

## Executive summary

# The situation of the defence of Human Rights and Free Expression in Mexico following the COVID-19 pandemic

Report updated  
to October 2020

Human rights defenders and journalists in Mexico continue to be under systematic attack. At least 6 journalists and 24 human rights defenders were killed in the country in 2020, 7 women and 23 men, for reasons allegedly linked to their work in the defence and exercise of their right to freedom of expression<sup>[i]</sup>.

The report *The Situation of the Defence of Human Rights and Free Expression in Mexico Following the COVID-19 Pandemic* states that the situation of human rights defenders and journalists has worsened in the country since the public health

and socioeconomic emergency generated by SARS-COV-2<sup>[ii]</sup>. On the one hand, the defence of human rights and free expression in Mexico is more urgent than ever because of the measures adopted by federal, state, and municipal governments that restrict or have violated human rights. At the same time, attacks against human rights defenders and journalists have intensified and diversified, while the latter have been limited in their defence strategies and instruments by the need to implement social distancing and confinement measures.

### **The defence of human rights and free expression in Mexico is more urgent than ever**

In the face of the economic crisis resulting from the pandemic, the federal government has adopted an austerity policy that has seriously undermined key institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. The federal decree that reduced by 75% the budget for operational expenses of the federal public administration significantly affected human rights agencies and programmes[iii]. This austerity policy was entrenched in the Federal Expenditure Budget of 2021, which still lacks adequate funds for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists[iv]. Congress also approved the elimination of several trusts, including No. 10232, created to finance the protection measures of the Federal Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, as well as the Fund for Attention, Assistance, and Integral Reparation [v].

Regarding the deepening of the militarist model, despite the provisions of the Constitution and the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (I/A Court HR) [vi], the Mexican State issued an agreement that formalises the participation of the Armed Forces in public security tasks during the rest of the current administration without specifying the situations, purposes, and geographical areas in which they would operate [vii]. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Mexico and various UN Special Procedures expressed their concern about the agreement [viii].

On the other hand, some of the measures taken to reduce mobility in the context of the pandemic have created room for arbitrary actions by authorities and have sometimes

taken a disproportionately punitive approach. At the beginning of the pandemic, the federal government itself recognised that states and municipal governments would have exceeded their powers by implementing restrictions on free movement that were contrary to the Constitution[ix]. Some entities even sought to criminalise non-compliance with these measures[x]. Even in those where no criminal sanctions were sought, the implementation of health provisions led to human rights violations, as illustrated by the case of Giovanni López Ramírez, who died in police custody after being detained for allegedly not wearing a face mask[xi].

The period analysed in the report was also characterised by infringements on the right to social protest and the disproportionate use of force by security bodies. Among the documented irregularities were attacks on defenders and journalists, arbitrary arrests, violations of due process, forced disappearances, ill-treatment, abuse, and sexual torture[xii]. In most of these events, feminist and women's rights networks were victims of the excessive use of force. Alleged incidents of torture were even recorded in San Luis Potosí[xiii], and in Oaxaca, four deaths were reported in which police actions are under scrutiny[xiv].

Furthermore, the administration of Andrés Manuel López Obrador has made extractive projects a fundamental pillar of its government proposal and of the strategy for an expected economic recovery after the effects of the pandemic. The construction of megaprojects continued to be considered an essential activity[xv]. All this despite the legal actions that have been taken by communities and organisations, including the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH, by its Spanish acronym) itself, which requested

precautionary measures to suspend non-essential activities around the so-called “Tren Maya”[xvi].

Likewise, at the beginning of the public health emergency declaration, the right of access to information was limited through the issuance of agreements and decrees that suspended deadlines and terms related to information requests at different levels of government [xvii]. At the same time, Congress approved reforms to the Federal Copyright Law, establishing a private mechanism for internet censorship, known as “notice and take down”, which allows for the removal of publications or content when there are alleged copyright violations[xviii].

Regarding access to justice, due to the health risk, different law enforcement agencies suspended judicial terms or administrative activities, widening the barriers to the administration of justice[xix]. The legal remedies provided in Mexican law for the defence of human rights, such as the amparo proceedings, did not work properly in the context of the suspension of terms[xx].

Concerning the migrant population and those seeking international protection, migratory flows to the north of the country have continued without the transit population’s rights being guaranteed despite the differentiated risk they face[xxi]. It has been insufficient to release people if their rights to health, food, and housing are not guaranteed while their refugee or asylum status is being defined[xxii]. On the contrary, the National Institute of Migration has taken a stance of stigmatization and criminalisation by threatening this population with criminal responsibilities for persons with COVID who enter the country irregularly[xxiii].

