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Media Advisory

United Nations Human Rights Committee examines Mexico's record

On 16 July, the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee (HRC) in Geneva will consider Mexico's fourth report on its implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Amnesty International has submitted a briefing to the HRC outlining its concerns in Mexico and stating that it believes the human rights situation in the country to be critical. In particular, the organization has informed the HRC that the Government of Mexico has yet to implement an effective program of legislative, judicial, administrative and other measures to protect and uphold the rights enshrined in the ICCPR and other international human rights standards.

Amnesty International has detailed hundreds of cases of grave human rights violations perpetrated by the Mexican authorities since the Committee last examined Mexico's human rights record in March 1994, including the detention of prisoners of conscience, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, "disappearances" and extrajudicial executions.

Other concerns documented by the human rights organisation over the last five years include:

a widespread culture of impunity exacerbated by the use of the military justice system to investigate and prosecute members of the military forces implicated in human rights violations, and the lack of independence of the country's system of ordinary justice;

compelling evidence that extrajudicial executions are carried out by the army, police forces and paramilitary groups with the support and complicity of the authorities;

· harassment and intimidation by the federal and state authorities of non-governmental organizations, opposition political parties and human rights defenders critical of them;

Background Information

The HRC is composed of 18 experts who are elected by state parties to the ICCPR. It monitors implementation by states of their obligations under the Covenant. The experts act in their personal capacity and do not represent any government. The HRC meets three times a year to review written reports from states.

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For further information or to arrange an interview, please phone Amnesty International's International Secretariat Press Office in London on +44 171 413 5566, (www.amnesty.org)