



International Committee Against Disappearances
International Office

6th International Conference Against Disappearances

9-12 December 2010, London

Wars, National Movements and Disappearances

ICAD

International Committee Against Disappearances

Conference Contact

C/o Unit C1, 3-19 Victorian Grove, London, N16 8EN, UK; Website: www.icad-int.org

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International Committee Against Disappearances

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Dear Sir or Madam,

On 9-12 December 2010, as International Committee Against Disappearances we will be organising an international conference against disappearances under custody in London. In the conference we intend to bring together the relatives of the disappeared, organisations struggling against disappearances under custody and human rights violations from different countries of the world, unions, social movements, intellectuals and etc. to share their pain, anger and experiences with each other. We believe that our conference will also provide an opportunity for all participants to discuss and build upon joint struggles.

Thousands of people disappear under detention every year during the wars and the occupations, particularly in the Middle East and Afghanistan as well as in the dirty wars against the nations struggling for national liberation struggle against colonialism. Our conference is going to deal with these problems which are still relevant in the 62nd anniversary of International Human Rights Declaration, and also will discuss about the direction of the disappearances policy and the perspectives fighting against it.

This year's conference against disappearances is being organised under the heading of "Wars, National Movements and Disappearances" and the following three subtitles:

- 1- Wars and Disappearances
- 2- National Movements and Disappearances
- 3- The struggle against human rights violations

The conference is also going to involve activities such as vigil, demonstration, film show and exhibition; as well as a part where the relatives of the disappeared and victims will be the only speakers.

We warmly invite you to participate in our conference and strengthen the struggle against disappearances under custody. If the conditions will not allow you to participate, than you are welcome to show your support in the following options:

- To put your or your organisation name within the supporters list
- To advertise the conference within your members, network and contacts
- To help with distribution of leaflets and posters
- To help in contacting interested organisations that are in your network
- To provide financial help to cover the conference cost

In this folder, you will find the official invitation for the conference, the program, background information about International Committee Against Disappearances and our past conferences in Istanbul (Turkey), Bogota (Colombia), Manila (Philippines), Nuremberg (Germany) and Amed (Northern Kurdistan), and the registration form.

We will send you the detailed program and other technical details regarding the conference after receiving your positive response in terms of participation.

We look forward to hear your positive response and wish you success in your struggle.

Kind Regards

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Invitation to the 6th International Conference Against Disappearances

9- 12 December 2010, London

Humanity, which entered the 21st Century with the pain and suffering of exploitation, poverty, repression, torture, massacres and disappearances under custody, has added new destruction and pain to its sufferings. Brought about by war and occupation, massacres have been carried out in order to suppress national movements within the first 10 years of the Century.

On the other hand, the desires and aspirations of people who live under repression, exploitation and misery for a free and human life continue to be suppressed through all kinds of violent methods. The people opposing the current system, struggling for democratic rights and freedoms, working towards independence, become the target of states or the forces supported by the states.

As a method used by the ruling forces of keeping people under pressure, intimidation and annihilation - and the policy of disappearing people under custody - also continues at full speed. Through the method of disappearing people under custody, the ruling forces are not only aiming to disappear people physically by kidnapping and murdering individuals opposing the system - and burying them to unknown places - but also to frighten, intimidate and bow the heads of the entire society and particularly the relatives of the disappeared.

ICAD has been struggling against the disappearances policy of states and supporting other campaigners since its foundation in May 1996, following an international conference that involved the active participation of the relatives of disappeared people, the courageous people fighting against disappearances under custody, human rights activists and democratic mass organisations. By organising international conferences, ICAD brings together the relatives of the disappeared, organisations struggling against disappearances under custody and human rights violations from different countries of the world, to share their pain, anger and experiences with each other. It also provides them with an opportunity to discuss and build upon joint struggles. ICAD is organising this year's conference against disappearances under the heading of "Wars, National Movements and Disappearances". Every year, thousands of people are disappearing due to wars and occupations in many parts of our world, particularly in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Moreover, thousands of people are being 'made disappeared' as dirty wars are carried out against the nations who are fighting for national liberation against colonialism.

The 6th International Conference Against Disappearances on 9-12 December 2010 in London will address these current issues and discuss the direction of disappearances policies and the perspectives of struggle against it. The conference is going to assemble many relatives of the disappeared from different continents and countries of the world, human rights activists, intellectuals and the forces of democracy and freedom.