At the same time, violence against women has intensified during the pandemic due to an increase in violence in private spaces; attacks against women through the internet; violence against children and adolescents; an increased risk of sexual exploitation; greater obstacles to access essential services; paralysis in the access to justice; lack of access to basic sexual and reproductive health services; lack of resources for shelters; and limited support capacity from civil society[xxiv]. The situation in the state of Oaxaca is critical, since in the first three months of the confinement period 23 femicides and 79 disappearances of women were recorded[xxv].

Finally, as the Espacio OSC platform has been able to document, the federal Protection Mechanism has faced different limitations in addressing its responsibilities in relation to the State response for the protection of defenders and journalists. Firstly, a political weakness was identified which is reflected in the lack of action by the institutions that make up and participate in the Governing Board[xxvi]. Secondly, the procedures for entering and monitoring the re-evaluation of plans for the protection of beneficiaries continue to be outside the time limits established by law. There is also a lack of sufficient and trained personnel within the Mechanism and a lack of due coordination between the units that make up the Mechanism and the institutions that make up the Governing Board to ensure due attention, analysis, implementation, and monitoring of the protection measures and plans.

## Impacts of the pandemic on areas and advocacy groups

**Women defenders.** In the case of women defenders, the National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Mexico (RNDDHMX, by its Spanish acronym) recorded an intensification of attacks during the pandemic. Between January and June, 266 women defenders and 42 groups were attacked, and of these attacks, 49% were against women defenders and 37% against journalists and/or groups. The most repeated attacks were slander, accusations, and smear campaigns; intimidation and psychological harassment; threats, warnings, and ultimatums; restrictions on freedom of expression; and criminalisation. In addition to the 7 murders previously referred to, 5 attempted murders were also registered.

-04-

**Journalists.** In the case of journalists, the international health emergency of SARS-COV-2 has amplified the economic, social, and political crisis that is exacerbating the structural conditions for journalistic work in Mexico. According to information documented by Article 19 and CIMAC, there were 112 attacks against the press related to coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic: 47 men, 42 women, and 23 media outlets; as well as the murder of 6 journalists, including one woman, during 2020. The federal entities that reported the most attacks against journalists were Mexico City, Quintana Roo, Coahuila, Puebla, State of Mexico, Guerrero, Veracruz, and Baja California.

**Land and environmental defenders.** At least 17 environmental defenders have been killed during 2020 in Chihuahua, Oaxaca, Veracruz, Morelos, Baja California, and San Luis Potosí: 15 men and 2 women. The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened the inequalities and vulnerabilities in which this defence group finds itself. In addition to lethal

aggressions, threats, and smear campaigns have been recorded, as in the case of the Morelos Centre for Human Rights in the state of Guerrero between 22 and 26 March [xxvii].

**Persons defending migrants and international protection applicants.** As a result of the country's migration policies, the situation for human rights defenders of migrants has been aggravated by actions such as criminalisation, smear campaigns, acts of harassment and even, in some cases, physical attacks against those who collaborate in humanitarian assistance centres. For example, in the context of the health emergency, in April, four shelters were the victim of intimidatory actions by people dressed in civilian clothes who identified themselves as agents of the State Guard, and who repeatedly entered the shelters' facilities carrying firearms, demanding information from the people entering the country including their nationalities, without showing any documentation that would prove their identity or justify their actions and requests for information [xxviii].

**LGBTTTIQA+ advocates.** The condition of LGBTTTIQA+ people in Mexico, and particularly trans women, continues to be marked by discrimination, precariousness, serious health risks, and violence. In the context of the pandemic, the RNDDHMX has registered the murder of 4 trans women defenders. However, in Mexico there is no official record of hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Transgender women defenders who speak out risk becoming victims of hate and sexist crimes such as those that have occurred.

**Victims and family members in search efforts.** The public health emergency did not stop the emergency of disappearances in Mexico. Although fewer cases were recorded between

January and September 2020 than in the same period in 2019, official figures indicate that almost 5,000 people were reported missing<sup>[xxix]</sup>. Since the beginning of the health crisis, relatives of disappeared persons have reported greater obstacles from authorities to receive information about the investigation and follow up in their cases, as well as to act or participate in searches. In addition, they have directly felt the economic impact of the pandemic, making their search efforts even more difficult.

