

Oral statement during the 63rd session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances

14/09/2026

Mr Chair:

In **Colombia**, the persistence of disappearances shows that guarantees of protection and non-repetition still do not reach the territories. Between January and July 2026, the ICRC documented 99 disappearances linked to the conflict; since 2016, it has recorded 2,659. The murder of searcher Claribel Moreno, the attacks against Cleiner Almanza, and the dismantling of the protection scheme for Andrea Torres Bautista of the Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation (FNEB) and Coordinator of the National Network of Women Searchers, demonstrate the risks faced by those who search. Law 2364 of 2024 (Law on Women Searchers), a global reference point, and its Implementing Decree must be fully complied with. The deadline to implement the Single Registry of Women Searchers has already passed, without effective participation from their organizations.

Mexico is suffering a disappearance crisis with more than 130,000 disappeared persons. In 2022, a Special Search Commission was created by judicial mandate for the enforced disappearance of Edmundo Reyes and Gabriel Cruz; after 4 years, no progress has been made. We call on the Mexican State to investigate and detain those materially and intellectually responsible for this grave human rights violation, and on the Working Group to be able to attend the meetings of said Commission to contribute its technical expertise.

We also raise concern that **Kenya** has not yet ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance or enacted specific domestic legislation to criminalize enforced disappearances. According to the Missing Voices Coalition, 196 people have been forcibly disappeared in Kenya between 2019 and 2026 to date. Behind every number is a person whose life has been disrupted and a family left searching for answers. The concern is particularly urgent as Kenya approaches another electoral cycle. There are worrying signs that enforced disappearances and other forms of state-linked violence could continue and have the effect of silencing dissent and intimidate citizens. If left unchecked, this risks entrenching a culture of fear in which people can be taken away while their families are left without information, justice or closure.

Thank you.