

MEXICO

A large crowd of people is gathered at night, holding up numerous posters. Each poster features a portrait of a person, likely a missing individual. The posters are held high, creating a sea of faces. The background is dark, with some lights visible, suggesting an outdoor setting at night.

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OF PARTICULAR CONCERN ARE THE REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES, EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS AND TORTURE, AS WELL AS THE SITUATION OF INSECURITY FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN, MIGRANTS, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, AND JOURNALISTS, WHO ARE VICTIMS OF MURDER, DISAPPEARANCE, KIDNAPPING, TORTURE, HARASSMENT, AND THREATS

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**INTER AMERICAN COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

RECENT MEXICAN LEADERS HAVE EXPUNDED ON THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY for the country's 121 million people. They have sought economic progress through a comprehensive free trade pact with the United States and Canada, oil exploration, the privatisation of state enterprises, and reforms in such areas as education, energy, telecommunications, mining and justice, which have prompted large scale protests. But the hoped-for image of a reform-minded, dynamic country on the cusp of prosperity has been "overwhelmed by shocking scenes of a land awash in violence and injustice: surveys suggest that citizens report only less than ten percent of crimes to the authorities. The real degree of unpunished crime in Mexico is staggering".²⁰⁷

While the reforms introduced during the term of President Calderón gave some cause for hope, what we have seen in practice during the term of his successor, President Peña Nieto, is the progressive criminalisation of social protest and attacks on human rights defenders (HRDs). The Inter American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) has acknowledged the significant reforms introduced in Mexico in 2011, including the reform of the constitution and the recent approval of protocols to investigate cases of torture and enforced disappearance. Notwithstanding this progress, the implementation of this programme of reform has run up against institutional deficiencies and obstacles. "The IACHR has confirmed a deep gulf between the legislative and judicial framework and the daily reality millions of people face in accessing justice. Time and again the IACHR heard from victims throughout the country that the administration of justice is a "simulation."²⁰⁸

Despite these much vaunted reforms, the situation for HRDs remained dire in Mexico in 2017 as they continued to be subject to violence by state and non-state actors. Vulnerable groups include journalists, as well as LGBTI, religious, environmental, indigenous, migrant, and women's rights defenders. HRDs and journalists in Mexico are subject to intimidation, legal harassment, arbitrary detention, death threats, acts of physical aggression, enforced disappearances and killings as a result of their activities in defence of human rights and the exercise of freedom of expression and journalism. Disappearances are endemic in Mexico, often happening with collusion from the state. HRDs working in the defence of indigenous peoples' territory are particularly vulnerable. They are criminalised, imprisoned, defamed, and often killed. Journalists working on any of these issues, or issues related to the drug trade and the government's complicity in this, also run the risk of losing their lives. During a visit to Mexico in January 2017, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, stated that HRDs "continue to be criminalised for their work, receive threats via the internet and social media, including attempts to defame their identity and role, and frequently experience arbitrary arrests and abuse of force by law enforcement during peaceful protests".²⁰⁹

The government of Mexico's current socio-economic strategy is based on three elements: the imposition of a neo-liberal economic model, the limitation of workers' rights and the criminalisation of dissent.²¹⁰ The need to maximise revenue from the legal market, to increase the benefit to the state from the illegal market, and in the process to limit workers' rights, salaries and rest hours, are at the heart of the government's economic strategy. When combined with the privatisation of basic goods and services, such as food, water and electricity, that are indispensable for a decent standard of living, these policies not only deprive the population of their natural and territorial resources, but turn these services into commercial products that only those with money can access. In relation to human rights, the government's clear goal is to label those who oppose the government's neo-liberal agenda as "enemies of development".²¹¹

**THE SITUATION FOR HRDS
REMAINED DIRE IN
MEXICO IN 2017 AS THEY
CONTINUED TO BE SUBJECT
TO VIOLENCE BY STATE
AND NON-STATE ACTORS**

