

## **-Mexico web action (WA 09/03)**

Note to translators – this action is an update to a previous action available in all core languages at: <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/mex-110803-action-eng>

The standard letter text has been adapted from the original appeal

### **Title:**

Mexico: Stop violence against women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua

### **Extract:**

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, AI is calling on the Mexican authorities to stop the abduction and murder of women in Chihuahua state.

### **Photo caption:**

Procession in Washington D.C. on 1 November, Day of the Dead, to commemorate the abduction and murder of women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua.

### **Summary:**

*“We don’t deserve this treatment or the pain we are suffering every day, all I am asking is that they find my daughter and for justice to be done”*

A mother’s plea for truth and justice for a daughter who went missing in 1998

Since the August 2003 publication of Amnesty International’s report on the brutal pattern of violence against women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua, the federal authorities have taken some positive steps. However, justice for the victims and families remains a distant hope. As well as ensuring proper investigations into all these cases, the federal authorities must guarantee that victims’ families are treated with respect in their struggle for justice and are fully included in the implementation of judicial and preventive measures. The authorities should also establish an independent mechanism to review cases where suspects have alleged that they were tortured.

Help to make justice a possibility and prevent further crimes against women, by urging the Mexican federal authorities to make themselves accountable for the investigation of the abduction and murder of women in Chihuahua state.

### **Recommended action:**

Please send letters by e-mail , mail or fax, to President Vicente Fox Quesada and the Governor of Chihuahua State, Lic. Patricio Martínez

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Dear

I am writing to express my concern regarding the abduction and killings of women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua and the failure of the competent authorities over the last 10 years to take effective action to prevent, investigate and punish these crimes.

I urge you to :

- ensure prompt, thorough, effective, coordinated and impartial investigations into all cases of abductions and killings of women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua
- establish an independent mechanism to urgently review cases where suspects have alleged torture
  
- recognize the dignity of the victims and the legitimacy of the relatives' efforts to obtain truth, justice and reparations

Your government has stated that it is committed to promoting the protection of human rights at all levels. These cases risk undermining the credibility of these commitments. I urge you therefore to fully implement the necessary measures as a clear sign that these abductions and killings are not tolerated by the Mexican authorities.

Yours faithfully,

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**Send Appeals to :**

**President of the Republic**

Lic. Vicente Fox Quesada  
Presidente de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos  
Residencia Oficial de "Los Pinos"  
Col. San Miguel Chapultepec  
México D.F., C.P. 11850, México  
Fax: + 52 5 2 77 23 76  
Email:  
Salutation: Señor Presidente / Dear Mr President

**Governor of the State of Chihuahua**

Lic. Patricio Martínez  
Gobernador del Estado de Chihuahua  
Aldama 901,  
Colonia Centro,  
Chihuahua, México  
Fax: + 52 614 429 3464  
Email:  
Salutation: Señor Gobernador / Dear Governor