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México D.F, 27th of October 2014

Dear Ulrike Lunacek
Vice President of the European Parliament

On September 26th of 2014, students from Escuela Normal Rural “Raul Isidro Burgos” of Ayotzinapa, in the State of Guerrero, were attacked by the police of Iguala, as a consequence of the attack six people were killed, twenty were injured and finally 43 students were victims of enforced disappearance. After these severe violations of human rights, the Federal authorities didn't act immediately, provoking the escape of the Mayor of Iguala, main mastermind of these attacks, and in this way delaying the search of the 43 missing students. However the responsibility for human rights violations that occurred against the students, lies not only in organized crime and the mayor of Iguala, but also in the State and Federal governments, responsible for acts of omission, failure to respond to the accusations of collusion between organized crime and different governance structures and their delayed reaction in searching for the missing.

Given these facts, actions are required by the European Union (EU) to encourage the Mexican government to bring back the 43 missing students alive and to not leave the crime unpunished. Both the European Parliament and the European Community have the responsibility to speak and act when there are systematic human rights violations in countries which they signed agreements with. The European Union and Mexico signed the “Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement”. There are also obligations of the EU itself derived from the European Human Rights Guidelines, which call for:

1. With respect to Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the EU, we ask to enforce the article 52 and paragraph 2, which states: The parties agree for purposes of paragraph meant by "**case of special urgency**" a case of substantial violation of the Agreement by one of the two parts. A substantial violation of the agreement consists of: a) a denounce of the agreement not sanctioned by the general rules of international law, b) violation of the essential elements of the Agreement already enunciate in Article 1, which says "respect for democracy and fundamental human rights are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which guides their internal and international policies of the Parties and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement".

That said, the agreement must be canceled if there is a serious violation of human rights, as is the case of the enforced disappearances of normalistas students of Ayotzinapa.

2. With regard to the EU guidelines and dialogue with third countries there is a demand for a dialogue between the EU and Mexico; the beginning of an investigation by a Civil Observation Mission composed by members of the European Parliament and recognized experts on human rights, which can be supported at all times by the civil society in Mexico and to activate an evaluation mechanism based on human rights established in this guideline.
3. We ask that the European Parliament issues a resolution to encourage the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to exert influence in Ayotzinapa case, taking as reference that this court already received communications of crimes by the State of Mexico.

Is important to clarify that the human rights violations of Ayotzinapa students are not isolated events. In Mexico systematic violations of human rights affects the whole country and the safety of all Mexicans. In the case of Guerrero, acts of crime and enforced disappearances happened during the "dirty war" remain in impunity. Worse does the continuing situation of systematic violence still existing in Guerrero. The search operations of the 43 students allowed finding mass graves with bodies which, according to the first official findings, do not correspond to the students. In Mexico the number of missing people is alarming, there are currently more than 20 thousands cases of disappearances since 2006, when it was applied by the past president Felipe Calderón, a militarization of the country as a security strategy. In addition several episodes of severe human rights violations hit the country. In the State of Mexico, on June 30, 2014, military committed extrajudicial executions; in April 2011, 193 people were found in mass graves in the town of San Fernando in Tamaulipas and in 2010, in the same location, were killed 72 migrants. In 2011, members of organized crime swept the municipality of Allende, Coahuila and abducted 300 people. This fact has remained muted and under official cover, since.

The statements above are just some of the severe human rights violations committed in the country; they are not isolated events because they are constantly and systematically repeated. We call on the EU to meet its international commitments on human rights and help all Mexicans to build a democratic state that respects and protects human rights of citizens as well as migrants transiting through its territory.

Sincerely

Fernando Ríos Martínez
Secretario Ejecutivo de la Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos
“Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos”

Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos “Todos los Derechos para Todas y Todos” (conformada por 74 organizaciones en 20 estados de la República mexicana): Agenda LGBT (Estado de México), Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (Distrito Federal); Asociación Jalisciense de Apoyo a los Grupos Indígenas, A.C. (Guadalajara, Jal.); Bowerasa, A.C. “Haciendo Camino”. (Chihuahua, Chih.); Casa del Migrante Saltillo (Coahuila) Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir, A.C. (Distrito Federal); Centro “Fray Julián Garcés” Derechos Humanos y Desarrollo Local, A. C. (Tlaxcala, Tlax.); Centro de Apoyo al Trabajador, A.C. (Distrito Federal); Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas”, A. C. (San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chis); Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa A.C; Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Francisco de Vitoria O.P.”, A. C. (Distrito Federal); Centro de Derechos Humanos “Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez”, A. C. (Distrito Federal); Centro de Derechos Humanos “Don Sergio” (Jiutepec, Mor.); Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Matías de Córdoba”. A.C. (Tapachula, Chis); Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Tlachinollan, A. C. (Tlapa, Gro.); Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres (Chihuahua), Centro de Derechos Humanos de los Pueblos del Sur de Veracruz “Bety Cariño” A.C. (Tatahuicapan de Juárez, Ver.) Centro de Derechos Humanos, “Juan Gerardi”, A. C. (Torreón, Coah.); Centro de Derechos Humanos Paso del Norte (Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua); Centro de Derechos Humanos Victoria Diez, A.C. (León, Gto.); Centro de Derechos Indígenas “Flor y Canto”, A. C. (Oaxaca, Oax.); Centro de Derechos Humanos Toaltepeyolo (Orizaba, Veracruz); Centro de Derechos Indígenas A. C. (Bachajón, Chis.); Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (Distrito Federal); Centro de Justicia para la Paz y el Desarrollo, A. C. (CEPAD) (Guadalajara, Jal.); Centro de Reflexión y Acción Laboral (CEREAL-DF) (Distrito Federal); Centro de Reflexión y Acción Laboral (CEREAL-Guadalajara) (Guadalajara, Jal.); Centro Diocesano para los Derechos Humanos “Fray Juan de Larios”, A.C. (Saltillo, Coah.); Centro Juvenil Generando Dignidad (Comalcalco, Tabasco); Centro Hermanas Mirabal de Derechos Humanos (León, Gto.), Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (Distrito Federal), Centro Mujeres (La Paz, BCS.), Centro Regional de Defensa de DDHH José María Morelos y Pavón, A.C. (Chilapa, Gro.); Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos “Bartolomé Carrasco”, A.C. (Oaxaca, Oax.); Ciencia Social Alternativa, A.C. – KOOKAY (Mérida, Yuc.); Ciudadanía Lagunera por los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CILADHAC) (Torreón, Coah.); Colectivo Educación para la Paz y los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chis.); Colectivo contra la Tortura y la Impunidad (Distrito Federal); Comité Cerezo (Distrito Federal); Comité Cristiano de Solidaridad Monseñor Romero (Distrito Federal); Comisión de Derechos Humanos y Laborales del Valle de Tehuacán, A.C. (Tehuacan, Pue.); Comisión de Solidaridad y Defensa de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (Chihuahua, Chih.); Comisión Independiente de Derechos Humanos de Morelos, A. C. (CIDHMOR) (Cuernavaca, Mor.); Comisión Regional de Derechos Humanos “Mahatma Gandhi”, A. C. (Tuxtepec, Oax.); Comité de Defensa Integral de Derechos Humanos Gobixha A.C. (Oaxaca, Oax.); Comité de Defensa de las Libertades Indígenas (Palenque, Chis.); Comité de Derechos Humanos Ajusco (Distrito Federal); Comité de Derechos Humanos “Fr. Pedro Lorenzo de la Nada”, A. C. (Ocosingo, Chis.); Comité de Derechos Humanos “Sierra Norte de Veracruz”, A. C. (Huayacocotla, Ver.); Comité de Derechos Humanos de Colima, A. C. (Colima, Col.); Comité de Derechos Humanos de Comalcalco, A. C. (Comalcalco, Tab); Comité de Derechos Humanos de Tabasco, A. C. (Villahermosa, Tab); Comité de Derechos Humanos y Orientación Miguel Hidalgo, A. C. (Dolores Hidalgo, Gto.); Comité Sergio Méndez Arceo Pro Derechos Humanos de Tulancingo, Hgo A.C. (Tulancingo, Hgo.); El Caracol A.C (Distrito Federal); Estancia del Migrante González y Martínez, A.C. (Querétaro, Qro.); Frente Cívico Sinaloense. Secretaría de Derechos Humanos. (Culiacán, Sin.);

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