

Today, 18 September, Mexico must submit the report requested by the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) on widespread or systematic disappearances in the country.

systematic disappearances in the country.

The CED has decided to initiate the procedure under Article 34 of the International Convention against Disappearances to address the serious problem in Mexico.

61 collectives, 66 civil organisations, among others, are calling on the Mexican State to collaborate with the CED and the international community to eradicate the root causes of disappearances and guarantee truth, justice and reparation for the victims.

18 September 2025

The CED has been monitoring the evolution of the situation of disappearances in Mexico since at least 2012. Since 2015, it has pointed out that there is a widespread situation of disappearances in various regions of Mexico and that impunity is almost absolute. To date, it has issued 773 urgent actions⁽¹⁾ in accordance with Article 30, the highest number of urgent actions issued for any State party.

Mexico, for its part, has amended the law and created institutions for the investigation, identification and search for persons, but the lack of human and financial resources, the persistence of impunity and the failure to address the problem from a structural perspective, as recommended by the CED, mean that the results are insufficient.

In Mexico, more than 133,000 people have disappeared between January 2006 and September 2025. There are more than 72,000 unidentified bodies stored in government facilities and hundreds of thousands of bone fragments. Only 373 convictions have been handed down for enforced disappearances committed by private individuals between 2017 and January 2025. Furthermore, the disappearances continue. In 2024, they occurred at a rate of 26 per day, and in the first half of 2025, this has increased to more than 45 people disappearing daily.

Article 34 of the Convention states: *If the Committee receives information which, in its opinion, contains well-founded indications that enforced disappearance is being practised in a generalised or systematic manner in the territory under the jurisdiction of a State Party, and after having requested the State Party concerned to provide all relevant information on the situation, it may bring the matter, as a matter of urgency, to the attention of the*

¹CED Reports on Urgent Actions <https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/ced/urgent-actions>

United Nations General Assembly, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The CED's announcement that it would initiate the Article 34 procedure has sparked a very aggressive reaction from the State²³ . Various civil society organisations and victims' groups have pointed out that the application of Article 34 should not be seen as a judgement or an attack on any government, but as an extraordinary opportunity, in an extraordinarily adverse context, to protect all persons against enforced disappearances.

The Mexican State must respond to the Committee with a proposal to eradicate the root causes of disappearances by guaranteeing truth, justice, reparation, an end to impunity, the correct and rapid identification and dignified return of disappeared persons to their homes, with effective and transparent mechanisms for measurement and accountability.

Given this situation, 61 groups, 66 civil society organisations, 129 relatives of missing persons and 50 individuals acting in solidarity have sent a parallel report to the Committee providing *well-founded evidence* of systematic and widespread disappearances in the country. It will be released soon, calling for the creation of an international mechanism to help the Mexican State determine the causes of the disappearances, establish a national prevention programme, duly prosecute those responsible, provide reparations to the victims, and search for the disappeared persons and identify the bodies and fragments accumulated in the country's forensic services.

We also await a positive response from the Ministry of the Interior, the Foreign Ministry, and the Legal Counsel of the Presidency of the Republic to this proposal.

We hope that the Mexican State's response to the CED and the victims will be equal to the historic challenge we face.

The victims of disappearance in Mexico and their families need international solidarity to achieve this.

² See <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/sheinbaum-responde-a-senalamientos-del-comite-de-la-onu-por-desapariciones-forzadas-segob-esta-trabajando-dice/>

³ See <https://morena.senado.gob.mx/pronunciamento-del-presidente-de-la-mesa-directiva-del-senado-gerardo-fernandez-norona-en-relacion-con-las-declaraciones-del-presidente-del-comite-contra-la-forced-disappearance-of-the-organisation-d/>

Yours sincerely

Organisations of victims' families:

