



LASALLECUNMUN

LASALLECUNMUN 2024

INTERPOL

(International Criminal
Police Organization)

“The Ayotzinapa Case:
Enhancing International
Cooperation to Bring Justice
and
Accountability”

Background Guide



INTERPOL



Dear representations,

It is a pleasure to have you as representations in this model's committee, LASALLECUNMUN 2024. My name is Kevin Enrique Moguel Triay, and this year I have the honor to be part of the chair as the president of the International Criminal Police Organization. The rest of the chair is comprised of Ana Lucia Larrache Celis as the moderator, and Ana Lucia Torresbaca Cruz as the conference officer.

I am currently 17 years old and in the fifth semester of high school at the Universidad La Salle Cancun, to be precise in Economic-Administrative, though I still do not know what I want to study. If you are as lost as me, I recommend you choose this area because it has the most practical subjects to prepare for the future. For you to know me a little more my favorite movie is Pitch Perfect, my favorite singer is Yuridia (I have the soul of a 40-year-old divorced lady), and my most listened-to song on Spotify is Chulo pt.2, I also enjoy playing Brawl Stars and eating Italian food. This is my third year participating in MUN as part of the chair, but the first participating as president, which I am quite nervous about but at the time I feel calm knowing that 2 of my best friends are part of the chair. If someone asks me what I like about MUN, I will say that this feeling of satisfaction at the end of the debate when everything the chair worked hard for comes to an end satisfactorily as the whole debate flowed as planned and watching the delegates working hand in hand to give a positive solution to a worldwide problematic, it just gives me chills.

I am very intrigued to know how you will manage to find a solution to this problem in our country that has impacted us since that night of September 26, 2014, and I am pretty sure that we will learn a lot from this experience. Remember to take this seriously since this is a delicate topic and unfortunately, people disappear every day in our country. I know each of you will do very well and if you have any questions, please do not be ashamed to ask me. We are the future of Mexico, and little actions can make a big difference.

Best wishes,

Kevin Moguel

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is an inter-governmental organization. It has 195 member countries, and it helps police in all of them to work together to make the world a safer place. To do this, it enables them to share and access data on crimes and criminals, and it offers a range of technical and operational support.

It enables police to work directly with their counterparts, even between countries which do not have diplomatic relations. All their actions are politically neutral and taken within the limits of existing laws in different countries.

Topic: “The Ayotzinapa Case: Enhancing International Cooperation to Bring Justice and Accountability”

INTRODUCTION

Between the night of September 26 and the morning of September 27, 2014, a series of violent events took place in Iguala Guerrero, resulting in the disappearance of 43 students.

The General Prosecutor of Mexico, Jesus Murillo Karam, released the infamous “historical truth” on January 27, 2015, according to this version, a drug cartel, Guerreros Unidos, executed these students who were traveling to Mexico City for the commemoration of the massacre of the students of Tlatelolco in 1968.

A December 4, 2018, presidential decree created the Truth Commission for the Truth of the Ayotzinapa Case (COVAJ).

On August 18, 2022, the COVAJ presidency’s report confirmed it was a crime of the State.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Guerra Sucia, or "Dirty War," in the 1980s marked the beginning of Mexico's history of enforced disappearances by security forces, which is still strong today with the "War against drugs" that started in 2006. But the country's current president has formed the first truth commission to investigate the case of the 43 Ayotzinapa students from the “Raúl Isidro Burgos” Normal School of Ayotzinapa.

These 43 students disappeared in Iguala, Guerrero, between the night of September 26 and the morning of September 27, 2014. These students were taking buses to Mexico City, where they would participate in the 1968 Tlatelolco student massacre anniversary. In Iguala, Guerrero, the Federal Police stopped the normalistas on a highway; soon after, the police opened fire against them. Although the real cause of the violent encounter remains unknown, the GIEI, “Grupo Interdisciplinario de Expertos Independientes”, came up with a hypothesis: Guerreros Unidos, a drug cartel, may have utilized some of the buses to transport drugs. During the attack, police executed six people, more than 40 were injured, and 43 students disappeared.

The “historical truth”, which was the product of the investigation by the General Prosecutor of Mexico, Jesus Murillo Karam, was released on January 27, 2015, and according to this version, Guerreros Unidos, a drug cartel, executed and burned the bodies of the normalistas in a municipal dump. President Enrique Peña Nieto’s administration sought to conclude the case by fabricating this false version of events.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, met victims and their representatives on October 5, 2015, during his visit to Mexico, to express his support. Beginning in early 2015, the OHCHR repeatedly brought concerns related to violations of human rights. Furthermore, on September 6, 2016, the OHCHR formally communicated these concerns to the OAG's Internal Oversight Office (Visitaduría General), which is the internal investigative body tasked with addressing the irregularities committed by OAG employees in the case.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged that his government would take the required actions to bring truth and justice to the families after a federal court in May 2018 found that the criminal investigation had not been effective. The court also ordered the establishment of a truth and justice commission for the case. In December 2018, the president established the Commission for Truth and Access to Justice in the Ayotzinapa case.

