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Mexico: Review must be used to address central human rights challenges

Human Rights Council adopts Universal Periodic Review outcome on Mexico

Amnesty International welcomes Mexico's cooperation with the UPR and its acceptance of most of the recommendations made to it by other states. These include recommendations on some of the most pressing issues in the country, such as the situation of human rights defenders and journalists, the human rights of women and girls, and the widespread disappearance of people.

Human rights defenders and journalists are at high risk of attacks and harassment in Mexico, and most of the aggressions against them go unpunished. In 2019 alone, six human rights defenders have been killed. Amnesty International urges the Mexican authorities to fully and promptly implement the recommendations made to it in this regard, including taking all necessary steps to prevent further attacks and end impunity for these crimes.

Women and girls continue to be at risk of gender-based violence, including an alarming number of gender-based killings, and their rights are not adequately protected, respected and fulfilled. The "Gender-based Violence Alert Mechanism", established in 2007 by the General Act on Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence to address and eradicate gender-based killings and other forms of violence, needs deep reform to be able to achieve its goals, including effective and coordinated action at the federal, state and municipal levels, and specific deadlines for the different stages of the process in order to avoid unjustified delays in activating the Mechanism. Amnesty International calls on Mexico to review and amend the procedure and rules of the Mechanism, in full consultation with civil society.

Amnesty International welcomes Mexico's commitment to tackle the ongoing crisis of enforced disappearances, including disappearances committed by non-state actors. Any substantive action into this plight must include a nation-wide registry of detentions in line with international human rights law and standards. The Organization calls on Mexico to accept the competence of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider individual communications, to facilitate access to justice for the victims of these serious human rights violations.

Amnesty International recognises the importance of this review to address the central human rights issues in the country and encourages Mexico establish a mechanism to fully engage with victims of human rights violations and with civil society in the implementation of the UPR recommendations.

Background

The UN Human Rights Council adopted the outcome of the Universal Periodic Review of Mexico on 14 March 2019 during its 40th session. Prior to the adoption of the report of the review Amnesty International delivered this oral statement.

Amnesty International also contributed to the information basis of the review through its submission on Mexico: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr41/8372/2018/en/>

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