Armadillos Rastreadores, Lagos de Moreno; Buscador@s Zacatecas, AC; Buscando Vidas y Justicia por México, A. C.; Search for the Disappeared Nayarit; International Caravan for the Search for the Disappeared AC; Casa Hogar Veracruz; Minerva Bello Centre for the Rights of Victims of Violence; Committee of Relatives of Detained and Disappeared Persons in Mexico, COFADDEM "Raising Voices"; Colectivo Amor por los Desaparecidos, Tamaulipas; Colectivo Ayuda a Regresar a Luis Alberto Calleja, AC; Colectivo Buscadoras Guanajuato, Mexico; Colectivo Buscando con Amor y lucha por Ustedes, Veracruz; Colectivo Buscando Corazones; Colectivo Buscando Justicia por los Nuestros, Zitlala, Gro.; Collective Searching for our Disappeared in Tamaulipas, AC; Collective House of Hope of Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua; Collective of relatives of disappeared persons 10 October of Parral, Chihuahua; Collective Wives and Relatives of State Security Agents Detained and Disappeared by the Military in 1977; Collective of Relatives in Search of María Herrera of Chilpancingo, Gro.; Guerrero No+ Desaparecid@s Collective; Hasta Encontrarte Collective, Irapuato, Guanajuato; Junax K'ontantik Collective, Chiapas; Madres Novias del Sol Collective Searching for their Children in the Papaloapan Basin; Pirasol Collective. Cd. Valles, SLP; Raúl Trujillo Herrera Collective; Siguiendo Tus Pasos Collective, Baja California; CRISDE Together Until We Find Them; Desaparecidos Justicia AC. Querétaro; Desaparecidos Querétaro; En Búsqueda de Verdad y Justicia, Tepic, Nayarit; Familiares Caminando por Justicia, AC; Familiares en Búsqueda Michoacán; Familiares en Búsqueda, Xalapa; Familias Unidas en la Búsqueda y Localización de Personas Desaparecidas AC (FAMUN), Coahuila; Families United for Truth and Justice, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua; United Forces for Our Disappeared in Coahuila and Mexico (FUUNDEC-M); United Forces for Our Disappeared in Jalisco (FUNDEJ); United Forces for Our Disappeared in Nuevo León (FUNDENL); Roundabout of the Disappeared; Victims for their Rights in Action Group AC (VI.D.A) Laguna, Coah.; H.I.J.O.S. Mexico; Justice and Hope of San Luis de La Paz, Guanajuato; Women in Search of their Disappeared; Women in Search, Nogales, Ver.; Platform of Victims of Forced Disappearance in Mexico; For Love of You, Until We Find You, Tampico, Madero and Altamira, Tamaulipas; Rastreadoras de El Fuerte; Network of Mothers, Veracruz; International Network of Associations of Disappeared Persons (RIAPD); Sabuesos Guerreras ext Matías Romero Oaxaca; Sabuesos Guerreras Oaxaca; Sabuesos Guerreras, Sinaloa; We Are the Voice of Pablo and Our Disappeared; We Are All the Voice of the Missing; United by Pain, Culiacán, Sin.; United Always Searching; United for Peace, the Defence of Human Rights, AC; Uniting Hearts, Culiacán, Sin.; Uniting Crystals, AC; Union and National Network for the Search for Persons (URNBPD); Voice Crying Out for Justice for Missing Persons, Coahuila.

Civil society

organisations: Citizen Alliance for Peace; Apuesta Solidaria AC; Article 19, Office for Mexico and Central America; Assembly of Indigenous Peoples of the Isthmus in Defence of Land and Territory (APIIDTT); Guerrero Association Against Violence Towards Women AC; Jalisco Association for Support of Indigenous Groups AC (AJAGI); Minerva Bello Centre for the Rights of Victims of Violence; Human Rights Centre - Spaces for Defence, Flourishing and Community Support; Fray Francisco de Vitoria OP Human Rights Centre, AC; Bartolomé Carrasco Human Rights Centre AC (BARCA-DH); Tlachinollan Mountain Human Rights Centre AC; Women's Human Rights Centre (CEDEHM); Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Human Rights Centre AC (FrayBa); Paso del Norte Human Rights Centre; Victoria Diez Human Rights Centre, AC; Centre for the Investigation of Atrocities AC (CICA); Centre for Justice, Peace and Development (CEPAD); Fray Juan de Larios Human Rights Centre AC; José Ma. Morelos y Pavón Regional Human Rights Defence Centre AC Guerrero; ITESO University Centre for Dignity and Justice "Francisco Suárez SJ"; Lagunera Citizenship for Human Rights, AC (CILADHAC); Citizens in Support of Human Rights AC (CADHAC); Shalom Collective, Torreón, Coah; Collective of Mexican Migrant Federations and Organisations (COLEFOM); Education for Peace and Human Rights Collective AC (CEPAZDH), Chiapas; Impacta Cine Collective; Yes to Life Collective (General Cepeda, Coahuila); We Are All Jorge and Javier Collective; Zapotengo Collective, Pochutla, Oaxaca; Tehuacán Valley Human and Labour Rights Commission; Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights; Morelos Independent Human Rights Commission AC; Tabasco Human Rights Committee, AC; Consultora Solidaria SC; Consultoría Promoción Humana AC; Defenders for Justice, Oaxaca; Eje de Iglesias y Espiritualidades; Frontera con Justicia AC (Migrant House, Saltillo); Foundation for Justice and the State Democrático de Law AC; Global Exchange; Global Rights Advocacy; Grupo de

Support for Families of Missing Persons (GAF-FLAD Mexico); Social and Forensic Anthropology Research Group (GASF); Mexican Institute for Human Rights and Democracy (IMDHD); Institute for Women in Migration (IMUMI); Justicia Pro Persona, AC; Transitional Justice in Mexico, Strategies Against Impunity, AC; Lekil Kuxlejal AC; Mexico United Against Crime (MUCD); Free and Chosen Mobility CoLibres; Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity; National Citizen Observatory on Femicide (OCNF); Observatory of Public Appointments; Social Pastoral, Anglican Church of Mexico; Platform for Peace and Justice in Guanajuato; La Laguna Women's Network; Northeast Journalists' Network; National Network of Civil Human Rights Organisations "All Rights for All" (Red TDT); Network for Children's Rights in Mexico AC (REDIM); Resilientes MX; SAC Consultancy for Peace Building; Comprehensive Inclusion and Human Rights Services AC (SEIINAC); Las Abejas Civil Society of Acteal (Chiapas); Weaving Networks for Children in Latin America and the Caribbean; Tequio Jurídico AC; Mesoamerican Voices, Action with Migrant Peoples.