### **Recommendations of the report**

The effective functioning of a protection policy requires that the authorities guarantee to enable spaces to exercise the right to defend human rights and free expression. Actions to this end must begin with the Presidency of the Republic and the Federal Executive and be replicated by state governments, autonomous bodies, as well as by the legislative and judicial branches within the scope of their competence. In general, these actions should move towards a prevention paradigm that aims to eliminate the causes of risk in the work of human rights defence and journalism; ensure sufficient human and financial resources go to the proper institutions; and coordinate the entities responsible for prevention and protection. They should be based on respect from officials at all levels of government for the work of human rights defence, refraining from generating intimidating or discrediting messages and sending a strong message condemning such conduct.

The report urges the IACHR, the OHCHR, and special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council to closely monitor the situation of human rights defenders and free expression in the country, using all the mechanisms at their disposal to encourage and assist in the fulfilment of the

Mexican State's obligations in this area; paying particular attention to the follow-up of relevant recommendations addressed to the State from both systems; and providing technical assistance to authorities at different levels of government, the ombudsperson, and other relevant bodies.

The report also urges the European Union and the diplomatic corps in Mexico to support complaints in cases of attacks on human rights defenders and journalists before relevant national and multilateral bodies. At the same time, it calls for cooperation with the Mexican State to be guided by respect for and guarantees of human rights, including those linked to investment and/or business activities in the country.

Finally, it stresses that both the Mexican State's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the eventual recovery process must be based on respect for and a guarantee of human rights and the recognition of the fundamental role played by human rights defenders and journalists in these endeavours.

i] Women human rights defenders killed in 2020 based on monitoring by the National Network of Civil Human Rights Organisations “All Rights for All” (Red TDT) and the RNDDHMX: Isabel Cabanillas de la Torre, 18 January (Chihuahua), Homero Gómez González, 29 January, (Michoacán), Benito Peralta Arias, 13 March (State of Mexico), Paulina Gómez Palacio, 22 March (San Luis Potosí), Isaac Medardo Herrera Aviés, 23 March (Morelos), Karla Valentina Camarena del Castillo, 29 March (Guanajuato), Juan Zamarrón Torres, 1 April, (Chihuahua), Adán Vez Lira, 8 April, (Veracruz), Pablo Guzmán Solano, 9 April (Oaxaca), Esteban Martínez Pérez, 9 April (Oaxaca), Eugui Roy Martínez, 12 May (Guerrero), Antonio Montes Enríquez, 6 June (Chihuahua), María Elizabeth Montaña, 19 June (Morelos), Jonathan Santos, 11 August (Jalisco), Javier Eduardo Pérez Hidalgo, 19 August (Baja California), Tomás Martínez Pinacho, 24 August (Oaxaca), Jeanine Huerta López, 27 August (Baja California), Mireya Rodríguez Lemus 2 September (Chihuahua), Carmen Vásquez bueno, 24 September (Zacatecas), Oscar Eyraud Adams, 24 September (Baja California), Juan Aquino González, 28 October (Guerrero), Rodolfo Díaz Jiménez, 2 November (Oaxaca). Journalists killed in 2020 based on Article 19 monitoring: María Elena Ferral, 30 March (Veracruz), Jorge Miguel Armenta Ramos, May 16 (Sonora), Pablo Morrugaes Parraguirre, August 2 (Guerrero), Julio Valdivia, September 9 (Veracruz), Israel Vásquez Rangel, November 9 (Guanajuato), Jaime Daniel Castaño, December 9 (Zacatecas).

ii] Official Journal of the Federation. AGREEMENT by which the General Health Council recognises the SARS-CoV2 virus disease epidemic (COVID-19) in Mexico as a serious disease requiring priority attention, as well as establishing preparedness and response activities in the face of this epidemic. Published on 23 March 2020. Available at: [https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5590161&fecha=23/03/2020](https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5590161&fecha=23/03/2020)

iii] Official Journal of the Federation. Decree establishing the austerity measures to be observed by Federal Public Administration agencies and entities under the criteria indicated therein. Published on 23 April 2020. Available at: [https://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5592205&fecha=23/04/2020](https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5592205&fecha=23/04/2020). See also: Proceso. “75% cut to the Executive Commission for Attention to Victims; will affect essential functions”. Available at: <https://www.proceso.com.mx/632702/recorte-de-75-a-la-comision-ejecutiva-de-atencion-a-victimas-afectara-funciones-esenciales>, last access: 19 October 2020; Arturo Herrera Gutiérrez. Twitter. Available at: [https://twitter.com/ArturoHerrera\\_G/status/1268201279223934978?s=09](https://twitter.com/ArturoHerrera_G/status/1268201279223934978?s=09), last accessed 19 October 2020; Animal Político. “Hacienda retains resources for attention to violence against indigenous women”. Available at: <https://www.animalpolitico.com/2020/05/>

