

# URGENT ACTION

## INVESTIGATIONS ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF STUDENTS AT RISK

The investigation of the 43 students' disappearance on September 26, 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 that are 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 a letter in your own words or using the sample below as a guide to one or both government officials listed. You can also email, fax, call or Tweet them.
- [Click here](#) to let us know the actions you took on **Urgent Action 10.24**. It's important to report because we share the total number with the officials we are trying to persuade and the people we are trying to help.

#### Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador

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#### Mexican Embassy in the United States Ambassador Esteban Moctezuma Barragán

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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, which occurred on September 26, 2014. Secretary of National Defense (SEDENA), led by your government, has not provided 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.

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' search for the students. According to the UN International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, 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, and the 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 is evidence that military intelligence agents infiltrated the 43 Ayotzinapa Rural Teacher Training College under the guise of students 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 or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** May 2, 2024.

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