

## **Statement from the families of the missing: We will not accept our missing loved ones being erased by bureaucratic figures**

On Friday 27 March, the Federal Government presented a report which, under the guise of technical progress, is in reality an attempt to 'shave down' the register of missing persons and minimise the humanitarian tragedy we are experiencing. We, the families who travel the country with shovels in hand, express our utter outrage: **there are not 43,000 of us; we are missing more than 132,000.**

The government insists on presenting the figure of 43,000 people as the only valid measure, ignoring the more than 132,000 records that the State itself has acknowledged. Attempting to reduce the crisis to less than a third of its actual size amounts to a second disappearance. We do not accept a figure that was constructed behind the backs of those of us who are searching.

The government wants only those who have filed a formal complaint to be counted. This implies a disregard for our struggle and our contribution; it has been explained to them on numerous occasions that fear, above all mistrust and the involvement of state agents, is a fundamental factor preventing families from reporting to the relevant prosecutor's office.

We families know what it means to go to a prosecutor's office: we face "worse than ever" mistreatment, being denied registration, or having the disappearance classified as another crime so as not to investigate, as well as the involvement of authorities, omissions and delays. Making the right to be searched conditional on the existence of a bureaucratic file is to reward the inefficiency of the public prosecutor's offices and to waste valuable time in the search for and location of the victims. The search must be immediate and not depend on an official stamp.

We reject with sorrow the official statement claiming that 96% of those located were not victims of a crime. Without transparency in the data, this claim only serves to fuel the stigma that our loved ones "left because they wanted to". This narrative seeks to absolve the State of responsibility, ignoring the fact that the insecurity, corruption and impunity they allow are what fuel this crisis. If there is no justice, they cannot speak of successful recoveries.

Enough of saying that it is all the fault of organised crime. The State is responsible for every omission, for every mass grave where authorities are involved, for the impunity that allows people to continue disappearing today. Managing grief with statistics is not justice.

We denounce the lack of transparency in this process. We are summoned to last-minute meetings only to be informed of decisions that have already been taken. The law is clear: we have the right to participate in everything concerning the search for our loved ones. The government cannot 'finalise' figures without the families verifying who has been located and under what conditions.

**Our demands are clear:**

1. **Open and public methodology:** A step-by-step explanation of how the figure of 43,000 was arrived at.
2. An **effective search for everyone:** No one should be excluded from the search simply because they do not have an open investigation file.
3. **Genuine involvement:** Permanent technical working groups with the communities, not last-minute meetings.

**See you soon!**

Signed:

1. Fireflies in Search
2. Voice Crying Out for Justice for the Disappeared – Coahuila
3. National Search for Our Missing Persons
4. Carolina Jiménez Guerrero
5. Julieta Jiménez Guerrero
6. Fabiola Rayas Chávez
7. Relatives Walking for Justice
8. María Guadalupe Hurtado Limón
9. Durango Mothers' Search Collective
10. Tesoros Perdidos Collective, Nuevo León
11. Mirna Lucía Rico Fernández
12. Martha Alicia de Alejandro (Searching for Irving)
13. Micaela González Heras
14. Sinaloa Armadillos Trackers Collective
15. Resilient Families of Morelos
16. Tranquilina Hernández Lagunas

17. Jaime Ponce
18. Searching for Missing Hearts
19. Observatory of LGBTI Crimes in Mexico
20. National Network for Victims' Rights
21. Saúl Ponce Ríos
22. Concepción Villota Alvidrez
23. Anais Victoria Ponce Reyes
24. Dinorah Ponce Reyes
25. Manuela Argelia Reyes Álvarez
26. Victor Manuel Ponce Reyes
27. Estefanía Ponce Reyes
28. Paola Yezmin Delgado Ponce
29. Luis Carlos de la Garza Delgado
30. Jaime Ponce Quezada
31. María del Refugio Quezada Rojas
32. Isaac Ponce Quezada
33. Armando Ponce Ríos
34. Dora Elva Ponce Ríos
35. Luis Delgado Ponce
36. Ana Lidya Chávez Rangel
37. Nicolás Chacón Ponce
38. Ana Itzel Chacón Chávez
39. Alonso Chacón Chávez
40. Diego Chacón Chávez
41. Jacob Armando Delgado PonceJaime Ponce Quezada
42. Maricela Orozco Montalvo
43. Alfredo Castillo
44. United Forces for Our Disappeared in Nuevo León, FUNDENL
45. Seeking Lives and Justice for Mexico A.C
46. Mayra Gonzalez Angeles
47. Resilientes MX.
48. Beatriz Mejía Collective.
49. Relatives and Advocates for Our Disappeared.
50. Collective of Victims and Offended Parties of the State of Morelos
51. "Stronger Than Ever" Collective
52. Velia Aurora García, independent relative from Veracruz
53. Perla Damian Marcial, independent, Veracruz.
54. Veracruz Mothers' Network
55. Perla Damian Marcial, independent, Veracruz
56. Sara González Rodríguez, Collective for Peace Xalapa AC

57. Zendi Mass González, Collective for Peace Xalapa AC
58. Yetzabel Moctezuma Ramírez, Collective for Peace Xalapa, A.C.
59. Cecilia García Pacheco
60. No More Disappearances in Guerrero
61. Ismael Rodríguez García
62. Women's Search Collective, Nogales, Veracruz
63. Nancy Campos Hernández
64. Cristina Rebeca Ruano del Valle
65. Sandra Alejandra Sánchez Ruano
66. Julián Alonso Sánchez Ruano
67. Jesús Ignacio Polanco Pérez
68. Yoltzi Martínez Corrales.
69. Raúl Trujillo Herrera Collective.
70. Hasta Encontrarles Collective, Mexico City
71. Traces of Memory
72. The Resistance
73. San Quintín B.C. Searching Mothers Collective
74. Christian Castro
75. Misael Rodríguez García
76. Collective in Search of Truth and Justice, Nayarit
77. Ana Silvia Larios Moreno, Colima, Colima.
78. Perla Marian Gómez Vásquez
79. Gregoria Ortiz Garnica
80. Families of missing municipal police officers from La Laguna
81. Karina Cueto
82. Diana Candelaria Iris García
83. Marta Pablo Cruz.
84. Oaxacans Searching for Our Own Collective A.C.
85. María Elena Gutiérrez Domínguez
86. Victoria Paz Diego
87. Eliodora Paz Diego
88. Luis Armando Paz Diego
89. Ángel Daniel Barrales Paz
90. Maria Rosalba Ramírez Juárez
91. Felipe Ramírez Juárez
92. Socorro Gil Guzmán Collective Memory, Truth and Justice, Acapulco
93. Alejandra Lizeth Hernández Chapa
94. Xalapa Family Liaison Collective

