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ONG con Estatus Consultivo Roster en el Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas
y Estatus Consultivo ante la Organización de Estados Americanos

Press Release

Mexico City, May 4, 2009

ATENCO: THREE YEARS OF IMPUNITY AND INJUSTICE

- The Mexican justice system is inefficient to process the authorities responsible for committing grave human rights violations in Atenco.
- The Supreme Court's resolution of February 12, 2009 does not outline the authorities and police responsible people, including Enrique Peña Nieto and Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza, although it does highlight the need for progress in investigations on the grave human rights violations committed.
- The women survivors of these human rights violations, together with Center Prodh, will continue the already initiated processes in international organisms.
- Faced with the State's apathy on this case, international attention and solidarity continues play a fundamental role in the women's demand for justice.

During the incidents in Texcoco and San Salvador Atenco on May 3 and 4, 2006, the repressive operative of various police corporations (federal, state and municipal) involved a number of grave human rights violations. At least 26 of the 47 detained women denounced having been being victims of physical, verbal and sexual violence on the part of police agents who detained and forcibly transported them to Santiaguito prison.

The Attorney General's Office (PGR for its initials in Spanish), through its Special Prosecutor's Office for Violence Against Women and Human Trafficking (FEVIMTRA for its initials in Spanish), reported to have initiated an inquiry against those responsible for crimes against some of the women in Atenco. However to this date, three years after having initiated the investigation (FEVIM/03/05/2006), the FEVIMTRA has still not placed charges against any of the agents and authorities responsible for these acts of torture.

In addition, it must be recalled that on February 12, 2009, the National Supreme Court of Justice (SCJN for its initials in Spanish) resolved that there were, in fact, grave human rights violations in Atenco. As such, the veracity of the survivors' accusations is clear, just as is the bad faith by which both the federal and the state of Mexico's authorities have tried to undermine these accusations. Nonetheless, regrettably, the SCJN avoided making a public statement outlining the responsibility of high-ranking authorities, politicians and police units that were involved in the incidents of Texcoco and Atenco. The politicians responsible are clear and have been recognized publicly by many actors, in particular the current state of Mexico's Governor Enrique Peña Nieto, and current Federal Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora Icaza.

The SCJN did clearly express the urgent need for the relevant authorities to conclude their investigations, which have been inefficient up until now. The full version of the

SCJN resolution is still pending, and among other points, Center Prodh calls for it to outline clear guidelines for the use of force on the part of police.

The fact that after three years there has been no justice or results in the investigations on this case is extremely concerning. The victims are still waiting for their rights guaranteed by the Mexican Constitution to be protected. The situation is evidence of the deficiencies entrenched in Mexico's justice system; national institutions remain inefficient in processing the authorities responsible for committing human rights violations in Atenco. In this case as in many others in Mexico, impunity prevails.

Faced with this situation, the women that were victims of sexual torture, accompanied by the Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Human Rights Center (Center Prodh) and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), in April 2008 presented a petition to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), an autonomous body of the Organization of American States (OAS). Due to the ineffectiveness of national institutions, the 11 women petitioners look to the IACHR to declare that the Mexican State violated their human rights to physical integrity, liberty and personal security, access to justice, non discrimination, dignity and privacy; and to issue a recommendation calling for a serious, impartial and efficient investigation in order to punish those responsible for acts of torture.

Faced with the State's apathy on this case, international solidarity on the part of organizations and activists is more important than ever. The women survivors of Atenco have denounced their case in diverse countries around the world and international attention on the case continues to be a fundamental part of their demand for justice.

Women detained in San Salvador Atenco and Texcoco in 2006;

Complainants before the FEVIMTRA and petitioners before the IACHR

Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez Human Rights Center