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Enrique Peña Nieto
President of the United Mexican States
Los Pinos Official Residence
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec, Del. Miguel Hidalgo
Mexico City, C.P. 11850
Mexico

25 May 2017

RE: POSSIBLE EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION BY MEXICAN MILITARY OFFICIALS IN PALMARITO TOCHAPAN, PUEBLA

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our deep concern at the impact of the current security strategy on the enjoyment and guarantee of human rights in Mexico. We would specifically like to draw your attention to the events reported in press statements issued by the Ministry of Defence in which they publicly state that elements of the Mexican army conducted public security operations in Palmarito Tochapan, Puebla State, on 3 May 2017, during which seven people allegedly died, including four soldiers.

Days later, a series of videos emerged, taken by security cameras installed at the location of this operation. One of these videos clearly shows a person in military uniform killing a man lying on the floor.

Amnesty International has independently verified the video and concluded that the place in question was indeed Palmarito Tochapan, that the images were not circulating on the Internet prior to 4 May 2017 and that the uniforms, weapons and vehicles appearing in the video are consistent with those of the Mexican army. To the best of its knowledge, the organization furthermore found nothing in its analysis to suggest that the video might have been tampered with or altered in any way.

Given this evidence, the organization has sufficient reason to believe that, on the night of 3 May 2017, an extrajudicial execution took place, which is a crime under international law and a serious violation of human rights.

Amnesty International is calling for this event to be promptly, independently and exhaustively investigated and for this investigation and, where appropriate, any legal action, to be conducted solely through the appropriate civil courts, specifically and in all circumstances excluding the military jurisdiction. The investigations must consider the assumed responsibility of leaders and other superiors who may have known or, given the circumstances at the time, must have known that the military forces were committing this crime or were intending to commit it and who did not take all necessary and reasonable measures within their power to prevent or halt it, nor make it known to the appropriate civil authorities for investigation and prosecution.

Furthermore, the organization wishes to reiterate its repeated recommendation to put an end to the Mexican army's participation in public security tasks and operations that should be the sole responsibility of the different units of the police force, ensuring that they have the training, resources and clear protocols to guarantee full respect for human rights.

Yours sincerely,



Erika Guevara Rosas
Director for the Americas

C.c. Raúl Cervantes Andrade, Attorney General of Mexico
C.c. General Salvador Cienfuegos Zepeda, Minister of National Defence