

60th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group
on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

16 September 2025

...

Honorable Chair, I speak on behalf of 18 organizations.

Enforced disappearance remains to be a very urgent issue in the Philippines. The Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance has on record 54 cases of enforced disappearance under the current administration of Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

More than a decade since the enactment of the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Act (RA 10353), implementation remains grossly inadequate. Families continue to experience obstruction, harassment, and denial of information in their search for truth and justice. The State does not investigate cases with the extraordinary diligence mandated by law. Perpetrators remain shielded, and the disappeared remain unaccounted for.

Cases under Marcos Jr are mostly directed towards activists such as indigenous rights defenders Dexter Capuyan and Bazoo de Jesus in April 2023, and James Jazmines and Felix Salaveria Jr in August 2024. Despite mounting cases, there is no acknowledgment from the head of State. Legal victories such as the granting of the Writs of Amparo and Habeas Data have provided some recognition of risk, but have not yet delivered accountability or led to the surfacing of the disappeared. Justice, therefore, remains elusive.

We urge the Council to call on the Philippine government to:

- Ensure full and effective implementation of the Anti-Enforced Disappearance Act (RA 10353);
- Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPED);
- Guarantee protection, support, and meaningful participation of victims' families in all processes; and
- End impunity by holding state agents accountable and ensuring access to truth, justice, and reparation.

Families should not have to wait decades for answers. The time for genuine accountability is long overdue.

Thank you, Honorable Chair.

Signatories:

1. Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND)
2. Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP)
3. Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PhilRights)
4. Medical Action Group (MAG)
5. Asian Federation against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD)
6. Sectoral Transparency Alliance on Natural Resource Governance (STANCE)
7. Human Rights Online Philippines (HRonlinePH)
8. The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS)
9. Asia Alliance Against Torture (A3T)
10. Oriang
11. KERI: Caring for Activists
12. German Action Network Human Rights Philippines (Aktionsbündnis Menschenrechte Philippinen/AMP)
13. Conference of Major Superiors in the Philippines - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission (CMSP-JPICC)
14. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM)
15. BALAOD Mindanaw
16. Alyansa ng mga Mamamayan para sa Karapatang Pantao (AMKP)
17. Franciscans International
18. World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)