KILLINGS OF HRDs

All of these elements create a context in which attacks on and killings of HRDs are routine crimes for which there is no accountability. From June 2016 to May 2017, there were 1,442 attacks on HRDs in Mexico, which translates into 4 attacks per day.²¹² In the states of Chiapas and Oaxaca alone, two HRDs are attacked on a daily basis. In the period 2013-2018 there were 144 killings of HRDs, 31 in Oaxaca alone. In 2017, 48 HRDs were killed;²¹³ 58% fell into 4 main categories: HRDs defending freedom of expression and journalism (10); HRDs defending the rights of indigenous peoples (6); HRDs defending territorial/land rights (6); HRDs defending the right to a decent standard of living (6). The states which accounted for the highest number of killings of HRDs were Guerrero (8), Jalisco (6), Oaxaca (6), Michoacán (6). It is worth noting that killings of HRDs took place in 16 of the 32 states, including Mexico City. In its 2018 Annual Report, covering the period January -December 2017, Front Line Defenders reported the killing of 32 HRDs in Mexico.²¹⁴ An element in these killings is the overlap between the criminal and the political. A case in point is the shooting dead of journalist Miroslava Breach by a hired gunman working for one of the drug trafficking gangs and where the real motivation for the killing was her journalistic activities which threatened to expose political links to the drug trade.²¹⁵

ATTACKS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Serious human rights violations against indigenous peoples and communities in Mexico occur in three main areas: violence in the context of megaprojects on ancestral lands and territories authorised without the due process to ensure free, prior and informed consultation and consent;

in the context of title claims affecting their land; or the lack of due process in criminal cases against HRDs.²¹⁶ Indigenous peoples have repeatedly denounced the granting of state concessions to private companies in violation of their right to prior consultation. As a result of the struggle for their lands there have been repeated attempts to criminalise the work of defenders of indigenous peoples' rights, who are seen as obstacles to the economic development of the country. During her November 2017 visit to Mexico, the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples Rights, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, referred to "a serious pattern of exclusion and discrimination, which in turn reflects a lack of access to justice, among other human rights violations".²¹⁷ In both 2016 and 2017, 37% of the HRDs killed were indigenous activists.²¹⁸ In the midst of this wave of violence, the massacres of Tlatlaya, and Ayotzinapa are the tip of an iceberg of violence, arbitrary arrests and violent attacks, including killings of HRDs. In the Tlatlaya case it is alleged that high-ranking army officers gave written orders encouraging soldiers to kill 22 young people, alleged members of organised criminal groups,²¹⁹ while in the Ayotzinapa case, 43 young men who had been studying at a teacher training college in the rural town of Ayotzinapa and had commandeered buses²²⁰ in hopes of reaching a demonstration, were intercepted by local police and never seen again.²²¹

ATTACKS ON WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

According to IM Defensoras, "Mexico is the most violent country for women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in Mesoamerica."²²² From 2013 to 2016, that is to say, during the term of Enrique Peña Nieto, a total of 1,360 attacks against WHRDs occurred, an average of one a day." In the same period at least 22 WHRDs were killed.²²³ Women have been singled out for killing in some locations. In Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, hundreds, and possibly thousands, of women have disappeared and been murdered since 1993. Many of the women's bodies have later been found in the desert, often having been murdered in very brutal ways. Most were poor and working in factories or the informal economy; some were raped or mutilated, and more still remain missing. According to one source, there are reasons to believe that there were 4,306 femicides in Mexico between 2006 and 2012,²²⁴ and the National Network of Human Rights Defenders in Mexico (*Red Nacional de Defensoras de Derechos Humanos en México, RNDDHM*), identified 615 attacks on women HRDs from the beginning of 2012 through 2014, including 36 killings. In the research for its 2016 report, the IACHR noted, "Regarding the situation of WHRDs in Mexico, the IACHR has issued a number of precautionary measures aimed at protecting the life and personal integrity of women HRDs who have been attacked, threatened and harassed as a direct consequence of their work. Under this scenario, the IACHR has received concerning information regarding the lack of timely implementation of

effective security measures that allow the prevention of irreparable incidents that may compromise the life and integrity of human rights defenders and their families. In this sense, throughout 2015, the Inter-American Commission granted two precautionary measures in favour of three women human rights defenders who were allegedly in a situation of defenselessness".

