Enforced disappearance remains one of the most heinous human rights violations. From the ‘political cleansing’ campaigns of oppressive regimes to the ‘war on terror’, hundreds of thousands of targeted opponents have disappeared without a trace, and their families left to live in uncertainty over their fate. Due to its complex nature as a multiple human rights violation and a very serious international crime, and the fact that it is, by definition, shrouded in secrecy, enforced disappearance poses particular problems with regard to accountability.

Today, in spite of a framework which includes the 2007 United Nations Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, several international courts and monitoring bodies with competence over the violation, as well as the International Criminal Court, these problems persist and new challenges emerge in the fight against impunity.

This Workshop, inspired by Antonio Cassese’s early dedication to the eradication of enforced disappearance in Chile, seeks to address some of the problematic issues raised by the ‘modern’ forms of enforced disappearance, and evaluate the effectiveness of the existing international framework.

Presentations will be given by leading experts in the field. In the active discussion that will follow each presentation, participants will have the opportunity to share views and experience in both an academic but also in a professional context. The Workshop is addressed to professionals in the fields of human rights and international criminal law, as well as PhD researchers and students with a demonstrated interest.

PROGRAMME

Friday 25 October 2013, European University Institute – Villa La Fonte
Via delle Fontanelle 10-50 014 San Domenico di Fiesole (Florence, Italy)

Welcome address
Nehal Bhuta (EUI) & Paola Gaeta (University of Geneva)

1st session: Chair: Francesco Franchini (EUI)

9.45-10.30 (30 min presentation+15 min Q&A)
Enforced Disappearance at the European Court of Human Rights: A ‘Wall of Silence’, Fact-Finding Difficulties and States as ‘Subversive Objectors’
Helen Keller (Judge, European Court of Human Rights; Professor, University of Zurich)

10.30 - 11.15 (30 min presentation+15 min Q&A)
The European Court of Human Right’s Ratione Temporis Jurisdiction on Enforced Disappearance Cases: A Discussion of Jenewss’s Russian Mire Concent Hri (PhD researcher, University of Zurich)

11.15-12.15 (30 min presentation+15 min Q&A)
Enforced Disappearance v. Secret and Unacknowledged Detention
Gabriella Citroni (University of Milan Bicocca; Legal Advisor on Enforced Disappearances)

12.30-14.30 Lunch break

2nd session: Chair: Martin Scheinin (EUI)

14.30-15.15 (30 min presentation+15 min Q&A)
Enforced Disappearance as a Crime and the WGEID’s ‘Humanitarian’ Mandate (in French)
Olivier de Frouville (Université Panthéon-Assas, Paris; Member of the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances)

15.15-16.00 (30 min presentation+15 min Q&A)
The ‘Privatization’ of Enforced Disappearance in the Rome Statute: Dealing with Non-State Actors
Irene Giorgou (PhD Researcher, University of Geneva)

16.00-16.30 Coffee break

16.30-17.15 (30 min presentation+15 min Q&A)
Redress for Enforced Disappearance: Why Financial Compensation Is Not Enough
Sarah Fulton (International Legal Officer , REDRESS)

17.15-17.30
Nino Cassese and Enforced Disappearance
Micaela Fuli (University of Florence)