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MEXIKO

Datum

**Disappeared and missing persons and their families**

Dear Minister of the Interior,

I am greatly concerned that the number of disappeared and missing persons in Mexico has increased dramatically in recent years, and that those looking for answers are being threatened and vilified.

The National Register of Missing and Disappeared Persons (RNPDNO) reports 116,386 “disappeared and missing” persons up to August 8, 2024. Since the authorities rarely investigate these cases, there is a people-powered movement looking for their missing loved ones. Most of them are women, who lead searches and make sure the stories of the disappeared are heard. In the worst cases, this even leads to killings. Between 2019 and 2024, 16 searchers were killed for their human rights work, 13 of which were women. Likewise, one women searcher was disappeared.

I therefore urge you to take all necessary steps to ensure justice, truth and reparation for those missing and/or forcibly disappeared and their loved ones. Please make sure women searchers are recognised as human rights defenders and are adequately protected so that they can carry out their search for the disappeared without fear of reprisals. Lastly, I urge you to investigate all cases of enforced disappearance and hold all those suspected of criminal responsibility to account.

Yours sincerely,