BETWEEN 1995 AND 2014 THERE WERE AT LEAST 1,218 MURDERS IN MEXICO MOTIVATED BY PREJUDICE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS BECAUSE OF THEIR REAL OR PERCEIVED SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND/OR GENDER IDENTITY

ATTACKS ON MEMBERS OF LGBTI COMMUNITY

BERNARDO RANFERI HERNÁNDEZ ACEVEDO



On October 14th, 2017 the body of Bernardo Ranferi Hernández Acevedo was found in the burning wreck of his car near Nejapa, Chilapa de Álvarez in Guerrero state, half a kilometer away from a military checkpoint. The political leader was killed on the Chilapa-Ahuacoutzingo highway, in the downtown area of Guerrero, a region that is particularly troubled by the struggle between criminal groups that want to control the traffic and cultivation of the poppy. Police were notified of a car on fire on the highway and on arrival found the car on fire with the bodies of Bernardo, his wife, his mother-in-law and his

driver inside. 64-year old Ranferi was a respected HRD who had survived the so called Guerra Sucia (Dirty War) of the 1970s. He was a trenchant critic of Rubén Figueroa, former governor of Guerrero, whom he had accused of being responsible of the killing of 17 farmers in Aguas Blancas in 1995. As a result more than 35 detention orders were issued against him and in 1997 he went into exile in France for 4 years. When he returned to Mexico in 2001 he dedicated himself to organising peasant and indigenous communities to demand their rights.

MEZTLI OMIXOCHITL SARABIA REYNA



On 29 June 2017, human rights defender (HRD) Meztlí Omixochitl Sarabia Reyna was killed in the office of her organisation in Puebla, Mexico. Meztlí Omixochitl Sarabia Reyna was a labour rights defender, member of the Unión Popular de Vendedores Ambulantes 28 de Octubre – UPVA (Popular Union of Street Vendors October 28) and daughter of HRD Ruben Sarabia 'Simitrio', co-founder of the UPVA. UPVA is an organisation which defends the rights of street vendors and labour rights, and organises protests on these issues. The organisation has faced repression since its

founding including attacks, death threats, stigmatisation and judicial harassment. Meztlí had also been campaigning for justice for her father, Rubén Sarabia Sánchez and brothers, Xihuel Sarabia Reyna and Atl Rubén Sarabia Reyna, who have been political prisoners for several years. Government investigations are trying to present this as a killing based on a personal dispute even though the gunman announced his intention to kill her, the night before the shooting.

On 20 April 2017, the body of LGBTI rights activist and freelance reporter, Juan José Roldán was found in a town east of Mexico City showing signs of torture.²²⁵ For the previous 5 years Juan José had been campaigning for better HIV testing in Mexico. On 20 May 2017, Jennifer López, better known as Campanita, was murdered in Ometepec, Guerrero state. Campanita was a local transgender activist who was actively involved in the defence of the human rights of LGBTI people. Between 1995 and 2014 there were at least 1,218 murders in Mexico motivated by prejudice against individuals because of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity, according to the report by the Citizens Commission Against Homophobic Hate Crimes (CCCOH). The report indicates that the largest number of such murders involved men (976), followed by transgender community members with 226 cases reported, and women (16). It also indicated that over 80% of the records show that the victims suffered various forms of aggression before being killed. The Commission notes that there have been some improvements in Mexico City in terms of discrimination against LGBTI persons, but as stated by one civil society representative, “Mexico City is not Mexico,” in reference to the deep-rooted stereotypes and prejudices that persist in many parts of the country. According to the Transgender Law Centre “rates of violence against transgender women are higher than ever. Ironically violence against the LGBTI community has actually increased since the recognition of same-sex marriage throughout Mexico because of a backlash against these progressive changes in the law”.²²⁶

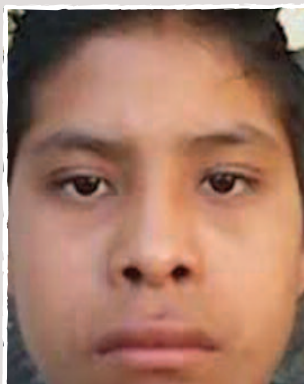
RELENTLESS VIOLENCE AND THE CLIMATE OF IMPUNITY

HRDs in Mexico are regularly subjected to legal harassment and arbitrary detention. During President Felipe Calderón’s 2006-2012 six year term of office, there were 999 recorded cases of arbitrary detention of HRDs. In the first four years of President Enrique Peña Nieto’s term, from December 2012 to May 2017, there were 2,449 recorded cases of arbitrary detention. The difference is even more stark when we look at the figures for extrajudicial executions (EJEs). During the entire Calderón administration, there were 67 documented cases of EJEs of HRDs. Since President Peña Nieto came to power in 2012, there have been 142 EJEs of HRDs. In one year alone, from June 2016 to May 2017, the number of documented extrajudicial executions of HRDs was 57. In other words, in that one year, there were only 10 fewer EJEs of HRDs than in the entire 6 year term of office of President Calderón.