Everyone who wants to strengthen the struggle against disappearances, and thus to give an end to disappearances and human rights violations; to uncover the whereabouts of disappeared people and bring perpetrators to justice; all forces of democracy and freedom that stand against repression and exploitation; human rights activists, intellectuals, writers and artists are invited to the conference.

Our invitation is to the people and organisations who want to hear the screams of the relatives of the disappeared, and to be the voice and heart of disappeared people.

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6th International Conference Against Disappearances

9-12 December 2010, London

“Wars, National Movements and Disappearances”

The conference which will be organised under the above heading is going to discuss the subjects in plenary sessions and three different workshops. The workshops are going to discuss the issues by touching on their essence and bring out certain conclusions. All participants are going to be informed about the findings of the workshops at the general plenary session.

Subtitles:

1- Wars and disappearances

The plenary and workshop is going to discuss about the institutional tools and methods used by the aggressive occupant forces during imperialist wars both in the past and the ongoing wars in many countries of the world, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is going to debate on the fact of disappearances that has been used by the aggressive occupant forces as a method to destroy social opposition, and try to reveal through actuality of disappearances the humanitarian crisis caused by the ones who waged war against people.

2- National Movements and disappearances

In recent years it has been witnessed that defending and solidarity with the national movements is weakened while the colonialist and imperialist forces' collaborated attacks are intensified. The suppression of Tamil national movement through horrific aggression in 2009, the attempts to crash Kurdish national movement, the attacks on the Bask national movement and the Latin American indigenous movements are representing some of examples that came to the fore.

The plenary and workshop is going to deal with the problems of national movements of Tamil, Kurd, Palestinian, Bask, Irish, Oromo, Balochies, Western Sahara, Berbers, the indigenous movements in Latin America and India in connection with disappearances under custody. The workshop, which is going to give importance to the utterance of problems by the ones actually experiencing them, is going to try to reveal the level of disappearances method used against them by the colonial forces.

3- Struggle against human rights violations and disappearances

The plenary and workshop, which will involve the sharing of experiences of struggle and solidarity, is going to discuss the direction of human rights violations and the policy of disappearances and the forms of organisations that are needed in order to stop human rights violations and disappearances under custody and to bring perpetrators to justice.

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Why London?

London is the capital city of a state that has been symbolised with colonialism. As the most former colonial state, Britain has had connections with almost all countries that are having national problems today. This is why whenever we touch on the national problem of colonial or semi-colonial countries, Britain always represents other side of the problem.

London is the capital city of Britain which is one of the symbols of the current imperialist aggression because of its role in the violation of human rights and the disappearances policy in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is the capital of monopolies like BP (British Petrol) which plays a special role about the disappearances and human rights violations in countries such as Colombia.

On the other hand, London is a world city where more than 300 languages are spoken; it is a place for refugees and asylum seekers who flew in massive numbers from their home countries because of torture, repression, tyranny, disappearances and other type of human rights violations. Thousands of Tamils, Kurds, Irish, and Latin Americans have contributed London to be a world city.

These reasons have increased the importance of having our Conference in London. Our conference is also going to help different immigrant communities who experience similar problems but are unaware of this very fact to know each other better, share each other's problems and develop mutual relations.

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Foundation of ICAD and its struggle

Foundation of ICAD

In Latin America the struggle against forced disappearances started. The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo became yardstick for many people in other countries, e.g. Turkey, where the struggle started with the campaign to save the life of Hasan Ocak. He had been disappeared on March 21, 1995 due to his political activities. 57 days after his kidnapping he was found by his relatives and friends on a grave yard for none identified dead people. His body showed severe marks of torture. The relatives and friends of Hasan Ocak organised their struggle against disappearances according to the struggle of the Madres del Plaza de Mayo. The so-called "Saturday Mothers" started their weekly vigils May 27, 1995 in front of the University of Galatasaray in Istanbul.

Out of the Hasan Ocak campaign the DMP – Democratic Struggle Platform - was founded and organised together with many other organisations, like IHD (Human Rights Association of Turkey), EKB, (Working Women's Association), AGIF (Federation of Immigrant Workers from Turkey) the 1st International Conference against disappearances under custody under the name of "SUSMA" (Don't be Silent) in Istanbul. The conference was attended by delegates from all over the world, many of whom were the families of 'disappeared' people. There were relatives from Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Iraq, Palestine, Turkey, Kurdistan, England, France, Germany and more than 100 members of syndicates, intellectuals, human right fighter. The conference was successful despite the prohibition of the conference by the Turkish authorities. It became clear to all participants that it is necessary to erect an international network to struggle against disappearances and other human right violations and ICAD International Committee against Disappearances was founded.

