

# URGENT ACTION

## **INVESTIGATIONS ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF STUDENTS AT RISK**

The investigation of the 43 students' disappearance on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 remains ongoing, Their relatives and the organizations that support them have requested on several occasions the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador to ensure that the Armed Forces deliver 800 documents crucial for the investigations. We urge the Mexican state to provide all the documents regarding the disappearance of the 43 students, so that relatives of the victims know the truth and those responsible are prosecuted.

**TAKE ACTION: WRITE AN APPEAL IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THIS MODEL LETTER**

**Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador**  
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Dear President,

*I'm writing to express my deep concern about the refusal of the Ministry of Interior (SEGOB) and the Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC) to provide crucial information regarding the disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College students in Iguala, Guerrero, occurred on September 26, 2014. Secretary of National Defense (SEDENA), led by your government, has not handed over to the ministries 800 essential documents for the investigation of the 43 students' disappearance, including one about the transfer of 17 students from the Barandilla municipal police station to the outskirts of Iguala. This denial to provide relevant information hinders the course of investigations and ultimately that relatives of the victims know the truth about the disappearances, and that the responsible are prosecuted.*

*I am also concerned about the public attacks from your government toward the organizations that support the relatives of the 43 students. These attacks stigmatize the organizations and impact the families in their work to search for the students.*

*According to the UN International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, among other international documents, families of disappeared people have the right to the truth about the circumstances of a disappearance and the fate of the disappeared person.*

***Therefore, I urge you to take all necessary measures to ensure that SEDENA provides the 800 documents requested by the relatives of the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College, organizations that supported them as soon as possible, and that international independent experts that participated in the investigations review these documents.***

*Yours sincerely,*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On September 26, 2014, 43 students from the *43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College* in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, disappeared. In 2018, the current federal government resumed the investigations and tried to redirect the investigations. To this end, the Mexican Government has created the Commission for Truth and Access to Justice (CoVAJ) and the Special Investigation and Litigation Unit of the Ayotzinapa case (UEILCA). International human rights organizations have also collaborated in the investigations, particularly, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) through the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI).

The last results of the investigations showed the possible omission or participation of the Armed Forces in the disappearance of the 43 students. For example, there are proofs that military intelligence agents infiltrated as students at the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College and monitored the disappeared students since they left the school; that other agents of the army intelligence unit followed the students in Iguala; that other military agents monitored the students from their arrival in Iguala until their disappearance; that diverse police cars patrolled the areas where the students were being attacked and made contact with some students without giving them help.

Despite the progress in the investigations, the federal government has refused to deliver missing documents regarding the Ayotzinapa case. In 2023, the GIEI pointed out that the government has not handed over 800 documents from the Army, specifically, a document on the transfer of 17 students from the Barandilla municipal police station to the outskirts of Iguala, which is based on the military wiretapping to the cell phones of the Barandilla Police Deputy Director and the leader of the criminal group in the area Guerrero Unidos. After the refusal of the government to provide those documents, GIEI left the investigations. Since July 2023, relatives of Ayotzinapa victims, being aware of these documents, have insisted on their delivery. The Undersecretary of Human Rights, Population and Migration, Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez, confirmed the existence of these documents. However, Encinas Rodríguez quit in October 2023, and the government has refused to hand them over.

Since 2023, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador began a series of attacks to discredit the human rights organizations that advise the relatives of the 43 students, such as the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center and the GIEI.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Spanish. You can also write in your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** 31st May 2024. Please check with the Amnesty office in your country if you wish to send appeals after the deadline.

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College (they/them); collectives of family members of disappeared people (they/them);

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** N/A