The nature of the attacks on HRDs shows a very clear pattern. In 2014, the most common form of harassment was threats. In 2015, the most common form of attack was legal harassment, while in the 2016-2017 period the largest increase was in the number of EJEs. Enforced disappearance is also an increasingly common form of human rights violation in Mexico. In that same 2016-2017 period 11 HRDs were disappeared: five were victims of extrajudicial killing, three were subsequently released and three remain unaccounted for.²²⁷ When these two categories of attacks are combined it is clear that the trend is increasingly towards direct violent attacks on HRDs. The recent apparent drop in the number of enforced disappearances is not thought to be representative of any resolute policy change for increased protection of HRDs, but a knee-jerk reaction to the political fall-out and international pressure resulting from the 2014 Ayotzinapa case.

RATHER THAN TAKE ACTION TO DEAL WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE CONSISTENTLY DENIED AND MINIMISED THE SCALE AND NATURE OF KILLINGS, TORTURE, AND DISAPPEARANCES

HUMBERTO MORALES SÁNTIZ



On 28th February, HRD Humberto Morales Sántiz was brutally killed by a group of assailants in Carrizal district, Chiapas. Humberto was a 13-year old secondary school student, full of hope and ambition to continue his studies. He was targeted because he and his family were active campaigners for the land rights of the community. Around 2pm, on 28th February 2017, the young boy was collecting wood in the mountain. He was approached by a group of armed persons who shot him in the head. When he did not return after several hours his family became concerned

and organised a search, which led to the discovery of his body. The local authorities never carried out any ballistic, forensic anthropology or criminology examinations, even after the body was exhumed in mid 2017. Paramilitary group Los Petules, who have been identified as the perpetrators, have not been summoned to give evidence; this group has been constantly harassing organised communities. Several public and legal complaints have been made by the social group OCEZ-FNLS, an organisation that organises and defends

peasants that are fighting for their land and a dignified way of living. Humberto’s family lives in one of their organised communities, therefore his execution signifies a collective threat to human right defenders working on the issue of land rights.

JUAN JOSE ROLDAN AVILA



Juan José Roldán Ávila, a freelance journalist and HRD who defended LGBTI rights, was beaten to death and burned with acid in Calpulalpan, Tlaxcala. His body was found on a dirt road in the San Rafael neighborhood showing signs of torture. Acid had been poured on various parts of his body. Juan José Roldán worked as a reporter for a local television station in Calpulalpan until 2011, was a campaigner against animal abuse and was currently part of the organising committee of the 2017 fair in the city. The previous 24

February he had complained on Facebook that he had been receiving threats. Juan José was the fifth journalist killed in a period of two months.

The killings of HRDs take place with almost total impunity because the political and economic structures of the state have been infiltrated to such an extent by narco traffickers and other criminal elements that the state is both unable and unwilling to take effective action in defence of human rights. In August 2016, the government reported that the whereabouts of more than 27,000 people who had gone missing since 2006 remained unknown.²²⁸ Prosecutors and police routinely fail to take basic investigative steps to identify those responsible for enforced disappearances, often telling the missing people's families to investigate on their own.²²⁹ Authorities have failed to identify remains of bodies or body parts found in various locations, including in clandestine graves throughout the country.²³⁰

There is substantial evidence to indicate that the Mexican government initiated a policy of using indiscriminate and extrajudicial force as part of the government's security strategy to counter organised crime. It is this state sanctioned violence that underpins the climate of impunity in which HRDs can be killed without any significant risk for the perpetrators. The conclusion is that the federal government pursued an implicit policy that involved the indiscriminate and extrajudicial use of public force against any civilian perceived as being connected with "organised crime," while ensuring near complete impunity for those federal officials who carried out such violence. HRDs are often arrested or targeted on the basis of spurious allegations of participation in terrorist or criminal activities.²³¹

