

The Families of the Disappeared Persons in the Context of Enforced Disappearance in the Philippines

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Aim/Method

This project was intended to initiate a short study on the topic of enforced disappearance, a situational case of the Philippines with focus on the families of the disappeared persons. The study had two objectives of:

- I. Learning more about the notion of enforced disappearance from an organisational point of view and,
- II. Understanding the impacts of enforced disappearance on the families/relatives of the disappeared persons.

Learning the topic involved understanding the background of the AFAD which is the host organisation; to know its mission, objectives and activities, including the implementation mechanisms of its work in the fight against enforced disappearances in the Philippines and southern Asia as a whole. **This was done through interactions and interviews** where applicable with the staff based at the secretariat of AFAD in addition to available materials (reports, primers and other publications) and also participated in activities outside the office such as meetings and memorial/campaign activities for instance “Free Jonas Burgos Movement” to be specific. In order to understand the impacts of enforced disappearances on the relatives of the disappeared persons, **I conducted the interviews with the selected members of the families of the disappeared persons; by requesting individuals to freely share their stories and experiences** to comprehend a better idea of what happened and why so and how this has impacted the family situation from that time to date.