

Mexican Government fails to protect its Citizens

For the past two decades Mexico has experienced devastating social, economic, and political impacts as a result of policy choices made by its government.

Changes made to land tenure systems, agricultural support and privatization in the years leading to the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), as well as the impacts of the trade deal itself, had harsh consequences for Mexicans. These changes led to massive migration North and to Mexican cities, the growth of Narco-criminal gangs, the repression of social movements (like the Zapatistas in Chiapas, the teachers and trade unions in Oaxaca and the Mexican Electrical Workers (SME) in Mexico City), an alarming rate of murders of women (Femicides) along the US border and in the State of Mexico where PRI Presidential Candidate Enrique Peña Nieto was the Governor until recently.

Privatization has dismantled the social fabric and communal-land holdings of communities via the privatization of public programs and institutions while Mexico's NAFTA partners turn a blind eye to the dismantling of the independent labour movement, systematic repression of human rights defenders, journalists, and activists struggling for justice, and family members who seek justice for victims of the violence.

With the killing of more than 60,000 civilians including migrants since 2006, along with the deployment of police and soldiers across the country, the violence in Mexico has spiraled out of control. Activists recently killed or disappeared include: Nepomuceno Moreno Núñez, José Trinidad de la Cruz Crisóstomo, Pedro Leyva Domínguez, Eva Alarcón and Marcial Bautista.

Mexican police and army forces have shown themselves to be rife with corruption, leading some to call Mexico a "narco-government" instead of the "democracy in transition" that Mexico is called in Canadian and other media. Under the veil of the drug war declared by President Felipe Calderón, Mexican government forces have continued their repression of the population and not taken steps to improve the situation for Mexicans.

We stand in solidarity and support of movements, organizations and communities in Mexico that have organized for a more dignified and just life, but also against the escalating violence. The current Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity builds on the mobilizations organized by other such social movements. Models of indigenous communities that exercise autonomy and self-determination serve as alternatives to the current violence.

TAKE ACTION

Support Amnesty International urgent action requests seeking justice for those that have been murdered or disappeared by sending a letter to Mexico's Minister of the Interior, with a copy to Canada's Secretary of State for Latin America.

For Journalists: <http://www.amnesty.ca/media2010.php?DocID=1079>

For Violence against women: http://www.amnesty.ca/writeathon/?page_id=3485

For Human rights defenders:

http://www.amnesty.ca/iwriteforjustice/take_action.php?actionid=322&type=Internal

For Migrants: http://www.amnesty.ca/iwriteforjustice/take_action.php?actionid=427&type=Internal

The Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada <http://www.cep.ca/en>

Common Frontiers - Canada <http://www.commonfrontiers.ca/>

International Council of Latin American and Caribbean Women of Canada

<http://www.latinascanada.org/index.html>

Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network - Toronto <http://lacsnet.weebly.com/>

Mexican Action Network on Free Trade (RMALC)- Mexico <http://www.rmalc.org.mx/index.shtml>

Maquila Solidarity Network – Canada <http://en.maquilasolidarity.org/>

The Council of Canadians – Canada <http://www.canadians.org/>