



FOUNDERS:

Betty Williams, Ireland - 1976
Máiread Maguire, Ireland - 1976
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala - 1992
Prof. Jody Williams, USA - 1997
Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iran - 2003
Prof. Wangari Maathai, Kenya - 2004

united for peace with justice and equality

Mr. Filipe Calderon
President Of Mexico
Mexico, D.F.

Dear President Calderon:

We are writing you now about our concerns about the human rights situation in Mexico and in particular with regard to the case of San Salvador Atenco.

We recognize and appreciate the efforts that Mexico is taking regarding human rights in the country especially in the context of the current crisis the country is experiencing. We are encouraged with the past opening of and the ongoing relationship with the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights in Mexico.

Given the strides your country has taken, we request particular attention to the violations of the rights of the people of Atenco during and in the aftermath of the attack on the town on May 3-4, 2006 by more than four thousand federal and state security and police (SSPF and ASEEM).

During the attack, some 207 were taken prisoner, two youth were killed and fifty women suffered rape, sexual abuse and torture. Currently twelve men from Atenco taken during the attack remain held, in our view, as political prisoners. All were tortured, arrested without warrant and sentenced without regard to lack of evidence linking them to the charges for which they were imprisoned. The women who were so brutally assaulted also remain in a state of limbo, with no charges brought against those who assaulted them, and no restitution for what they have and continue to suffer as a result.

On 6 February 2007, the Supreme Court ordered an investigation and found that there had been gross violations of human rights in Atenco in May of 2006 and called for a broader investigation to determine those responsible.

Motivated by this decision, on 10 December 2009, the families of the prisoners, national and international organizations and the “Frente de Pueblos” asked the Supreme Court to hear the appeals and resolve the situation of the prisoners.

We have faith in the sincere desire of the government of Mexico to abide by all the laws and conventions, both national and international, regarding human rights to which it belongs. In that regard, we petition you to respond positively to the calls of the people of Atenco, which we strongly support, that the twelve political prisoners be released, that all charges against them be dropped and that all warrants against people from Atenco who have been in hiding since the attacks of 3-4 May 2006 be dropped. We also support the fifty women of Atenco in their desire for proper investigation, trial and sentencing of those who violated them be carried out and that the state pay them restitution for all they have suffered during and since May of 2006.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Mairead Maguire
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1976)

Betty Williams
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1976)

Adolfo Perez Esquivel
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1980)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1984)

Elie Wiesel
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1986)

Rigoberta Menchu Tum
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1992)

F.W. de Klerk
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1993)

Jody Williams

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1997)

John Hume

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1998)

Shirin Ebadi

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2003)

Wangari Maathai

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (2004)

cc: Alto Comisionado sobre Derechos Humanos de la ONU, Comisionado Nacional de
Derechos Humanos