



Comunicado Comité de Expertas

Committee of Experts expresses concern over the disappearances that have taken place in Nuevo León, Mexico

Washington, DC, April 20, 2022. The Committee [of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism of the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women](#) "Convention of Belém do Pará" (MESECVI) expresses its concern about the recent cases of disappearances of women, adolescents, and younger girls that have occurred in Nuevo León, Mexico.

According to information from the Secretariat of Home Office of Nuevo León, from January 1st to May 13th, 2022, 376 women were reported missing, of which 52 women (13.83% of the total) remain missing and not located, six (1.85%) were found dead and 318 (98.15%) alive. The National Search Commission of Nuevo León has indicated that from March 15th to April 15th, there were reports of 108 missing women, of which 102 were located.

This information is indicative of the need to reinforce the exercise of due diligence to prevent, exhaustively investigate, punish, and repair each of the reported events. A clear example of this situation has been highlighted by the media that have exposed the deficiencies in the search for eighteen-year-old Debanhi Escobar Bazaldúa, who disappeared for thirteen days. A search involving the entire community was mobilized, with the support of the federal authorities, and she was later found lifeless inside a cistern, with a strong blow to the head, in the town of Escobedo, Nuevo León.

It is relevant to mention that, according to information provided by the State, federal authorities have worked in a coordinated manner with local institutions, in particular, the Government of Nuevo León, the Attorney General's Office, and the State Commission for Attention to Victims of Nuevo León, so that the family of Debanhi Escobar Bazaldúa has access to comprehensive care, and local and federal legal representation for the follow-up of the investigation. Likewise, to provide a coordinated response to the disappearances of women in Nuevo León, the Federation agreed, among other measures, to support the training of search police officers with a gender

perspective, and the creation of a context unit with a differentiated focus on the disappearance of younger girls, adolescents, and women.

In this regard, the Committee expresses its most sincere condolences to the family of Debahni Escobar Bazaldúa, and to the rest of the families of Nuevo León, Mexico, who are going through this tragedy. It further underscores that Article 7 of the Belém do Pará Convention establishes the obligation of States to act with due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women; as well as the need to take all appropriate measures to modify legal or customary practices that support the persistence or tolerance of violence against women.

In this sense, the Committee of Experts reiterates what is established in its [General Recommendation No. 2 on Missing Women and Girls in the Hemisphere](#), which, in accordance with Articles 7b and 8 of the Belém do Pará Convention, establishes the obligation to States to: *“[A]dopt all necessary measures to prevent, in a general and special manner, the disappearance of women and girls; investigate, punish and eradicate this form of violence both when it is committed by individuals and when it is forced; monitor judicial obstacles that prevent women, family members and/or acquaintances from obtaining justice, and allow them, to the extent possible, to be part of the investigations and searches, taking into account their wishes and opinions in this regard”*.

The Committee also recalls the provisions of the Inter-[American Model Law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Violent Death of Women and Girls \(Femicide / Femicide\) \(hereinafter, the “Model Law”\)](#), which sets out obligations to act with due diligence in relation to cases of Femicide. This obligation also extends to international human rights instruments governing prevention policies and actions, comprehensive reparation, reinforced state protection, investigations under the highest international standards, effective judicial processes and guarantees of non-repetition for safeguarding the integrity and life of young and adolescent girls and women.

Along with this, the Committee of Experts recognizes the current efforts of the Mexican State in this regard, such as the Homologated Protocol for the Search of Persons (with a differential and intersectional approach), the National Registry of Missing Persons, and the laws on the matter, which constitute progress.

Along with this, the Committee of Experts requests the Mexican State to specifically implement all necessary actions to prevent gender-based violence against women in Nuevo León, as well as to carry out all necessary actions to ensure access to justice for the relatives of the victims providing, among other things: i) psychological and medical care not only in a crisis situation but also continuously; ii) the inclusion of the families in all stages of the investigative process including access to the case file. iii) that investigators have access to the tools needed to investigate sexual violence or any other type of gender-based violence against the victims; iv) that in seeking and administering justice relatives of the victims are not re-victimized throughout the process; v) vi) measures to ensure non-repetition are instituted; and vi) all those actions that are required to ensure a comprehensive reparation and the clarification of the truth are addressed.

The [Committee of Experts](#) is the technical body of the MESECVI, responsible for the analysis and evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention of Belém do Pará. It is made up of independent Experts, appointed by each of the States Parties from among their nationals, who perform their duties in a personal capacity.