

# URGENT ACTION

## DEMONSTRATORS DETAINED AND ILL-TREATED

**Eleven demonstrators arrested on serious criminal charges in Mexico City on 20 November are now at risk of an unfair judicial process. All detainees have reported ill-treatment and have been transferred to far-away, high-security prisons which impose serious limitations on their ability to contact lawyers and relatives.**

A total of 11 demonstrators who were arrested on 20 November in central Mexico City have been charged with criminal association (asociación delictuosa), attempted homicide and mutiny. The authorities denied them the right to access their lawyers of choice for approximately two days. The 11 demonstrators were then sent to far-away, high-security prisons which impose serious restrictions on contact between detainees and their lawyers and relatives. All detainees have alleged that police officers beat and threatened them while in detention. Legal representatives who met with some of the detainees saw that they had suffered blows to their faces, haemorrhaging in their eyes and cuts on their arms.

These arrests and federal criminal charges took place two days after the Mexican president, Enrique Peña Nieto, warned that demonstrations could create "instability" (desestabilización), "social chaos" (desorden social) and attack the "national project" (proyecto de nación).

The demonstrators were demanding urgent search and justice for 43 students who have been disappeared since 26 September.

### Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Urging the authorities to carry out a full, prompt and immediate investigation into the alleged arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of the 11 demonstrators, including by carrying out forensic medical examinations in full compliance with international standards or by allowing independent forensic experts to carry them out;
- Urging the authorities to provide all detainees with adequate medical care;
- Calling on them to ensure due process to all detainees, including reasonable contact with lawyers and relatives and a fair trial;
- Calling on them to fully respect the right to freedom of expression and association of all demonstrators and to investigate in a full, prompt and impartial manner all incidents of excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and other human rights violations.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 6 JANUARY 2015 TO:

President of Mexico  
 Enrique Peña Nieto  
 Residencia Oficial de los Pinos  
 Col. Chapultepec, Mexico D.F., C.P.  
 11850, Mexico  
 Fax: +52 55 5093 4901  
 Email via website:  
<http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/contacto/>  
 Twitter: @EPN

Federal Attorney General  
 Jesús Murillo Karam  
 Procuraduría General de la República  
 Reforma 211-213, Col. Cuauhtémoc,  
 C.P. 06500, Mexico City, Mexico  
 Fax: +52 55 5346 0908  
 Email: ofproc@pgr.gob.mx or  
<http://pgr.gob.mx/servicios/mail/plantilla.asp?mail=1>  
 Twitter: @PGR\_mx

**And copies to:**  
Local human rights organization  
 Instituto Mexicano de Derechos  
 Humanos y Democracia  
 Email: imdhd@imdhd.org

### Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The 11 demonstrators, three women and eight men, were part of the thousands of people who took to the streets in Mexico and other countries on 20 November to demand an urgent and effective official response in the “Ayotzinapa case”. This is about the enforced disappearance of 43 students from a teachers’ training college in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero state, and the killing of three students, three by-standers and the wounding of more than 20 students (see UA 246/14, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR41/041/2014/en>).

Most demonstrations in Mexico City on 20 November were peaceful. In very few cases, some riots and acts of violence against police officers were reported. In response, police officers seem to have applied disproportionate force on demonstrators, as well as resorting to arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment while in custody in an apparent attempt to punish demonstrators and dissuade others from taking part in future demonstrations.

Amnesty International has documented similar cases in previous demonstrations in Mexico City. On 1 December 2012 and 2 October 2013, a number of demonstrators were arbitrarily arrested and charged with serious crimes. Most were tried and acquitted months later. Some demonstrators suffered torture or other forms of ill-treatment during their arrest or while in detention. Although the cases were adequately documented, nobody has been brought to account for these human rights violations.

Several Mexican states have recently adopted or sought to adopt laws on the use of force by law enforcement officials during demonstrations. These changes are mostly inconsistent with international human rights standards and pose a threat to freedom of association and speech.

Recent statements by President Peña Nieto and other high-ranking officials fail to acknowledge the reasons which have triggered these demonstrations and send a worrying message to law-enforcement officials across the country, which could indicate that disproportionate use of force and other human rights violations are acceptable to deal with demonstrators.

Name: Atzin Andrade (m), Ramón Domínguez Patlán (m), Hugo Bautista Hernández (m), Juan Daniel López Ávila (m), Laurence Maxwell (Chilean national, m) and Luis Carlos Pichardo Moreno (m). The remaining five detainees are not named because AI has not been able to contact their representatives or relatives yet.

Gender m/f: both