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OPEN LETTER: REQUEST FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

19 February 2020

Dear President López Obrador,

Greetings from Amnesty International. As you know, we are a global movement of more than 7 million people working to defend and promote human rights. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion.

We are writing to reiterate our willingness to meet with you to share our concerns over the grave human rights crisis that the country is facing and to share with you recommendations that we consider relevant so that your government can urgently address the claims of victims of human rights violations, their families and communities.

For decades we have reported on human rights violations that have been committed throughout various government administrations in Mexico and we have repeatedly set out recommendations as to how to put an end to this critical situation. During your electoral campaign we were pleased to receive your request for a meeting with our directors in a letter addressed to our Secretary General, dated 19 April 2018, and signed by you. Following your inauguration, we contacted your office to request a meeting in an official letter with reference TG AMR 41/2019/028 sent on 7 November 2019. Unfortunately, this has yet to be arranged.

We believe, President López Obrador, that the critical state of human rights in Mexico requires a powerful response from the highest levels of government coming explicitly from the president as the head of state. During your time as president, Amnesty International has recorded some specific progress on human rights issues, particularly acknowledging the institutional efforts that have been made in relation to the crisis of disappeared persons.

However, we are increasingly concerned about the escalation of the human rights crisis in terms of other issues that have not been adequately addressed by the authorities, in particular issues such as: the militarization of public security tasks; the right to seek asylum; the grave epidemic of femicides and gender-based violence; the grave violence faced by human rights defenders and journalists; Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the widespread use of torture, among other critical issues for the national agenda.

Human rights violations remain a reality of daily life for thousands of people in Mexico, and comprehensive and adequate measures have not been successfully taken in response. In fact, we believe that some of the measures that your government has taken to date may have exacerbated the crisis.

In our opinion, Mr President, the aforementioned is a matter of urgency that calls for – more than ever – a rapprochement between government and civil society to allow for the development of joint strategies. In this regard, the purpose of this letter is to reiterate our interest in establishing a direct dialogue and to once again request a meeting as soon as possible in order to discuss possible solutions to the human rights crisis that we are experiencing in Mexico.

Yours sincerely,

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