[hacienda-retiene-recursos-atencion-violencia-mujeres-indigenas/](https://www.animalpolitico.com/2020/05/hacienda-retiene-recursos-atencion-violencia-mujeres-indigenas/), last accessed 19 October 2020; Las Protagonistas. “National Network of Indigenous Women’s Houses urges Hacienda to release resources”. Available at: <https://billieparkernoticias.com/red-nacional-de-casas-de-la-mujer-indigena-urge-a-hacienda-libere-recursos/>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

iv] Government of Mexico. Draft budget of expenditures of the Federation. Fiscal year 2021. Available at: <https://www.ppef.hacienda.gob.mx/es/PPEF2021/introduccion>, last access: 07 October 2020. See also: El Financiero. “They foresee 12.5% more for the mechanism”. Available at: <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/politica/Preven-12.5-mas-para-mecanismo-20200916-0100.html>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

[v] López Dóriga. “Officially the Senate has extinguished Funds and Trusts. They approve in general and in particular their disappearance. Published on 21 October 2020. Available at: <https://lopezdoriga.com/nacional/oficialmente-el-senado-extingue-fondos-y-fideicomisos-aprueban-en-lo-general-y-en-lo-particular-su-desaparicion/>. See also: Animal Político. “109 trusts disappear, but do not touch customs and SEDENA trusts for \$100 billion pesos”. Available at: <https://www.animalpolitico.com/2020/10/diputados-mantienen-fideicomisos-aduanas-sedena/>, last accessed 19 October 2020; Amnesty International. “Austerity policies must respect and ensure the functioning of institutions and programmes in charge of protecting and guaranteeing human rights”. Available at: <https://amnistia.org.mx/contenido/index.php/politicas-de-austeridad-deben-respetar-y-garantizar-el-funcionamiento-de-instituciones-y-programas-encargados-de-proteger-y-garantizar-los-derechos-humanos/>, last accessed 19 October 2020; Movement for Our Disappeared in Mexico. “MNDM rejects the degrading terms in which this public discussion is taking place and calls on legislators not to legislate based on the outrage against all victims”. Available at: <https://movndmx.org/posicionamiento-sobre-faari/>, last access: 19 October 2020; Chamber of Deputies. “The trust for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists must be maintained”. Bulletin N°. 3809. Available at: <http://www5.diputados.gob.mx/index.php/esl/Comunicacion/Boletines/2020/Junio/09/3809-El-fideicomiso-para-la-proteccion-de-defensores-de-derechos-humanos-y-periodistas-debe-mantenerse>, last accessed 19 October 2020; OHCHR. UN expert urges Mexico to increase protection of human rights defenders. Published on 19 October 2020. Available at: [http://hchr.org.mx/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1532:experta-de-la-onu-exhorta-a-mexico-a-aumentar-la-proteccion-de-las-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos&Itemid=266](http://hchr.org.mx/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1532:experta-de-la-onu-exhorta-a-mexico-a-aumentar-la-proteccion-de-las-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos&Itemid=266); IACHR (@ICHR). “The @CIDH expresses its concern regarding the cancellation of the Trusts for the Protection of

Human Rights Defenders and Journalists and the Fund for Attention, Assistance and Integral Reparation for victims of violations of #HR. 1.” Published on 23 October 2020 at 16:56 hours UTC-6. Available at: <https://twitter.com/CIDH/status/1319774612763242496>; Espacio OSC. “The elimination of #TrustSOS puts the lives of human rights defenders, journalists and victims at risk.” Last accessed on 26 October 2020. Available at: <http://espacio.osc.mx/la-eliminacion-de-fideicomisos-pone-en-riesgo-la-vida-de-personas-defensoras-de-derechos-humanos-periodistas-y-victimas/>

[vi] Political Constitution of the United Mexican States. Articles 21 and 129. See also: IA-Court. Case of Alvarado Espinoza et al. v. Mexico. Merits, Reparations and Costs. Judgment of 28 November 2018. Series C No. 370. Paragraph 179.

vii] Official Journal of the Federation. AGREEMENT by which the permanent Armed Force is available to carry out public security tasks in an extraordinary, regulated, supervised, subordinated and complementary manner. Published on 11 May 2020. Available at: [http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5593105&fecha=11/05/2020](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5593105&fecha=11/05/2020).

