



WE ARE CMDPDH “La Comi”



CMDPDH

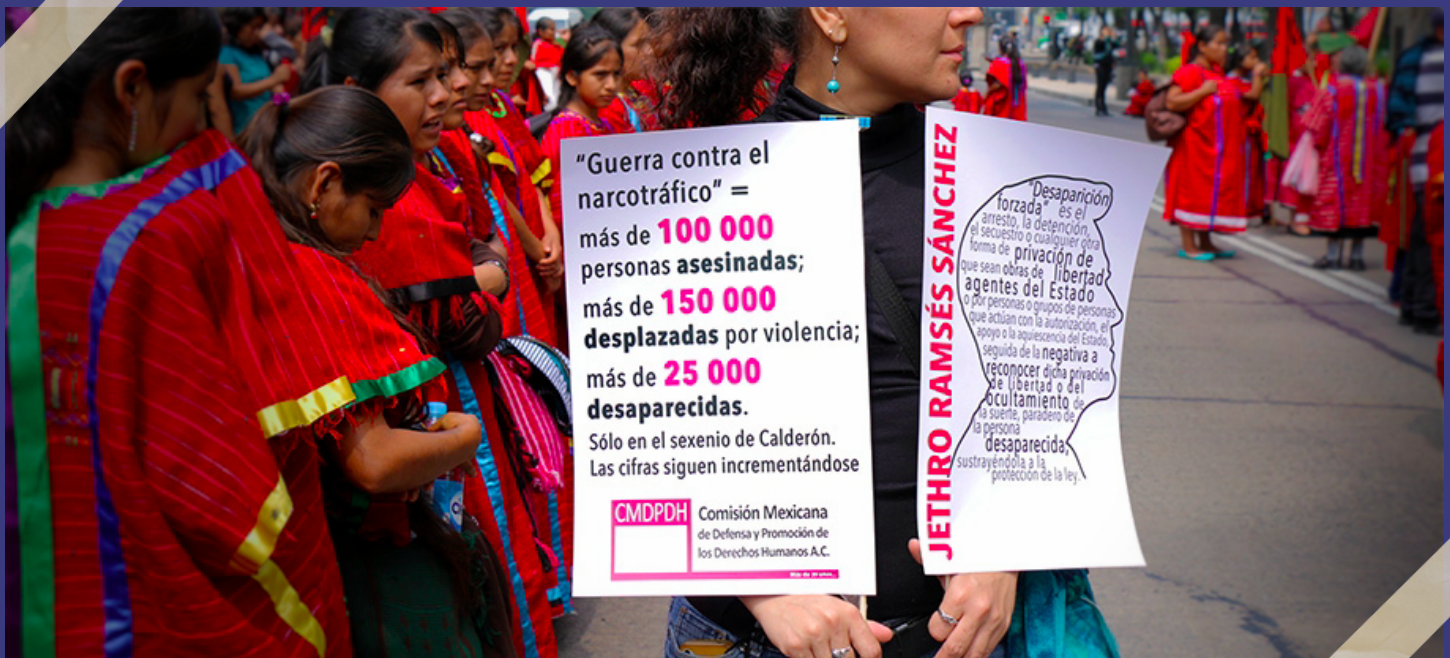
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y
Promoción de los Derechos Humanos



Who we are?

The Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) is a civil society organization founded in 1989 for the defense of victims of serious human rights violations including forced disappearance, torture, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial, executions, forced internal displacement; and asylum seekers in Mexico. Our work focuses on eradicating the causes that produce such violations through legal, psychosocial, research, advocacy and communication strategies, to build a just and equal society without impunity.

The CMDPDH has consultative status with the Organization of American States and the United Nations. It is a member of the International Federation for Human Rights.