Relatives of missing persons:

Adriana Moreno Becerril; Alda Nelly Cruz Balderas; Aldo Nery Castillo Reséndiz; Alicia Solís Reyna; Alma Cecilia Salgado Santana; Amada Rocío Rebolledo Sotelo; Amelia Hernández Enamorado; Ana Cristina Solís; Ana María González Betanzos; Andrea Gorethy Robles Solís; Andree Méndez Tello; Angélica María Berrospe Medina; Araceli Rodríguez Deaquino; Armando Olmeda; Artemisa Ramírez Ortiz; Beatriz Torres Zuleta; Beatriz Zapoteco Neri; Bellarmina García; Benita Lara García; Berenice Gómez Montes; Bertha Patricia Valdez Ramírez; Bibiana Mendoza; Carolina Reséndiz Mata; Carolina Rodríguez Deaquino; Cecilia García Pacheco; Charbel Méndez Tello; Cruz María Helos Ortega; Daniel Durán Hernández; Delia García Luna; Diana Aguilar Parada; Diana Iris García; Dora Alicia Domínguez Cardón; Eder Christopher Sánchez Viesca Ortiz; Eliseo Rodríguez Gallegos; Erika Guadalupe Salas Ramírez; Erika Montes de Oca; Esther Barajas; Esther Deaquino Velázquez; Fabiola Alejandrina Orozco Romano; Felicitas Suárez Guerrero; Femini Rangel; Fernando Maldonado Medellín; Gerardo Calleja Martínez; Guadalupe Cepeda Aguilar; Guadalupe Lucina Solís; Irene Silos Silva; Ismael Rodríguez García; Ixchel Teresa Mireles Rodríguez; Jaime Galván; Javier Espinosa; Jean Michel Sánchez Viesca Ortiz; Jesús Antonio Ángulo Cárdenas; Jorge Verástegui González; José Alfredo Villagrana; José Antonio Robledo Chavarría; José Matilde Salas Espino; Juan Carlos Lozada Delgadillo; Juana María Castillo Gallegos; Julio César Arellano García; Karol Yuliana Rodríguez Cruz; Lázaro Ramírez Ortiz; Leticia Pinzón Medina; Lucía Baca Baca; Lucía Santana Román; Luz Elena Montalvo Velázquez; Ma de los Ángeles Rodríguez García; Ma. de los Ángeles Mendieta Quintana; Ma. del Refugio Montoya Herrera; Ma. Elena Salazar Zamora; Ma. Guadalupe Fernández Martínez; Ma. Salvadora Coronado Navarro; María Ascención Flores; María de Jesús González Medrano; María de Jesús Lara García; María de las Mercedes Almaraz Fuentes; María de Lourdes Herrera del Llano; María del Carmen Bustamante Salas; María del Carmen García Samaniego; María del Pilar Arenas Navarro; María del Rosario Cano Mascorro; María del Socorro Calderón Ayala; María Esther Contreras de la Rosa; María Eugenia Guerrero Juárez; María Eugenia Padilla García; María Eugenia Zaldívar Padilla; María Guadalupe Pérez Ayala; María Luisa Lazarín Sierra; Marisa Arriola Reyes; Marisol Sotelo Adame; Martha Beatriz Vega Ruiz; Martha Montelongo; MaryCarmen Trejo; Mayra González Ángeles; Micaela González Heras; Minerva Zepeda Zepeda; Mireya Villarreal Salinas; Miriam Arrambide Jiménez; Misael Rodríguez García; Nora G Tello Santana; Nilvia Hernández Romero; Noemí Martínez Martagón; Nora Torres Rodríguez; Olivia Esmeralda Salgado Santana; Oralía Nájera Simizú; Oscar Flores Coronado; Oscar Sánchez Viesca López; Patricia López Rodríguez; Paulina Landaverde Martínez; Perla Damián Marcial; Rafael Rodríguez Balderas; Ramiro Bonilla Tudón; Raúl Reyes Covarrubias; Raúl Rivera Muñoz; Ricarda Salazar Castillo; Ricardo Ulises Téllez Padilla; Rocío Salas Ramírez; Romeo Mendoza Almaraz; Rosa Alma Delia Hernández García; Rosa Angélica García Saucedo; Rosa Angélica Lara García; Rosa Imelda Díaz Neris; Rosa María Guajardo Fuentes; Severina Fabiola Alarcón Serrano; Silvia Elida Ortiz Solís; Teresa de Jesús Medina Saucedo; Velia Aurora García Cruz; Yadira González Hernández; Yerin Rodríguez Zamora; Yolanda Montes Ortiz.

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