The government of Mexico has used the fight against the drug trade and organised crime as an excuse to justify its failure to deal with the wave of violence against HRDs.²³² Mexico has relied heavily on the military to fight drug-related violence and organised crime, leading to widespread human rights violations by military personnel. Given the general climate of impunity for human rights violations already prevailing in Mexico, the recent introduction of the Law on Internal Security (*Ley de Seguridad Interior*), which will extend the role of the military in normal policing operations, is of particular concern. Between 2006 and 2016, Mexico's National Human Rights Commission received almost 10,000 complaints of abuses of human rights committed by the military—including more than 2,000 during the current administration. It found in more than 100 cases that military personnel had committed serious human rights violations, although the vast majority of these cases were never fully investigated.²³³ Impunity remains the norm for these abuses.²³⁴ In its 2016 report on the situation of human rights in Mexico, the IACHR stated that "of particular concern are the reports of disappearances, extrajudicial executions and torture, as well as the situation of insecurity for women, children, migrants, human rights defenders, and journalists, who are victims of murder, disappearance, kidnapping, torture, harassment, and threats".²³⁵ The IACHR report also stated that, "The current crisis of gross violations of human rights in Mexico is in part a consequence of the impunity that has persisted since the 'Dirty War',²³⁶ and has fostered their repetition heretofore".²³⁷

THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SENDS THE MESSAGE THAT IT IS OK TO ATTACK HRDs AND JOURNALISTS... ESSENTIALLY MAKING THE GOVERNMENT AN ABETTOR TO THE CRIMES

STATE RESPONSE

In 2012, civil society pressure prompted the government to create a Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. However, the Mechanism continues to have an inadequate number of staff, as a result of which protection measures are often not implemented. In some cases, it was reported that the same police unit identified as the aggressor was the authority assigned to provide protection.²³⁸ As of mid-2016, it had offered protection to 333 people since its inception, but has also been criticised by rights groups as slow and suffering from insufficient government commitment. In its April 2018 analysis of the Protection Mechanism, Espacio OSC, (a network of 22 civil society organisations) highlighted the fact that, of the 58 recommendations made to the government to strengthen the Mechanism, only 2 had been fully implemented, 42 had been partially implemented and in 14 instances there had been no progress at all.²³⁹

On multiple occasions in early 2016, government officials or their allies verbally attacked prominent HRDs, baselessly describing them as members of a "mafia" group reaping financial gains from criticism of the government.²⁴⁰ State officials often use coded language to refer to the work of HRDs, using terms such as "obstruction of public roadways" or "attacks on national wealth." Rather than take action to deal with human rights violations, senior government officials have consistently denied and minimised the scale and nature of killings, torture, and disappearances and have made sweeping, unfounded assertions that victims of these crimes are themselves criminals. Senior officials have engaged in attacks on United Nations and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights officials, civil society organisations and others who highlight atrocities.²⁴¹

A 2017 report documented the use by the Mexican government of anti-terrorist (Pegasus) software to monitor the activities of journalists, anti-corruption activists and HRDs denouncing enforced disappearances and sexual abuses.²⁴² This surveillance targeted the mobile phones of HRDs, journalists and anti-corruption activists. The spyware sent text messages containing infectious links that allowed Pegasus to access any information stored in the device as well as to undetectably activate the microphone and the camera. The immediate response of President Peña Nieto was to deny any possible government involvement and to call for the prosecution of those who had made false accusations against the government.

Right: Protest over Javier Valdez killing



The state has particularly targeted those HRDs whose protests may impact on the economy, and in particular those groups or individuals whose work exposes the fact that those who stand to gain from these human rights violations are often state agents implicated in human rights abuses, who have links to organised crime or who stand to benefit from the privatisation of natural resources.²⁴³ As a result there are many cases of open attacks by state agents on HRDs opposed to major projects organised by big business. In those cases where human rights violations have been incontrovertibly carried out by state agents, the official response is always the same:

- ❖ deny the facts;
- ❖ twist the facts to claim that it was the HRD who initiated the violence;
- ❖ accuse unknown third parties; and
- ❖ claim it was an isolated incident by a “rogue element” if the perpetrator is incontrovertibly a state agent, and is not a reflection of state policy.

It is notable that these supposed “rogue elements” who were “out of control” and “acting unofficially” always behave in the same way, attacking people whose human rights activities are seen to be threatening the interests of the state and its corporate allies.

