



Esmat Orensa | Gachi de Luis | Suzan Abul Farag

"Their voices, despite their absence, will live on in the minds they touched". This is how my colleague concluded our conversation about our fellow conference interpreters who were on the Ethiopian flight that crashed minutes after take off from Addis Ababa on March 10th, 2019. They are Esmat Orensa and Suzan Abul Farag from the Arabic booth and Gachi de Luis from the Spanish booth. They were on their way to Nairobi where they were due to interpret at the United Nations Environment Assembly. The way they were suddenly snatched from our midst left a gaping wound that may never heal. Bereaved family members, friends and colleagues are having a hard time dealing with this great loss. Their vacant seats in the booths were painful reminders of this loss to the colleagues who had to interpret without them at the Environment Assembly. The interpreting team kept their names on the team sheet and hung their pictures in the booths. As a gesture that the interpreting community will never forget them, AICC invited all interpreters to wear a flower on Monday March 18th. Mine will be dedicated to Suzan with whom I shared a booth and fond memories. The heartfelt words colleagues shared about Esmat and Gachi made me wish I had known them. May they rest in peace and may their loved ones have the strength to carry on without them.
