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MEXICO

UPDATED STRATEGY PUTS SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSONS AT RISK

On December 14, 2023, the Mexican government shared the results of the Disappeared Persons Search Strategy. This strategy includes an update of a census that records the number of people who disappeared nationwide, known as National Register of Missing and Disappeared Persons (RNPDNO). The authorities decreased considerably the number of disappeared and missing people, and categorized ambiguously 80,000 people, acknowledging that did not have enough data to search them. We urge the Mexican government to ensure transparency and participation of the relatives of the disappeared on the census preparation.

Write to the Minister of Interior urging her to:

- Take necessary measures to ensure truth and justice for the victims of disappearances in Mexico.
- Facilitate Active Participation of Victims' Families in Census Preparation

Write to:

Minister Luisa María Alcalde Luján
Ministry of Interior (Secretaría de Gobernación)
Carretera Bucareli 99
Colonia Juárez, Cuauhtemoc
C.P. 06600
Ciudad de México
Email: luisa.alcalde@segob.gob.mx
X: @Segob_mx
Salutation: *Dear Minister,*

And copy:

His Excellency Carlos Manuel Joaquin Gonzalez
Ambassador
Embassy of the United Mexican States
45 O'Connor Street, Suites 1000, 1010 and 1030
Ottawa, ON K1P 1A4
Tel: (613) 233-8988, -9272, -9917 / 613-795-1868 (24h) Fax: (613) 235-9123
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The number of missing and forcibly disappeared people remained high in Mexico. In 2023, the National Search Commission (CNB) registered at least 12,031 new cases of missing and forcibly disappeared people. Of this figure, 8,426 were men, 3,596 were women, and 9 were unidentified. According to official figures, a total of 114,004 people were registered as missing and forcibly disappeared between

1962 and the end of 2023. Relatives searching for disappeared and missing people faced serious risks, including enforced disappearance, killing, repression and threats.

In May 2023, the federal government launched a questionable strategy to address the crisis of disappearances in Mexico. On August 23, 2023, the head of the CNB, Karla Quintana, resigned after the president announced the creation of a new census on disappearances, arguing that CNB figures were unreliable and too high. Civil society organizations and activists feared that the Executive branch tried to lower the official numbers of disappeared people to hide the failure of federal public security policies. On October 23, 2023, Teresa Guadalupe Reyes Sahagún was appointed as the new head of the CNB; civil society organizations expressed concern around the lack of consultation, participation, transparency and scrutiny in the recruitment process, as well as her lack of experience.

On December 14, 2023, the Executive presented the results of the new census of disappearances, the National Search Strategy, decreasing the official number of disappeared and missing people between 1962 and August 2023. It also revealed that they did not have enough information to search 79,955 people and classified them in ambiguous categories. On December 18, collectives of family members of disappeared and missing people protested the National Search Strategy, denouncing lack of transparency and possible manipulation of data. On December 27, federal government authorities defended the National Search Strategy. However, in fact, the concerns about the census continue, as well as the dismantling of institutions dedicated to search the hundreds of thousands of people in the country.

Please send your appeals until March 10, 2024. If there's the need for further action after that date, the UA will be duly updated.