What ICAD stands for

ICAD is for the ending the state policy of disappearances in every country in the world.

ICAD is opposed to all disappearances.

ICAD strives for an independent and popular movement to stop disappearances and related abuses of human rights. We support the families and movements of the disappeared in their struggle for truth and justice.

ICAD recognises that our struggle to stop disappearances is inextricably linked with the people's struggle to live free from torture, assassination, unfair trials, political imprisonment and massacres.

ICAD affirms the legitimacy and necessity of popular struggles for social justice. We work with those parties and movements fighting for social justice, and from whose ranks the disappeared have been taken. We encourage and support the collective responsibility of social and political movements to defend their members' human rights.

ICAD is opposed to all forms of collaboration by the rich and powerful nations with state regimes that carry out disappearances - the supply of arms, trade and investment, and their refusal to grant political asylum to refugees.

ICAD is for the creation of independent tribunals of truth and justice. The perpetrators of disappearance are either members or auxiliaries of the state apparatus. The states that are the authors of disappearance also grant their agents impunity from criminal prosecution. Therefore it is impossible to investigate, prosecute, try or punish those personally

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responsible for disappearances while relying on the permission and institutions of the responsible state.

ICAD strives to give a focus internationally to the struggle against disappearances. We will co-operate with all existing local, national and international organisations fighting against disappearances. Our intention is to consolidate and bring together movements affiliated together in one international, democratic platform of struggle.

How ICAD Works

ICAD will establish an international network of sections. Turkey, Switzerland, France, Britain, Netherlands, Germany and the Philippines already have ICAD sections. ICAD will support the creation of new national sections as required to struggle against disappearances.

ICAD holds an international congress at least once every two years in countries where disappearances occur to support local social movements and relatives of the disappeared.

ICAD produces analytical, factual and campaigning materials to publicise the struggle against disappearances.

ICAD will initiate campaigns in solidarity with the disappeared, their comrades and relatives. Especially during the “international weeks for the disappeared” from 17 to 31 May every year ICAD organises and supports activities.

ICAD supports initiatives for an international independent tribunal against the perpetrators.

International Conferences

ICAD tries to co-ordinate and organise the struggle against disappearances on international level. For this purpose we organised international conferences in countries, where disappearances still occur or where the backer of this violation are situated. ICAD is aware that disappearances are international problems and that multi national companies play a significant role.

First Conference- Foundation Conference



Out of the Hasan Ocak campaign the DMP – democratic struggle platform - was founded and organised together with many other organisations, like IHD (Human Right Association of Turkey), EKB, (Working Women), AGIF (federation of working immigrants from Turkey in Germany) the 1. International Conference against disappearances under custody under the name of “SUSMA” (Don't be Silent) in Istanbul.

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Second Conference



The 2nd conference took place from July 11 to 13, 1997 in Bogota/Columbia. It was organised together with ANDAS “Committee against disappearances and victims of state repression. 2 members of the catholic centre for science and

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Contact

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education, CINEP, Elsa Alvarado and Mario Calderon, had been killed just before the conference on May 19.05.97 by death squads. Elsa Alvarado and Mario Calderon are members of honour of ICAD. 23 international delegates and 135 Colombian delegates participated in that conference. The demonstration "A light for Life" started the conference. The demonstration and the conference took place under police pressure, however found international acceptance by the media.

Third Conference



The 3rd conference took place in Manila/Philippines from May 14, to 21, 1999. It was organised together with KARAPATAN (Alliance to support human rights) and DESAPARECIDOS (Organisation of families and friends). During the 2 days exposure programme before the conference, participants could visualise reality of globalisation: Contradictions, poverty, virtual democracy and real terror. On May 17, - the international day for the disappeared - the conference started with a demonstration against disappearances. The conference was held under the motto: Globalisation and the worsening effects on human rights.

