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Mexico is currently suffering a crisis of violence and impunity. This crisis started with the deployment of thousands of soldiers to combat organized crime in December 2006. In the course of this deployment, murder, torture and enforced disappearances have been perpetrated by the security forces as well as drug trafficking organizations, without accountability. Since 2006, the Armed Forces do not simply act in support of civil authorities, but also perform tasks that should be exclusive to civil forces.

The intensity of these violations and patterns of their commission are not isolated acts but rather widespread and systematic in nature, and committed pursuant to plans and policies of State organs as well as of drug trafficking organizations. This conclusion is based on the information gathered from victims and other witnesses' accounts as well as on official data from Mexican authorities. The on-going situation of drug related violence in Mexico since 2007 has reached a sufficient level of intensity between organised armed parties, and therefore amounts to a non-international armed conflict.

From 2007 until 2017, almost 200,000 murders were registered in total in Mexico, most of which are attributed to drug-related violence. In fact, the murder figures were rising as the government deployed new military contingents across the country. The militarisation in Mexico therefore, also influenced the level of violence. On the other hand, torture is systematically used in detention as a means of punishment, investigation or to obtain confessions by the police or the armed forces in Mexico. Over 9,000 criminal investigations for the crime of torture have been carried out since December 2006, however only 16 convictions have been issued for this crime. In terms of forced disappearance, impunity is also almost absolute. From the more of 37,000 disappeared persons registered, only 9 convictions have been issued. In addition, the Office of the Attorney General (PGR) has identified 201 clandestine graves with 662 bodies from 2006 to 2015.

Practically all of the serious human rights violations remain in absolute impunity. The Mexican government has failed to ensure accountability for atrocity crimes, primarily due to political obstruction. Impunity is a loud signal that crimes against humanity are being committed in the country.

This is why Mexico needs a package of public policy measures to break the impunity and enable access to justice, truth and reparation to victims. In view of Mexico's new government commitment on implementing in the country a process of transitional justice and peace, a wide group of victims and NGOs believe that this can be done through the establishment of an International Mechanism against Impunity, under the auspices of the United Nations, and a Truth Commission.

Mexico, more now than ever, needs from the international cooperation to revert impunity of the atrocity crimes. We hope that under the complementarity principle, the International Criminal Court (ICC) can support our country to genuinely investigate and prosecute international crimes committed in Mexico in the last 12 years.