PROGRAMMATIC UNITS

THEMATIC AREAS



ADVOCACY

+

ASYLUM SEEKERS

+

COMMUNICATION

+

FORCED INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENT

+

INTEGRAL DEFENSE

+

RESEARCH

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

FEMICIDE

TORTURE AND SEXUAL
TORTURE

MILITARIZATION

IMPUNITY

ARMSTRADE

EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION

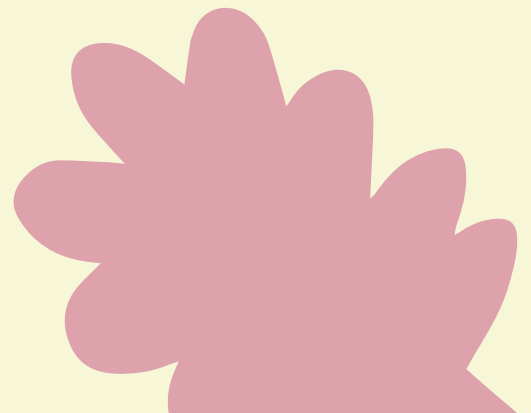
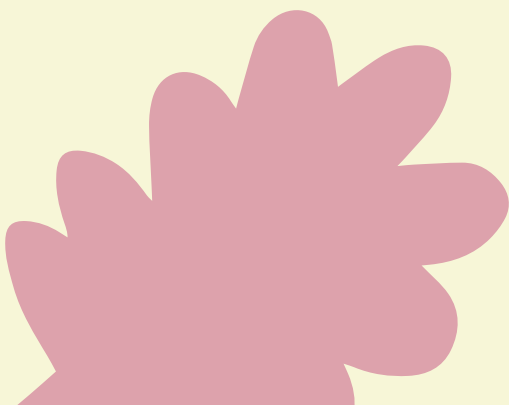
FORCED INTERNAL
DISPLACEMENT

ASYLUM SEEKERS

DRUG USE

GENDER - BASED
VIOLENCE

HUMAN RIGHTS
DEFENDERS



Violence against women

The CMDPDH is one of the founding organizations of the Citizens' National Observatory of Femicide (OCNF), a network comprised of 49 organizations in 18 states.

The CMDPDH has also documented the greater occurrence of arbitrary

and sexual torture of women by the Armed Forces. Since the beginning of the security strategy implemented from 2006 to September 2022, 20,148 women have disappeared, the majority of whom are between 15 and 19 years of age.

#9N case



On November 9, 2020, close to 80 municipal police officers in Cancun, Quintana Roo, opened fire to disperse and punish a feminist demonstration demanding justice for the femicide of Bianca Alejandrina Lorenzana Alvarado, as well as the alarming number of femicides perpetrated in Quintana Roo and nationally. The victims were arbitrarily detained, threatened and sexually tortured by the police. In 2021, our organization assumed the legal representation of the Victims' Committee of #9N.

Arbitrary detention

GONZALEZ PEREZ SISTERS

On June 4th 1994, the González Pérez sisters, indigenous women, were detained illegally and arbitrarily at a military checkpoint in Altamirano, Chiapas. They were accused of being part of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation, and were victims of sexual torture, arbitrary detention and beatings by armed forces. 26 years later, the Mexican State owes the victims access to justice and has not fulfilled the recommendations issued by the IACHR.



Femicides

SILVIA ARCE



(1998)

PALOMA ESCOBAR



(2002)

BENAZIR SARA



(2005)

Enforced disappearance

The integral defense area of the CMDPDH represents a number of paradigmatic cases through strategic litigation. The Commission is responsible for providing comprehensive accompaniment to direct or indirect victims of serious human rights violations in order to repair the damage, punish those responsible and uncover the truth. We have accompanied cases of various waves of disappearances from the Dirty War of the 1960s and 1970s to the current crisis of missing persons produced by the Mexican War on Drugs.



MIGUEL ORLANDO MUÑOZ (2009)



LUIS ÁNGEL LEÓN (2009)



JORGE ANTONIO PARRAL (2010)



DANIEL RAMOS ALFARO (2013)

Today, there are still more than
100,000 people unaccounted for in Mexico.

Rosendo Radilla case (1974)

Radilla was a beloved social leader before becoming municipal president of Atoyac de Álvarez, Guerrero. His demands regarding land distribution turned him into a persona non grata for the government. He was a victim of enforced disappearance in the context of the Dirty War.

Among the most notable achievements of the CMDPDH in the Rosendo Radilla case are: **the reform of the military code** so that cases of human rights violations involving civilians are resolved in civilian jurisdiction –not in military jurisdiction– and the promotion of the establishment of **criteria for the interpretation of human rights**, which culminated in the approval of a **constitutional reform in 2011 granting constitutional status to human rights contained in international treaties**. Our efforts also contributed to the resolution of the **Inter-American Court of Human Rights against the Mexican State**.



Arms trafficking & gun violence

The CMDPDH conducts research and advocacy, in cooperation with regional and local organizations, on the Mexican Ministry of Defense's monopoly of arms acquisition and distribution; and its implications in human rights violations and violence in Mexico.