Fourth Conference



In Nuremberg/Germany our 4th conference took place from May 17 – 21, 2002. It was organised under the motto: "Globalisation: Human Rights obsolete? Disappearances, torture, military courts, isolation prisons, war, poverty...." We decided on Nuremberg as so-called "city of human rights", because the first international tribunal against the Nazi war criminals was conducted. We chose Germany, as for the first time we wanted to held a conference in a state, which is indirectly responsible for disappearances and other human rights violations. During the work shops we analysed and discussed mechanisms of repression under conditions of neo-liberal globalisation.

Fifth Conference



ICAD together with YAKAY-DER organised its 5th International Conference against Disappearances in Amed(Diyarbakir) between the 16th and the 20th of May 2006.

300 delegates participated the conference from 20 different countries. The conference announced that there were nearly 400 disappeared in Turkey and Northern Kurdistan that have not gone on records and 1228 disappeared in the same area that have been recorded. The conference united the relatives of the disappeared with delegates from 20 different countries and enabled them to share each others pain.

The conference announced of the mass graves in Silopi, Diyarbakir/Kulp and Bitlis/Tatvan and demanded these mass graves to be opened up.

Conference Contact



International Committee Against Disappearances

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6th International Conference Against Disappearances Registration Form

Please write in readable letters, thank you.

Personal Details		Organisation Details	
Name:		Name:	
Address:		Address:	
Tel:		Tel:	
Fax:		Fax:	
Website:		Website:	
e-mail:		e-mail:	
Occupation:		Short information	
Nationality:			
Language/s:			

I would like to participate in the following workshops	I want to speak about following subtitles
1- Wars and Disappearances	1- Wars and Disappearances
2- National Movements and Disappearances	2- National Movements and Disappearances
3- Struggle against disappearances policy and human rights violations	3- Struggle against disappearances policy and human rights violations

Accommodation:	Visa
a) To use facilities presented by ICAD (Family house for example)	Do you need a visa?
b) I would like to stay in hotel and I will pay the hotel cost	On what date will you arrive?
ICAD will provide you with information about suitable hotels. Please inform us how long you would be staying and how much money you can afford to pay for a hotel.	
Daily room cost maximum £	On what day will you depart?
How many days will you be staying?	

Health Condition:	
Heart Disease	Other
Diabetic	Special needs
Wheelchair	Vegetarian

Please use this space to tell us about any additional information that can be considered as important

ICAD charges £20 for employed and £10 for unemployed delegates from Britain as a contribution to the conference expenditures. The international delegates can also make a donation if they wish so.

Please make all cheques payable to: **ICAD British Section**
Co-operative Bank,
Sort Code: 08-92-99; Account Number: 65329894
IBAN: GB22CPBK08929965329894; BIC= CPBKGB22

Name	Date	Signature

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Financial Appeal

Power comes from togetherness!

JOIN DONATION CAMPAIGN FOR THE 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AGAINST DISAPPEARANCES

We are organizing another new international conference. This conference is going to be an international meeting point for people from all over the world, relatives of disappearances, and human rights defenders instead of a pretentious summit for the ruling class.

However, ICAD has not got the financial, etc opportunities like them and their substitute bourgeois liberal organisations. Therefore, in order this conference to be successful; it needs a great self-devotion and volunteer work as well as financial contributions to be used for the necessary expenses.

As you know, organising such an international conference, its preparation work and the expenses during the conference itself involve huge amounts of money. Most of these expenses will be spent on the relatives of disappearances who can not afford their expenditure and the delegates representing organisations struggling against disappearances under very difficult conditions.

For this reason, we have started a donation campaign for the conference and we are expecting your support too.

If you are supporting the conference, please do join our donation campaign!

You can also support us in different ways as well as financially.

To Transfer money:

Co-operative Bank,

Sort Code: 08-92-99; **Account Number:** 65329894

IBAN: GB22CPBK08929965329894; **BIC=** CPBKGB22

Please make all cheques payable to: **ICAD British Section**

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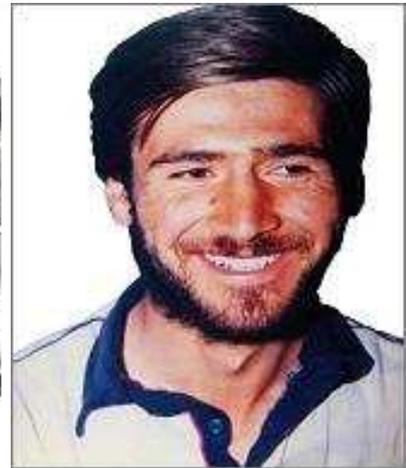
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