[viii] OHCHR. “OHCHR is concerned about the agreement that makes the Armed Forces available for public security tasks. Available at: [https://www.hchr.org.mx/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1446:preocupa-a-la-onu-dh-acuerdo-que-dispone-de-las-fuerzas-armadas-para-tareas-de-seguridad-publica&Itemid=265](https://www.hchr.org.mx/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1446:preocupa-a-la-onu-dh-acuerdo-que-dispone-de-las-fuerzas-armadas-para-tareas-de-seguridad-publica&Itemid=265), last accessed 19 October 2020. See also: IACHR. “The IACHR reiterates to Mexico its international human rights commitments in the area of citizen security”. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/178.asp>, last accessed on 19 October 2020.

ix] Undersecretary for Human Rights, Population and Migration. Observations on human rights violations during the Health Contingency by COVID-19 Published in April 2020. Available at: [https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/549605/OBSERVACIONES\\_SOBRE\\_VIOLACIONES\\_A\\_DERECHOS\\_HUMANOS\\_DURANTE\\_LA\\_CONTINGENCIA\\_SANITARIA\\_POR\\_COVID-19\\_\\_1\\_\\_1\\_.pdf](https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/549605/OBSERVACIONES_SOBRE_VIOLACIONES_A_DERECHOS_HUMANOS_DURANTE_LA_CONTINGENCIA_SANITARIA_POR_COVID-19__1__1_.pdf)

x] CNDH. “The CNDH considers that the reforms to the penal code of Querétaro violate human rights and calls for the health contingency caused by covid-19 not to be addressed with criminal sanctions”. Available at: [https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2020-05/COM\\_2020\\_151.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2020-05/COM_2020_151.pdf), last accessed on 19 October 2020.

[xi] CEJIL. “International organisations demand #Justice for Giovanni and for the victims of human rights violations that

occurred during the protests in Guadalajara, Jalisco”. Available at: <https://www.cejil.org/es/organizaciones-internacionales-exigen-justiciaparagiovanni-y-victimas-violaciones-derechos-humanos>, last access: 19 October 2020.

xii] OHCHR. “The CNDH and OHCHR condemn the aggressions against peaceful demonstrations in Guanajuato”. Available at: [https://www.hchr.org.mx/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1475:la-cndh-y-la-onu-dh-condenan-las-agresiones-contra-manifestacion-pacifica-en-guanajuato&Itemid=265](https://www.hchr.org.mx/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1475:la-cndh-y-la-onu-dh-condenan-las-agresiones-contra-manifestacion-pacifica-en-guanajuato&Itemid=265), last accessed 19 October 2020.

xii] Aristegui Noticias. “Police repress protest against demolition of park in Quintana Roo”. Available at: <https://aristeguinoticias.com/0506/mexico/reprime-policia-protesta-contra-demolicion-de-parque-en-quintana-roo-videos/>, last accessed 19 October 2020. See also: Pie de Página. “CDMX police beat up several minors”. Available at: <https://piedepagina.mx/policias-de-cdmx-golpean-entre-varios-a-menor-de-edad/>, last accessed 19 October 2020; Milenio. “Young people in detention report police abuse in Torreón”. Available at: <https://www.milenio.com/policia/torreon-jovenes-detenidos-denuncian-abuso-policia>, last accessed 19 October 2020; Proceso. “Feminists from Sonora denounce harassment, threats and physical aggressions after mobilizations”. Available at: <https://www.proceso.com.mx/622058/feministas-de-sonora>, last accessed 19 October 2020; IACHR. “The IACHR condemns acts of violence in the eviction and detention of demonstrators in the premises of the Human Rights Commission of the State of Mexico”. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2020/228.asp>, last accessed on 19 October 2020; Plumas Libres. “Veracruz police officers among the corporations that attacked women during the march; same as in Cdmx”. Available at: <https://plumaslibres.com.mx/2020/09/29/policias-de-veracruz-entre-las-corporaciones-que-agredieron-a-mujeres-durante-marcha-igual-que-en-cdmx/>, last accessed 19 October 2020; TJN Noticias. “Feminists ‘uplifted’ in pro-abortion demonstration in Tijuana”. Available at: <https://tjnnoticias.info/levantan-a-feministas-en-manifestacion-pro-aborto-tijuana/>, last accessed 19 October 2020; 860 Radio Noticias. “Municipality to proceed with criminal charges against protesters”. Available at: <https://860noticias.com.mx/2020/06/procedera-municipio-con-denuncias-penales-contra-manifestantes/>, last accessed 19 October 2020; Animal Político. “An unfortunate accident: National Guard confirmed that they shot the woman who died in La Boquilla, Chihuahua.” Published on 18 September 2020. Available at: <https://www.animalpolitico.com/2020/09/accidente-confirman-guardia-nacional-disparo-mujer-boquilla-chihuahua/>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

