



San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, México
June 16, 2013

International Day in Support of Torture Victims

On June 26th 1997, the United Nations established that each year will commemorate the International Day in Support of Torture Victims to overlook the total eradication of torture and the effective implementation of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane, and Degrading treatment.

The commemoration of this date serves to reaffirm that there is no circumstance justifying the use of torture, cruel, inhumane, or any degrading treatment, but also to remember that in Mexico torture continues to be a reality and is far from being eradicated.

Despite the various recommendations to the Mexican State of mechanisms and procedures from the United Nations for the eradication of such behavior, this type of arbitrary detention is being used systematically in our country. This brings great risk for detainees to suffer torture and generates barriers to defense and the determination of the legal status of the person being detained.

Acts of torture, cruel treatment, and punishment have become a "normal" practice and accepted by authorities, the justice and the prison system in Chiapas. This practice is also tolerated by the Executive Committee of Chiapas as it was with the appointment of the Secretary of Security and Civil Protection of the State of Chiapas that has also been linked with acts of torture by human rights agencies at national and local levels.

Torture survivors who are willing to report such atrocities find themselves under a justice system that is incapable of giving them adequate protection and support. This situation means that most of the complaints filed with the Public Ministry may never come to light and therefore, may go unpunished.

Torture does not only affect the victim, but also the victim's spouse, family, work, studies, community, and the organization to which he or she belongs.

Torture becomes a form of social control; therefore, its eradication and elimination is paramount. Despite fears towards state forces, torture survivors must denounce these crimes against humanity.

Despite constitutional and judicial reforms on human rights, torture is still a preferred method of police investigation.

In Mexico, the elimination of torture is not a priority despite the federal and state government dialogues. We hope that within the next Periodic Universal Review, the Mexican government will accept the recommendations on these issues to take drastic steps to protect torture victims.

Association of Christians for the Abolition of Torture - ACAT - France
World Organization Against Torture
PAX CHRISTI INTERNATIONAL PCI

Amnesty International - Group Chiapas Human Rights Center Fray Bartolome de Las Casas, BC - Frayba Human Rights Center Digna Ochoa, AC - Digna Ochoa CDH Collective Education for Peace and Human Rights AC - AC CEPAZDH

Chiapas Peace Network, comprised of 10 civil society organizations from Chiapas: Center for Chiapas Women's Rights, AC (CDMCH) Indigenous Rights Center, AC (CEDIAC), Centre for Human Rights Fray Bartolome de Las Casas, AC (Frayba), Human Rights Committee Fray Pedro Lorenzo of Nothing, AC (CDHFPLN) Support Commission and Community Reconciliation Unit, AC (CORECO), Development Economic and Social Development of Indigenous Mexicans, AC (Desmi), Education for Peace, AC (EDUPAZ) Communication and Training, AC (LINK CC), International Service for Peace (SIPAZ) and Service & Advice Peace for the AC (SERAPAZ)

National Network of Civil Human Rights "All Rights for All" made up of 73 organizations in 20 states of the Mexican Republic