In Mexico, federal and local mechanisms for the protection of defenders and journalists already exist, including the Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. The public prosecutor’s offices throughout the country, including the Federal Attorney General’s Office, are obliged to investigate crimes against journalists and HRDs. However, recent cases demonstrate that such mechanisms have not been effective in preventing attacks against journalists and HRDs or in meeting their protection needs. Impunity for these cases and previous attacks and crimes perpetuates and worsens the cycle of violence and abuse: when there are no serious investigations or consequences for crimes against journalists and defenders, the Mexican government sends the message that it is ok to attack HRDs and journalists – essentially making the government an abettor to the crimes.²⁴⁴

At the end of his first visit to Mexico in January 2017, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs, Michel Forst, stated, “Impunity has become the cause and effect of the general insecurity of human rights defenders in Mexico...The best way to ensure the safety of HRDs is by bringing those who attempt to harm them to justice.”²⁴⁵ In particular, he urged the government of Mexico to strengthen the Protection Mechanism for defenders at risk,

including people working in national human rights institutions. He added “Despite the fact that the National Mechanism’s existence has contributed to preventing certain violations against human rights defenders, it has not been sufficient as a public policy tool in transforming the environment in which human rights defenders operate. Its nature, to date, has been more reactive, rather than preventive. Its focus has been on delivering piecemeal security measures, rather than adopting a more holistic approach to protection. It has not sufficiently looked into the root causes at the source of the risk. This not only undermines the effectiveness of its protection measures, but also exposes the National Mechanism to straining its capacity due to a large number of cases which continue unresolved”.²⁴⁶

IMPUNITY HAS BECOME THE CAUSE AND EFFECT OF THE GENERAL INSECURITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN MEXICO

The United Nations and civil society organisations have repeatedly called on the Mexican government to provide more resources to the Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, to implement risk analyses, expand preventative measures in more states, and improve protection measures, including from a gender perspective. There is also a need for the Mechanism to strengthen coordination between the federal and state-level attorney generals’ offices to improve the investigation of crimes.²⁴⁷ However federal prosecutors have avoided prosecuting state and non-state actors for atrocities. Prosecutorial obstruction has taken various forms: reclassifying atrocities as lesser offences, stalling investigations in bureaucratic confusion, discouraging victims from filing complaints, and tampering with or fabricating evidence. This has been possible, in large part, because forensic and witness protection services are not independent, but located within the prosecutor’s office itself. When pressed on criminal accountability for atrocities, the Calderón and Peña Nieto governments have demonstrated a pattern of launching initiatives and reforms with great fanfare, only to starve them of resources and political support. Various special mechanisms and plans have failed to locate the disappeared and provide victims of crime with support, representation, and reparation.²⁴⁸ “Mexico has ample resources and human capital to effectively prevent, prosecute, and punish atrocities—most of all those carried out by its own forces. The question is whether Mexico has the political will to do so.”²⁴⁹

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO

To demonstrate political will and inspire genuine hope for an end to Mexico's ongoing crisis of atrocities and impunity, bold steps are needed. The Mexican state should:

- ❖ Implement the numerous human rights recommendations made by various UN Rapporteurs and officials as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in recent years;
- ❖ Implement the specific recommendations made by UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, following his first visit to Mexico in January 2017;²⁵⁰
- ❖ Ensure thorough investigations of all threats to HRDs;
- ❖ Ensure the prosecution of perpetrators and intellectual authors of attacks on HRDs;
- ❖ Provide all the necessary political support and financial resources needed to provide an effective system of protection for HRDs at risk;
- ❖ Create a properly resourced investigative body, which is empowered to independently investigate and document severe human rights violations and recommend the start of legal investigations against the perpetrators;
- ❖ Provide technical assistance to the offices of the Attorney General and the State Prosecutor to enable them to carry out comprehensive investigations;
- ❖ Produce public reports on and proposals for the reform of the justice system and the rule of law in Mexico;
- ❖ Report on progress on criminal justice in cases of disappearances, torture, and killings;
- ❖ Ensure legal clarity in the process of legal reform by classifying EJE's as "a homicide in which state agents or civilians participate with the state's acquiescence";
- ❖ Address the full range of human rights of the victims including: the right to justice, memory, truth and full compensation for abuses suffered, as well as state measures to ensure that the abuse is not repeated.



Protest over the killing of prominent crime journalist, Javier Valdez.