xiii] Mesoamerican Initiative of Women Human Rights

Defenders “[Alert Women Defenders] MEXICO / Defender Claudia Hernandez is illegally detained, tortured and criminalized in San Luis Potosi for participating in a protest against the murder of Giovanni Lopez”. Available at: <https://im-defensoras.org/2020/06/alerta-defensoras-mexico-detienen-ilegalmente-torturan-y-criminalizan-en-san-luis-potosi-a-la-defensora-claudia-hernandez-por-participar-en-protesta-por-el-asesinato-de-giovanni-lopez/>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

xiv] Servicios para una Educación Alternativa. “Oaxacan police officers involved in four murders of young people in less than two months. Published 15 June 2020. Available at: <https://www.educoaxaca.org/policias-de-oaxaca-implicados-en-cuatro-asesinatos-de-jovenes-en-menos-de-dos-meses/>

[xiv] El Imparcial. “Inmate dies in Matías Romero prison; presents supposed signs of violence”. Available at: <https://imparcialoaxaca.mx/policiaca/428180/recluso-muere-en-penal-de-matias-romero-presenta-supuestas-senales-de-violencia/>, last access: 19 October 2020. See also: El Imparcial. “Inmate found dead in his cell in El Espinal. Last accessed on 26 October 2020. Available at: <https://www.educoaxaca.org/policias-de-oaxaca-implicados-en-cuatro-asesinatos-de-jovenes-en-menos-de-dos-meses/>; Oaxaca es Noticias. “Huitzo police beat young man to death; one month later Prosecutor’s Office does not prosecute investigation”. Available at: <https://oaxacaesnoticia.com.mx/policias-de-huitzo-matan-a-golpes-a-joven-a-un-mes-fiscalia-no-judicializa-investigacion/>, last accessed on 19 October 2020; Animal Político. “Policemen “accidentally” kill 16 year old Alexander in Oaxaca. Available at: <https://www.animalpolitico.com/2020/06/policias-matan-por-accidente-a-alexander-joven-de-16-anos-en-oaxaca/>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

xv] Official Journal of the Federation. AGREEMENT modifying the instrument by which a strategy is established for the reopening of social, educational and economic activities, as well as a system of traffic lights by regions to evaluate weekly the epidemiological risk related to the reopening of activities in each state, as well as establishing extraordinary actions. Published on 14 May 2020. Available at: [https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5593411&fecha=15/05/2020](https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5593411&fecha=15/05/2020). Article 4. See also: Official Journal of the Federation. AGREEMENT establishing the technical guidelines related to the activities described in paragraphs c) and e) of Section II of Article One of the Agreement establishing extraordinary actions to address the health emergency generated by the SARS-CoV2 virus. Published on 31 March 2020. Available at: [https://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5591234&fecha=06/04/2020](https://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5591234&fecha=06/04/2020). Second transitory article.

[xvi] CNDH. “CNDH requests FONATUR to implement

precautionary measures to urgently suspend non-essential activities related to the ‘Tren Maya’ project. Available at: [https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2020-05/COM\\_2020\\_154.pdf](https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2020-05/COM_2020_154.pdf), last accessed 19 October 2020.

xvii] Official Journal of the Federation. AGREEMENT by which various measures are approved to guarantee the rights of personal data protection and access to information, in the face of the contingency situation generated by the so-called COVID-19 virus. Published on 27 March 2020. Available at: [http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5590620&fecha=27/03/2020](http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5590620&fecha=27/03/2020). See also: La Jornada. “INAI extends the deadline for applications to 30 April”. Available at: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/ultimas/politica/2020/04/15/amplia-inai-al-30-de-abril-suspension-de-plazo-de-respuesta-5144.html>, last access: 19 October 2020; Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación. “Organizations recognize INAI’s agreement to resume deadlines in essential sectors”. Available at: <https://fundar.org.mx/organizaciones-reconocen-el-acuerdo-del-inai-de-reanudar-plazos-en-los-sectores-esenciales/>, last accessed 19 October 2020; State of Jalisco. Agreement of the constitutional citizen governor of the State of Jalisco by which he suspends any terms and deadlines in the administrative procedures for access to information in the entire State of Jalisco and its municipalities. Published on 21 March 2020. Available at: <https://periodicooficial.jalisco.gob.mx/sites/periodicooficial.jalisco.gob.mx/files/03-21-20-vii.pdf>; State of Jalisco. Agreement of the constitutional governor of the state of Jalisco by which the suspension of terms and deadlines in administrative procedures is extended. Published 13 June 2020. Available at: <https://transparencia.info.jalisco.gob.mx/sites/default/files/06-13-20-iii-1.pdf>; El Informador. “Pandemic jams nearly 10,000 requests for information”. Available at: <https://www.informador.mx/Pandemia-atora-casi-10-mil-solicitudes-de-informacion-1202008110002.html>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

xviii] Sin Embargo. “Deputies approve reforms to the Copyright Law that censor the Internet; NGO to challenge”. Available at: <https://www.sinembargo.mx/30-06-2020/3814691>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

