



General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 March 2011

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 68 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2010

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/65/456/Add.2 (Part II))]

65/209. International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Recalling its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also its resolution 64/167 of 18 December 2009, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 14/10 of 18 June 2010,¹ in which the Council took note of the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances² and the recommendations contained therein,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Recalling that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

Acknowledging that acts of enforced disappearance are recognized in the Convention as crimes against humanity, in certain circumstances,

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

² A/HRC/13/31 and Corr.1.



Acknowledging also the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

Recognizing that the entry into force of the Convention and its implementation will be a significant contribution to ending impunity and promoting and protecting all human rights for all,

Welcoming the fact that, in recent years, 30 August has been observed in many countries around the world as the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;³

2. *Also welcomes* the fact that eighty-seven States have signed the Convention and twenty-one have ratified or acceded to it, enabling it to enter into force on 23 December 2010, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. *Further welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;⁴

4. *Decides* to declare 30 August the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, to be observed beginning in 2011, and calls upon Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, to observe this Day;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue their intensive efforts to assist States in becoming parties to the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

6. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to continue making efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it, to prepare for its entry into force and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

*71st plenary meeting
21 December 2010*

³ Resolution 61/177, annex.

⁴ A/65/257.