CURRENT SITUATION

Marches, protests, and demonstrations have taken place in dozens of cities worldwide to call for justice in the case of the 43 student normalistas who disappeared in Ayotzinapa. Countries from America, such as Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Cuba, Bolivia, Puerto Rico, and the United States; from Europe, like England, Denmark, Austria, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Italy, and Spain; and from Asia, including China and India, thousands of students have come out to express solidarity with the situation in Mexico by gathering outside embassies and consulates, as well as in famous monuments and schools.

In a report released on August 18, 2022, the Commission for Truth and Access to Justice in the Ayotzinapa case, confirmed that what happened in Iguala, Guerrero, was a crime of the State. Additionally, 83 more arrest warrants have been obtained in connection with the case, according to the National Prosecutor's Office (Fiscalía General de la República, FGR).

Additionally, the report emphasizes that during the time of the events, both SEDENA and CISEN were intercepting communications between members of the criminal organization Guerreros Unidos and local authorities.

The COVAJ presidency concludes that the 43 students were transported to various locations in various groups with the assistance of several actors, in contrast to the "historic truth" (which states that all the students were brought to the Cocula landfill, burned, and their remains were thrown into a river). The report concludes that, since there is no proof that any of the 43 students are still alive, the search must go on in the different municipalities of Guerrero in the hopes of locating and identifying the remaining students (so far, only three have been identified).

The United States is providing more information to help in the case's resolution. This action comes in response to a request made by López Obrador to U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris in May 2021. The report notes that U.S. authorities have sent the UEILCA [Special Investigation and Litigation Unit for the Ayotzinapa Case of the FGR] additional evidence from their investigation of the Guerreros Unidos criminal group's activities in the United States, including records of communications around the dates of the student's disappearance.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) encourages the authorities to implement all the recommendations of the GIEI, to achieve progress in justice, truth, and the rights of victims, and to generate a substantial contribution to the criminal justice system, especially in cases of human rights violations in Mexico. The best way to honor the invaluable work of the GIEI is to implement its recommendations.

The OHCHR will follow closely the results of the investigations and other actions taken by the State and reiterates its firm commitment to continue accompanying the case alongside the families and other interested social and institutional actors in its full clarification through its assistance and cooperation based on dialogue and direct dialogue.

The 2nd Report of the Presidency of the Commission for Truth and Access to Justice of the Ayotzinapa Case of September 2023, concluded that:

- At all times the federal, state, and municipal authorities were aware of the mobilization of the students from their departure from the Rural Normal "Raúl Isidro Burgos" of Ayotzinapa until their disappearance, and their actions, omissions, and participation led to the disappearance and execution of the students, as well as the murder of six others.
- The criminal group acted with many hitmen and hawks, from a central command and at least three criminal cells, with the support of different municipal police and state agents.
- There are sufficient elements to presume that facts, evidence, and circumstances were altered to create a conclusion alien to the truth.
- There was a bond and agreement between "Guerreros Unidos" and the municipal police of Iguala, Cocula, Tepecoacuilco, and Huitzuco; the State Ministerial Police; the federal police; as well as elements of the Mexican army.
- To date, three of the 43 missing students have been identified: Christian Alfonso Rodríguez Telumbre, Jhosivani Guerrero de la Cruz, and Alexander Mora Venancio.
- There is no indication that the students are alive. On the contrary, all statements, testimonies, and evidence indicate that they were deprived of life and disappeared.
- There are three possible causes for the disappearance of students:
 1. Confusion in "Guerreros Unidos" Regarding the alleged infiltration of the cartel "los Rojos" among the students of Ayotzinapa, in the context of the dispute for the square of Iguala.
 2. To punish the students in the context of threats by Mayor José "N" and "Guerreros Unidos", after the protests and burning of the municipal palace of Iguala, for the disappearance and murder of social leaders Arturo "N", Ángel "N" and Félix "N".
 3. The traffic of drugs and the possible presence of drugs, weapons, or money in any of the taken buses.

- The "historical truth" was a construction by the Mexican State to "socially legitimate the truth of the facts".

The government of Mexico is continuing its investigations to find the whereabouts of the students, using all the instruments of the State, and doing what is humanly possible to reach it.

COUNTRY BOX

Argentine Republic
Eastern Republic of Uruguay
Federative Republic of Brazil
French Republic
Italian Republic
Kingdom of Denmark
Kingdom of Spain
Kingdom of Sweden
Kingdom of The Netherlands
Plurinational State of Bolivia
Republic of Austria
Republic of Chile
Republic of Cuba
Republic of El Salvador
Republic of India Republic
of Paraguay
Republic of Peru
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Mexican States
United States of America

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- I. What has your country done to help to find the truth about the Ayotzinapa case?
- II. Have there been any similar cases in your country? If so, how did they solve it?
- III. According to the laws of your country, what actions do you propose to find the truth and end the case of Ayotzinapa?

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