[xix] Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation. General agreement number 13/2020. Published on 13 July 2020. Available at: [https://www.scjn.gob.mx/sites/default/files/acuerdos\\_generales/documento/2020-07/13-2020%20\(PR%C3%93RROGA%20SUSP.%20ACT.%20JURISD.%20AL%2002%20AGOSTO%202020\)%20FIRMA.pdf](https://www.scjn.gob.mx/sites/default/files/acuerdos_generales/documento/2020-07/13-2020%20(PR%C3%93RROGA%20SUSP.%20ACT.%20JURISD.%20AL%2002%20AGOSTO%202020)%20FIRMA.pdf). See also: Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation. General agreement number 14/2020. Published on 28 July 2020. Available at: [https://www.scjn.gob.mx/sites/default/files/acuerdos\\_generales/documento/2020-07/14-2020%20\(SE%20REANUDAN%20PLAZOS%20SCJN\)%20FIRMA.pdf](https://www.scjn.gob.mx/sites/default/files/acuerdos_generales/documento/2020-07/14-2020%20(SE%20REANUDAN%20PLAZOS%20SCJN)%20FIRMA.pdf); Federal Judicial



Council. Communiqué 12/2020. Published on 17 March 2020. Available at: <https://www.cjf.gob.mx/documentos/Comunicados%20Prensa/docsComunicadosPrensa/2020/comunicado12.pdf>; Federal Judicial Council. Communiqué 14/2020. Published on 13 April 2020. Available at: <https://www.cjf.gob.mx/documentos/Comunicados%20Prensa/docsComunicadosPrensa/2020/comunicado14.pdf>; Federal Judicial Council. Communiqué 19/2020. Published on 25 May 2020. Available at: <https://www.cjf.gob.mx/documentos/Comunicados%20Prensa/docsComunicadosPrensa/2020/comunicado19.pdf>; and Federal Judicial Council. General agreement number 22/2020. Published 28 July 2020. Available at: [https://www.cjf.gob.mx/resources/index/infoRelevante/2020/pdf/AcuerdoGeneral22\\_2020.pdf](https://www.cjf.gob.mx/resources/index/infoRelevante/2020/pdf/AcuerdoGeneral22_2020.pdf).

xx] Indignación. “Federal judicial power prevents the defence of urban and indigenous communities against the Tren Maya”. Available at: <http://indignacion.org.mx/poder-judicial-federal-impide-defensa-de-comunidades-urbanas-e-indigenas-frente-al-tren-maya/>, last access: 19 October 2020. See also: Múuch’ Xiinbal Assembly. The Tren Maya and the responsibility of the Federal Judiciary. Published 29 September 2020. Available at: <https://asambleamaya.wixsite.com/muuchxiinbal/pronunciamiento>; Tequío Jurídico. “Assembly of the Chontal People for the defence of our territory demands that the Federal Judiciary attend as a matter of urgency the appeal for review filed in file 1208/2018”. Available at: [https://tequiojuridico.org/asamblea-del-pueblo-chontal-para-la-defensa-de-nuestro-territorio-demanda-al-poder-judicial-de-la-federacion-que-atienda-como-caso-urgente-el-recursos-de-revision-interpuesto-en-el-expediente-1208-201/#\\_ftn2](https://tequiojuridico.org/asamblea-del-pueblo-chontal-para-la-defensa-de-nuestro-territorio-demanda-al-poder-judicial-de-la-federacion-que-atienda-como-caso-urgente-el-recursos-de-revision-interpuesto-en-el-expediente-1208-201/#_ftn2), last access: 19 October 2020; Servicio Especial de la Mujer, Mexico. “Mexican government evades the judiciary in amparos for migrants, leaving them without measures to protect their lives and health in the midst of the pandemic”. Available at: <https://www.semmexico.mx/?p=20844>, last accessed 19 October 2020.

