

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
SEVENTH SESSION

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE CHAIRPERSON RAPPORTEUR
FOR ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES

Monday, 10 March 2008

- . Australia thanks the Chairperson Rapporteur for his report *for enforced or involuntary disappearances*
- *the report* which has once again illustrated the enormity and extent of disappearances throughout the world.
- That there remain more than 40,000 cases, across 78 countries, submitted to the Working Group since its inception is deeply concerning.
- . In particular, Australia is concerned at continued reports of widespread forced disappearances in **Sri Lanka**, with more than 5,500 outstanding cases reported.
 - We strongly encourage the Sri Lankan Government to act to ensure the alleged perpetrators of such serious crimes, from all parties to the conflict, are brought to justice swiftly.
 - We would also encourage the Sri Lankan Government to schedule a visit by the Working Group, which was unable to go ahead during 2007 due to visits by other special rapporteurs.
- . Over the years, the Working Group has identified that a culture of impunity fuels disappearances.
 - Ensuring that there is no impunity for perpetrators of disappearances is an essential deterrent;
 - those responsible for disappearances should not go unpunished.