



Paris, October 23rd 2013

Madam, Sir,

The Euro-Mediterranean Federation Against Enforced Disappearances (FEMED) is organizing, together with the Lebanese associations affiliated to FEMED and with its network of family associations of the disappeared located on both sides of the Mediterranean sea, its Fourth Euro-Mediterranean Conference of the Family Associations of the Disappeared on the subject of “Enforced Disappearances, Truth and Fight against impunity”. This conference, which follows a similar event organized in Istanbul in the course of December 2009, will shed light on the work developed by the 26 associations affiliated to FEMED network working on both sides of the Mediterranean Sea. Those Euro-Mediterranean conferences were organized in order to ease exchanges of views and experiences between associations affiliated to FEMED and experts. Those exchanges will be focused this year on experiences related to fact-finding processes, the Right to Truth and Right to Know, in the light of the fight against impunity. Stakes ahead related to the wider adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance, signed in 2006, and coming into force in December 2010, will also be in the centre of the discussions.

This Fourth Euro-Mediterranean Conference will be held at the Hotel Le Commodore, Commodore Street, in Beirut, between the 23rd and the 24th of November 2013. It will begin with an official opening ceremony on the 23rd of November, morning time. This official opening will be then followed by plenary sessions tackling key and challenging issues such as the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Enforced Disappearance, the fight against impunity, the evaluation of the needs of families of missing, the use of universal jurisdiction with regards to the Right to Truth, and the key role that women and civil society organizations can play in the framework of lobbying strategies.

More than a hundred participants from various backgrounds and countries are expected to come and share their views during the time of the conference.

Knowing your genuine interest for the subjects abovementioned, we would be honored if you could come and share your valuable experience during this conference.

Taking this opportunity to thank you and express my deep consideration, I remain,

Mrs. Nassera Dutour
Chairwoman of the FEMED