investigated. In the press release, the experts stressed that in order to end impunity, States have the responsibility to comply with their obligations to investigate and prosecute those responsible for atrocities that amount to crimes under international law. Those crimes should not be subject to a statute of limitations regardless of when they were committed.

Observations

141. In relation to the press release issued on 25 June 2013, the Working Group would like to recall article 13, paragraph 6 ("An investigation... should be able to be conducted for as long as the fate of the victim of enforced disappearance remains unclarified"), article 17, paragraph 1 ("Acts constituting enforced disappearance shall be considered a continuing offence as long as perpetrators continue to conceal the fate and whereabouts of persons who have disappeared") and article 18, paragraph 1 ("Persons who have or are alleged to have committed [acts of enforced disappearance] shall not benefit from any special amnesty law or similar measures that might have the effect of exempting them from any criminal proceedings or sanction) of the Declaration. The Working Group would also like to recall, in the light of its general comment on enforced disappearance as a continuous crime (A/HRC/16/48, p. 10), that: "Enforced disappearances are prototypical continuous acts. The act begins at the time of the abduction and extends for the whole period of time that the crime is not complete, that is to say until the State acknowledges the detention or releases information pertaining to the fate or whereabouts of the individual." The Working Group therefore emphasizes that "when a State is recognized as responsible for having committed an enforced disappearance that began before the entry into force of the relevant legal instrument and which continued after its entry into force, the State should be held responsible for all violations that result from the enforced disappearance, and not only for violations that occurred after the entry into force of the instrument."5

⁴ Paragraph 1 of the general comment.

⁵ Paragraph 4 of the general comment.

36. Uzbekistan

Information from the Government

142. On 11 March 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding seven outstanding cases. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases.

Clarification

143. On the basis of information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify one outstanding case following the expiration of the period prescribed by the six-month rule.

37. Yemen

Urgent actions

144. On 12 April 2013, the Working Group transmitted one case to the Government under its urgent action procedure, concerning Mr. **Adel al-Khawlani**, who was allegedly arrested on 14 January 2013 by National Security personnel in Sana'a.

Information from the Government

145. On 8 May 2013, the Government transmitted a communication regarding one outstanding case. The information provided was not considered sufficient to lead to the clarification of the case.

Annex

Replies from the Government of China to urgent appeals

A. Reply transmitted on 7 March 2013

1. The reply from the Government of China, transmitted on 7 March 2013, contained the following information:

"In regard to the joint urgent appeal sent by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers [UA G/SO 218/2 G/SO 217/1 (67-14) G/SO 214 (67-17) G/SO 214 (107-9) G/SO 214 (3-3-16) CHN 1/2013], the Government of China hereby provides the following reply, after a careful investigation into the circumstances of those letters was carried out:

Zhu Chengzhi is a 63-year-old man. He originated from Shao Yang City, Hu Nana Province. He was detained in June 2012 as a suspect on charges of the crime of inciting subversion of the State's political power. In July last year, he was arrested with the approval of the office of the State prosecutor. In January 2013, the enforcement measure was changed to surveillance of residence. At present, this case is being considered further. In the process of investigating and examining the case, the public security authority guarantees Zhu Chengzhi his various rights, in accordance with the law.

The Government of China respectfully requests that the full text of the above be recorded in the relevant United Nations documents."

B. Reply transmitted on 28 May 2013

2. The reply from the Government of China, transmitted on 28 May 2013, contained the following information:

"The joint urgent appeal by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, the Independent Expert on minority issues, and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is well-received. The Government of China has conducted a careful study on the matters mentioned in the communication and provides the following reply:

(1) Cases in Zuogang county, Mangkang county, and Qamdo Prefecture, TAR. After investigating the cases, we found that there was no "peaceful protest by monks" taking place in Zuogang and Mangkang counties of Qamdo Prefecture, TAR in February, 2013. Therefore, there is no alleged arrests indicated in the communication. In addition, in the current Criminal Law of the P.R.C., there are no

offences, such as "counter-revolution crime", "instigating public crime" and "threatening social stability crime." The statement in the communication relating to certain people and incidents simply does not comport with facts.

- (2) Cases in Chenduo county, Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture:
- (a) Case concerning Sonam Sherab. On 2 September 2012, Sonam Sherab and Sonam Yignyen were detained, in accordance with law, on a charge of suspected crime to disturb public order by the Public Security organ of Chenduo county, Qing Hai Province. On 1 October of the same year, they were sentenced, by the local relevant department, to two years' re-education through labour as administrative punishment;
- (b) Case concerning Lobsang Jinpa. In September 2012, Lobsang Jinpa was detained, in accordance with law, on a charge of suspected crime to instigate the split of the State by the Public Security organ of Chenduo county, Qing Hai Province. On October 8 of the same year, an arrest was carried out on approval by the prosecution. On 26 February, 2013, the Intermediate People's Court of Yushu Prefecture of Qing Hai Province sentenced him to 5 years' imprisonment with 2 years' deprival of political rights;
- (c) Cases concerning Ngawang Monlam and Kalsang Tsultrim. In September 2012, Ngawang Monlam and Kalsang Tsultrim were detained by the Public Security organ of Chengduo county, Qing Hai Province, on a charge of suspected homicide of intentional nature. On September 7, in accordance with the law, the mandatory measure was changed to "obtaining a guarantor pending trail". On 8 October of the same year, upon the approval by the prosecution, the arrest for Kalsang Tsultrim was carried out, who was subsequently on medical parole due to a illness. The so-called "he was hospitalized due to a beating-related injury" does not comport with the facts.
- (3) In March 2013, Sonam Namgyal, Lobsang Samten and Thupten Gelek were detained by the Public Security organ of Serxu county, Ganzi Prefecture, Sichuan Province on charges of suspected gathering to disturb public order and traffic order. Subsequently, they were arrested, upon the approval of the prosecution. At present, this case is in the process of being reviewed.

The Government of China cordially requests that the above-mentioned text be included in relevant United Nations documents in full."