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CMDPDH intervention

Mexico is currently suffering a crisis of violence and impunity. This crisis started with the deployment of thousands of soldiers to combat organized crime in December 2006. In the course of this deployment, widespread murder, torture and enforced disappearances have been perpetrated by the security forces as well as drug trafficking organizations, without accountability. Since 2006, the Armed Forces do not simply act in support of civil authorities, but also perform tasks that should be exclusive to civil forces.

The intensity of these violations and patterns of their commission are not isolated acts but rather widespread and systematic in nature, and committed pursuant to plans and policies of State organs as well as of drug trafficking organizations. This conclusion is based on the information gathered from victims and other witnesses' accounts, as well as on official data from Mexican authorities.

For instance, the Government has acknowledged that over **200,000 people have intentionally killed** since December 2006. Torture is systematically used in detention as a means of punishment, investigation or to obtain confessions by the police or the armed forces in Mexico. Of the more than **10,000 criminal investigations for the crime of torture** carried out by the prosecutors of the country since December 2006, only 16 convictions have been issued for this crime. In terms of forced disappearance, impunity is also almost absolute. The government has reported that the whereabouts of more than **40,000 people who had gone missing** since 2006 remain unknown. In addition, over **3,000 clandestine graves have been found and around 26 thousand bodies unidentified remains** have been reported. 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.

Practically all of the serious human rights violations remain in absolute impunity. The Mexican government has failed to ensure accountability for atrocity crimes, primarily due to political obstruction. Impunity is a loud signal that crimes against humanity are being committed in the country. This is why the Office of the Prosecutor should open a Preliminary Examination in Mexico.

In addition, Mexico needs a package of public policy measures to break the impunity and enable access to justice, truth and reparation to victims. In view of government's current commitment on investigating and sanctioning atrocity crimes committed in the past, and implementing in the country a process of transitional justice and peace, a wide group of victims and NGOs believe that this can be done through the establishment of an International Mechanism against Impunity, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the aim to investigate and prosecute crimes committed on a large scale and as part of a policy of criminal organizations or institutions.

Mexico, more now than ever, needs from the international cooperation to revert impunity of the atrocity crimes. We hope that under the complementarity principle, the International Criminal Court (ICC) can support our country to genuinely investigate and prosecute international crimes committed in Mexico in the last 12 years.