

Information from the Government

115. On 9 July 2014, the Government responded to a general allegation sent with four other special procedures mechanisms on 25 March 2014 concerning the modification of Organic Law 6/1985 relating to universal jurisdiction. In its reply, the Government transmitted a report of the Ministry of Justice on universal jurisdiction and international law, as well as information on the transitional provision of Organic Law 1/2014, which modifies the scope of universal jurisdiction in Spain. The Government also stated that the modification of the law would not interfere with the exclusive authority of courts to decide on their jurisdiction on particular issues and cases.⁹

Observations

116. While the Working Group appreciates the reply of the Government to the general allegation, it still regrets the amendments to legislation restricting the application of universal jurisdiction.

Sri Lanka

Standard procedure

117. The Working Group transmitted nine cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) Mr. Vithiya Anandharajah, allegedly last seen on 13 May 2009 at the Pulmootai hospital; it is alleged that the Sri Lankan Army could be responsible for his disappearance;

(b) Mr. Puvanachandra Arunsalam, allegedly last seen at Menik Farm Zone 4 camp for internally displaced persons, in Cheddikulam, Vavuniya District, Northern Province, then under the control of security forces;

(c) Mr. Kalistus Antony Celestin, allegedly last seen on 17 May 2009, when he was taken by the military to a military vehicle;

(d) Mrs. Vithiya Kirubakaran, allegedly last seen on 18 May 2009 at the Omanthai check point controlled by the Sri Lankan Army;

(e) Mr. Selvakumar Murugesu, allegedly last seen on 17 May 2009 in Sinnathankadu, Mullaitivu, then under the control of the Sri Lankan Army;

(f) Mr. Pratheeban Pathmanathan, allegedly last seen on 17 May 2009 in Mullivaikal, then under the control of the Sri Lankan Army;

(g) Mr. Sabeshan Subramaniam, allegedly last seen on 10 January 2008 in Maththalan, then under the control of the Sri Lankan Army;

(h) Mr. Sritharan Thuraisingam, allegedly last seen on 18 February 2009 in Maththalan, then under the control of the Sri Lankan Army;

(i) Mr. Poobalasingam Uthayakumar, allegedly last seen near the relief village in Karrapankadu, Vavuniya, then under the complete control of the Sri Lankan Army.

⁹ The full content of the reply will be included in the communications report of the special procedures to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth session.

Information from the Government

118. On 5 June and 18 August 2014, the Government transmitted communications regarding 254 outstanding cases. On the basis of the information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided, at its 104th session, to apply the six-month rule to seven cases. With regard to the remaining cases, the information provided was considered insufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases.

Information from sources

119. A source provided information on one outstanding case.

Clarification

120. On the basis of information provided by the Government, the Working Group decided to clarify three outstanding cases once the period prescribed by the six-month rule had elapsed.

Prompt intervention letter

121. On 14 August 2014, the Working Group transmitted, jointly with three other special procedure mechanisms, a prompt intervention letter concerning alleged dispersal of and acts of intimidation against a group of individuals who had gathered to discuss cases of disappearance in Sri Lanka, and possible collusion between the assailants and the police.

Observations

122. The Working Group is following up on the implementation of paragraphs 9 and 11 of Human Rights Council resolution 25/1 on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.

Sudan

Information from the Government

123. On 11 November 2013, the Government of the Sudan transmitted a communication regarding several communications and outstanding cases. The information provided was considered insufficient to lead to the clarification of the cases. The Working Group also thanks the Government for having accepted the possibility of a country visit of the Working Group in a communication dated 11 November 2013, and hopes to agree shortly on a mutually convenient date for the visit with the Government.

Syrian Arab Republic

Urgent action

124. The Working Group transmitted under its urgent action procedure two cases to the Government, concerning:

(a) On 20 May 2014, the case of Mr. Abed Al Rahman Al Ajaj, allegedly abducted in Aleppo on 13 February 2014 by security forces;

(b) On 22 August 2014, the case of Ms. Faten Rajab, allegedly last seen in Adra Prison in July 2014