



To Baroness Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs

To Ms Federica Mogherini, High Representative- designate of the EU for Foreign Affairs

To Mr Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United States of Mexico

Brussels, 10 October 2014

Dear Baroness Ashton,

Dear Ms Mogherini,

Dear Mr President Peña Nieto,

We, members of the European Parliament, are deeply shocked by the recent events in the State of Guerrero/Mexico. In the night from 26 to September 27, 2014, three students of the Escuela Rural Normal in Ayotzinapa have *allegedly* been murdered by the police in the city of Iguala. Since that night, 43 further students are missing. The 28 corpses found in mass graves nearby most probably are part of them. During the same night, at least another three people were killed by police bullets, and two trade unionists were heavily injured, among around persons wounded. One of the students killed showed signs of a most awful torture.

At this happened in the presence local and federal police, as well as the Mexican military forces, in particular the 27th infantry battalion and the 3rd battalion, a special forces unit in charge of intelligence tasks who, amongst others, have their barracks in Iguala.

The Mexican people and an appalled international community, need to urgently know where the missing students are. We want them back to their terrified families alive.

We all need to know who abducted the students and why the authorities and security forces on the ground kept a blind eye on the attacks, kidnappings and killings.

We all need to know who the 28 corpses found in mass graves are. They must be identified. Members of the Argentinian Forensic Anthropologists team, already in Iguala, need to have full support to carry out their necessary work.

We need to get full information on the reported cooperation between local authorities, police and organised crime.

We need to see investigations carried out in detail, all responsibilities established - from the intellectual authors to the material executors - legal action taken against all persons concerned, and prosecutions and sentences done according to the law.

The Mexican people have the right to be informed by their Government on the criminal structure and the truth of the alleged cooperation between authorities and organised crime, at local state and federal level, and to see concrete steps taken for their effective dismantling. The events in Guerrero are but the last in a long row of crimes which have been remained in total impunity. The Mexican society needs legal security for its future.

For all of this we, Members of the European Parliament, urge the EU High Commission for Foreign Policy and the High Commission-designate to publicly transmit this message to the Mexican Government and to ask the Government for verifiable assurances that its long standing history of almost total impunity comes to an end.

The Global Agreement, of 2000, and the Strategic Partnership, of 2008, concluded between Mexico and the European Union, ties the cooperation between both sides to the undividable respect for human rights and citizens' security, as stipulated in the human rights clause.

Therefore, we firmly believe that any modernisation of the Global Agreement, as envisaged for the coming year 2015, has to be put on hold and its objectives and areas foreseen for liberalisation need to be revised. The first and foremost duty now is to rebuild confidence in the effective implementation of human rights respect, to which the Mexican State has committed at national and international level. Organised crime has to be stopped, wherever its settles in; and loopholes have to be closed, not at least in the economic area. Spill over effects are the least desirable. Here, on both sides, the European Union and Mexico have a shared responsibility.

Dear Baroness Ashton, dear Ms Mogherini, dear Mr President, it is high time to stop impunity in Mexico. An affair of the 43 abducted Guerrero students and of the mass graves found nearby the place of abduction should never ever happen again. We urge you in each of your positions to do everything possible to support the fully clarification of the events in Iguala/Guerrero and the effective sanctioning of all persons responsible. And we firmly demand that no further step in upgrading trade relations be done, before the human rights situation in Mexico has significantly improved.

We would be very grateful, if you could keep us informed on steps taken by the authorities with respect to the clarification of the events and the prosecution of the perpetrators of the crimes committed in Iguala.

The undersigned

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