

General allegation

109th session (9 – 18 May 2016)

Egypt

40. On 17 June 2016, the Working Group informed the Government of general allegations it had received in May 2016 in relation to the implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. The general allegation concerned the reported increase in the number of cases of enforced disappearance since mid-2014, allegedly establishing a pattern of widespread “short-term disappearances”. Even though some cases have already been clarified, they would demonstrate that enforced disappearances are now a routine practice in Egypt.

41. According to the information received, most of the victims documented are men aged between 20 and 50 years, arrested by Homeland Security or Security Forces officers while at home or at work. No arrest warrants were shown to justify the arrest, and many witnesses reported acts of violence committed against the victim and relatives during the arrest. Most victims are reportedly detained in Homeland Security or Security Forces camps for periods ranging from two weeks to three months. It has been reported, however, that some 60 individuals have remained disappeared since 14 August 2013, and that there are other cases of long-term disappearance, particularly since mid-2015. It has also been reported that former victims testified to extremely poor conditions of detention and to repeated torture and ill-treatment while being detained.