xxi] EFE. “One dead and four wounded in a riot at a migration station in southern Mexico. Available at: <https://www.efe.com/efe/america/mexico/un-muerto-y-cuatro-heridos-en-motin-estacion-migratoria-del-sur-de-mexico/50000545-4211139>, last accessed on 20 October 2020. See also: EFE. “NGOs present protection for discrimination of migrants before COVID-19 in Mexico”. Available at: <https://www.efe.com/efe/usa/inmigracion/ong-presentan-amparo-por-discriminacion-de-migrantes-ante-covid-19-en-mexico/50000098-4224465>, last accessed 20 October 2020; El Universal. “Complaint filed against INM for failure to protect migrants from Covid-19”. Available at: <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/interponen-queja-contra-el-inm-por-no-protger-migrantes-del-covid-19>, last accessed 20 October 2020; Mugs Noticias. “Asylum seekers requested precautionary measures

before the IACHR”. Available at: <https://www.mugsnoticias.com.mx/noticias-del-dia/solicitantes-de-asilo-pidieron-medidas-cautelares-ante-la-cidh/>, last accessed 20 October 2020; CMDPDH. “CP: The INM cannot leave migrants unprotected in the face of the COVID-19 crisis”. Available at: <http://cmdpdh.org/2020/05/cp-el-inm-no-puede-dejar-desprotegidas-a-personas-migrantes-frente-a-la-crisis-del-covid-19/>, last accessed 20 October 2020.

xxii] Ibid.

xxiii] After criticism, the communiqué was removed from the Government Secretariat’s website. El Universal. “Amaga INM up to 10 years in prison to migrants who spread COVID. Published on 1 October 2020. Available at: <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/inm-amaga-con-10-anos-de-carcel-migrantes-que-propaguen-covid>. A retrieved version of the communiqué, once downloaded by the Secretariat, is available at El Vespertino (@elvespertino\_). “#National #Warns #INM #SANCTION TO FOREIGN PEOPLE WHO #INRESENT THE #COUNTRY WITHOUT #SANITARY MEASURES DERIVED FROM #SARS-COV-2. Published on 2 October 2020 at 11:14 a.m. (UTC-6) Last accessed 23 October 2020. Available at: [https://twitter.com/elvespertino\\_/status/1312078614687612929](https://twitter.com/elvespertino_/status/1312078614687612929). See also: Periodistas Unidos. “Governments in the region criminalize and stigmatize migration and the right to asylum under the guise of health emergencies. Last accessed on 26 October 2020. Available at: <https://periodistasunidos.com.mx/2020/10/los-gobiernos-de-la-region-criminalizan-y-estigmatizan-las-migraciones-y-el-derecho-al-asilo-con-la-excusa-de-la-emergencia-sanitaria/>

[xxiv] La Jornada. “2019, the most violent for Mexican women”. Available at: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/ultimas/politica/2020/01/26/el-2019-el-mas-violento-para-las-mexicanas-4369.html>, last access: 19 October 2020 See also: Animal Político. “2019 is the year with the most murders of women in Mexico since 1990, says the Inegi”. Available at: <https://www.animalpolitico.com/2020/09/2019-anomas-asesinatos-mujeres-mexico-inegi/>, last accessed on 19 October 2020; Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System. Information on violence against women. Criminal incidence and 9-1-1 emergency calls. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wG6qya31zzz4m1YUgowZWSSH0z748Hd/view>

xxv] Data obtained from the Plataforma Violencia Femenicida Oaxaca, which presents the results of the registration of cases of violence against women carried out daily by the organisation Consorcio Oaxaca. Available at <https://db.violenciafemenicida.consorciooaxaca.org.mx/>.

xxvi] Including the Attorney General’s Office (FGR), the

CNDH, and the Executive Commission for Attention to Victims.

xxvii] Espacio OSC. “Criminalising messages against the Morelos Centre increase its risk situation”. Available at <http://espacio.osc.mx/mensajes-criminalizantes-contra-el-centro-morelos-aumentan-su-situacion-de-riesgo/>, last access: 19 October 2020. See also: Red TDT. We demand that the authorities of Guerrero stop criminalizing the Morelos Centre. Published on 7 September 2020. Available at: <https://redtdt.org.mx/?p=15897>

xxviii] Migrant Shelters - Communiqué. Available at: [http://caravanamigrante.iberomex.org/uploads/monitoreos\\_pdf/ac3decc439c88651020b55bf9d20a6b9.pdf](http://caravanamigrante.iberomex.org/uploads/monitoreos_pdf/ac3decc439c88651020b55bf9d20a6b9.pdf), last accessed 20 October 2020.

xxix] Secretariat of the Interior and National Search Commission. Search and Identification of Missing Persons (closed on 30 September 2020). Available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/kq8j85pley0worr/Presentaci%C3%B3n%20B%C3%BAsqueda%20e%20Identificaci%C3%B3n-%20Medios.pdf?dl=0>. Pages 7 and 8.

