



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 March 2024

English only

Human Rights Council

Fifty-fifth session

26 February–5 April 2024

Agenda item 5

Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Written statement* submitted by Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[29 January 2024]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



The Enforced Disappearances in the Tindouf Camps

The forced disappearance in the Tindouf camps

The issue of forced disappearances in the Tindouf refugee camps, located in southwestern Algeria, is a deeply concerning violation of human rights. Reports and testimonies indicate that individuals within these camps have been subjected to enforced disappearances, where people are taken against their will, often by the armed group of Polisario, and their fate or whereabouts are concealed, leaving families in distress and uncertainty.

The Tindouf camps, allegations of forced disappearances suggest that individuals critical of the prevailing political structures or expressing dissent may be targeted. The lack of transparency and accountability within the camps contributes to an environment where such violations can occur with impunity.

Families searching for their missing relatives face immense challenges in obtaining information. The absence of a systematic and independent mechanism for investigating forced disappearances exacerbates the anguish of those seeking answers. The denial of access to information perpetuates a culture of silence and fear within the camps, making it difficult for families to assert their rights and demand justice.

International human rights organizations have called for thorough investigations into allegations of forced disappearances in the Tindouf camps. The global community must exert diplomatic pressure to uphold their responsibilities and ensure a transparent and impartial inquiry into these serious human rights violations.

The right to truth and justice for the victims and their families must be a priority in addressing forced disappearances.

Efforts to combat forced disappearances necessitate collaboration between humanitarian organizations, and international bodies.

Establishing international mechanisms to investigate allegations, ensuring the protection of witnesses, and providing support to families affected by disappearances are crucial steps in addressing this grave issue. The international community must work collectively to hold accountable those responsible for forced disappearances and establish safeguards to prevent such violations from recurring.

Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach that combines legal accountability, support for victims and their families, and initiatives to promote transparency and respect for human rights within the Tindouf camps. It is essential to create an environment where individuals feel safe expressing their opinions without fear of reprisal and where the rights and dignity of every person are upheld.
