



WILPF REPORT ON UPR: MEXICO

(11th HRC Session - 11 June 2009)

OVERVIEW:

1. Mexico
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1. MEXICO

(Ambassador Mr. Jose Guevara)

[The following text is as Mexico presented itself, lacking self-criticism.]

Mexico is taking part in this Council with the firm commitment to value human rights. Mexico is currently undergoing transformation into a more democratic country. It faces challenges with security, crime, corruption and impunity. Last February Mexico accepted 83 out of the 93 recommendations; many had to do with public security, rights of women, rights on indigenous people, combating torture, combating poverty and the rights of the child. Progress has been made over the last few months in these areas. Congress adopted an initiative to reform the federal criminal court. New laws will be enacted to strengthen certification and control over police forces at a municipal and national level. More prison staff training will be provided to prevent and combat violence against women in all areas and institutions are being set up for victims of sexual and family violence.

Specialized courts are being set up for indigenous people that provide information and support for public defenders and translation services. Mexico has taken steps to guarantee economic and social rights, especially for migrants. In this regard Mexico signed a national agreement for labour productivity. In courts, the accused will be provided with accurate defense as well as a full understanding of their rights. Reparations for victims have been provided. Military jurisdiction over conduct of the armed forces has been established in the constitution. Military justice has adapted to criminal justice to make the system even more transparent. Mexico has shown a commitment to promote reforms in military justice. It is important to mention that the dialogue for this activity will be undertaken in the governmental commission for human rights. Mexico would like to reaffirm its efforts to protect human rights and promote international dialogue. In addition, Mexico launched a national strategy to reduce mortality among pregnant women and is tackling the ongoing swine flu epidemic in responsible and transparent manner.

2. COUNTRY RESPONSES

[Most countries were only positive. Only Belgium made rather critical remarks.]

Algeria

Thank you Mexico for comments about the recommendations which were made. We are pleased that Mexico accepted recommendations that we have made about preventing ill treatment of children and violence against indigenous communities. Particularly commended their work on the rights of migrant workers and members of their families.

Egypt

We thank Mexico for the clear presentation and the open spirit of the dialogue. We are confident that Mexico will exert all efforts to follow up on recommendations they have accepted.

USA

We appreciate Mexico's efforts to advance human rights, despite many difficulties including violence, corruption and security issues.

Belgium

We consider the high level of impunity as a major obstacle for human rights. Mexico has addressed how they are currently dealing with organized crime. We encourage Mexico to establish a special organization to deal with convictions from the Dirty War of the 60's and 70's (disappearances and homicides by the government). Confronting the past is a necessary step, especially for the families of the victims.

Chad

Welcomed the Delegation of Mexico and emphasized how committed Mexico is to protecting human rights.

3. NGO INPUT

National Commission on the Human Rights of Mexico:

One of the objectives of a human rights institution is to cooperate with the UN to establish fundamental rights. We are confident that the recommendations will be followed up on a national level. In order to disseminate this information we continue to hold meetings in Mexico. We ask the council to investigate the right to a healthy environment and the rights of people with disabilities.

Amnesty International:

Noted that the Mexican government often makes commitments to human rights but does not follow up on these. They especially focused on women's rights. The government says they will punish violence against women but fails to do so.

Human Rights Watch:

The UPR is a great opportunity for Mexico to recognize that many human rights violations in the country are committed by armed forces. Since President Calderon sent armed forces around the country to combat drugs, complaints of abuses have increased. We want Mexico to investigate abuses committed by the army and should ensure that cases against the army are immediately referred to the staff of the national or public ministry.

Action Canada for Population and Development:

Criminalization of the seduction of deceit is unfair. Many countries have noted that Mexico needs to carry out legislation reforms to guarantee harmonization of its legislation. Mexico needs to protect the autonomy and sexual rights of girls and women.

International Commission of Jurists:

A problem in Oaxaca is that social and political protests are often criminalized and thus there are infringements upon fundamental freedoms.

Federation for Women and Family Planning:

According to the working group report, we appreciate that Mexico has taken steps to protect the rights of migrant and indigenous children. We want to highlight the importance of sexual education (STD's), decision-making, skills to cope with peer pressure and contraception for children and youth. This is key to empowering children so they can fight back against sexual abuse.

Grupo de Informacion en Reproduccion Elegida:

Thanked all States who had participated in the UPR of Mexico. Called on the Mexican state to implement all recommendations and involve members of civil society as well.

Conectas Direitos Humanos:

We are concerned about the disappearances of 1200 people. Only 24 criminal trials have come up for these crimes and there were no convictions. Despite the lack of results, the prosecutors' office was not pressured.

Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez:

There is an urgent need for Mexico to comply with the recommendations. Documented military abuses and corrupted detentions still plague Mexico.

Social Service Agency of the Protestant Church in Germany:

Recent torture and execution of human rights defenders has set Mexico back in the human rights field. The government has not complied with its duty to provide protection for human rights defenders and investigate these disappearances.

Center for Reproductive Rights:

Many women and girls suffer consequences to the laws that prohibit abortion under any circumstances, even if they have been raped.

4. RESPONSE MEXICO

Thank you for the countries and NGOs that have taken part in this exercise. Mexico has engaged in a dialogue with all stakeholders in this review because the links to human rights are a very important part of a new democracy. This exercise has enabled all stakeholders to have a more comprehensive understanding of civil society in Mexico, it allows us to share our human rights vision, it enables us to focus on international aid and is a further tool for accountability.

We have accepted most of the recommendations by other countries. Combating organized crime has meant that working conditions for journalists has been worsening daily. We particularly appreciate work done by NGOs on this problem. We agree with the comments made on the harmonization of legislation. Finally, let us reiterate our full commitment to this Human Rights Council and we think that the UPR will make a positive impact on all of our Countries.