In the reports 'Invisible Weapons, Indelible Pain' (2021) and 'Deadly Trade' (2020), the CMDPDH presents data-backed information on the effects of arms exports from the United States, Europe, and Israel to Mexico; showing the difficulties of accessing data on an issue that is of vital public importance: gun trade. **There is wide consensus that both Mexico and USA face humanitarian crises, as a result of gun violence and the proliferation and lack of civilian controls on weapons.** The documents explore the clear relationship between militarization, arms trade, corruption, lack of transparency, impunity, and violence. Moreover, they offer a series of urgent public policy recommendations for the countries, highlighting the need for transparency, advocacy and transversalization of an intersectional perspective in the analysis.



Torture and violence by the authorities

The report 'Concealing Torture' (2020) consists of an analysis of 54 cases of torture that reveal the **complicity of the forensic experts of the Attorney General's Office and the misuse of the Istanbul Protocol in Mexico**. Breaking the cycle of impunity for torture depends on effective investigation and documentation. Careful medical and psychological assessments can provide powerful forensic evidence to corroborate allegations of torture and ill treatment that can serve as key evidence to prosecute perpetrators of torture, to help victims obtain redress in civil courts, and to provide evidence to end the use of torture.

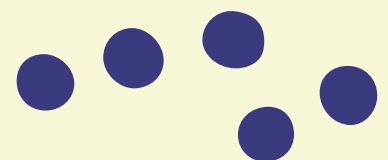
The report 'Amid Brutality and Impunity' (2020) demonstrates the **operational patterns exercised by authorities** in the torture, forced disappearance and assassination of civilians between 2006-2019 and names the authorities discovered to be primarily responsible for the perpetration of these crimes. The CMDPDH used the I-Doc tool to document and systematize 301 cases of serious crimes as recounted in 268 recommendations issued by the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH).



Forced international displacement

The CMDPDH's relentless work on the subject of Forced Internal Displacement has **brought about the recognition of the issue in the country.** The work of the Forced Internal Displacement Unit is now supported by the UNHCR and JIPS.

Since 2014, the Commission has conducted **ongoing media monitoring to identify and systematise events of mass displacement caused by violence at a national level;** providing information on the causes and context of the displacements, the prevalence of violence, movement patterns, sociodemographic characteristics, places of origin and destinations, and the governmental responses. This has served as a foundation to produce an annual estimate of the number of internally displaced people and to bring visibility to the issue with the aim of garnering support and recognition for the victims. Since 2016, the CMDPDH's figures constitute the basis for the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center (IDMC) figure for violence and conflict induced displacements in Mexico in its annual Global Report on Internal Displacement.



Asylum seekers

Mexico is one of the largest migration corridors in the world; and is used by a miscellaneous group composed by people in search of better economic conditions, persecution, or are fleeing threats to their lives or freedoms in their home countries; they are particularly vulnerable to violence and humanrights violations.

The Asylum Seekers Unit, supported by the UNHCR, provides **legal support, advice and orientation to several migrants and asylum seekers** in different parts of the country. The work includes support with different application processes such as the recognition of refugee status and precautionary measures; international protection of migrant persons with migration alerts and protection of children and adolescents in the detention centers.

The CMDPDH creates **important legal precedents** in the protection of migrants and asylum seekers in Mexico and **achieves significant steps in individual cases**. We have prepared several amicus curiae briefs for the Supreme Court of Justice and Inter-American Court on Human Rights regarding the detention of migrants.



Context & militarization

Violence in Mexico has reached historical levels since the Mexican government decided to deploy the armed forces to combat criminal groups in the “Mexican war on drugs” (2006).

Public security has since been militarized, generating a national security crisis and countless serious human rights violations. Sixteen years later and after the deployment of the National Guard –a public security body constitutionally civilian in nature that has since been incorporated into the Ministry of Defense– **the current government still insists that militarization is the solution.**

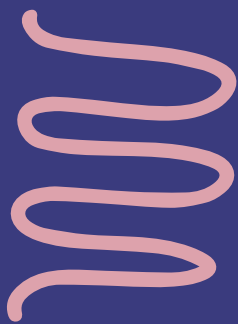
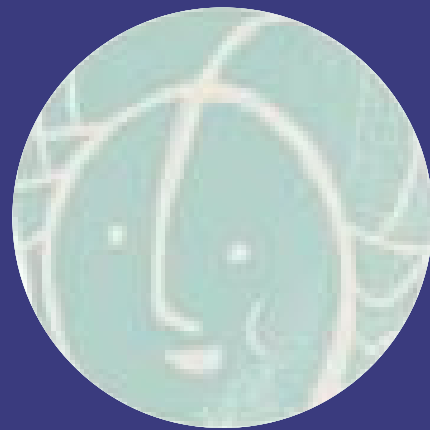


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Our proposal

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ntersectional research with gender perspective must be conducted for a true measure of the differential impacts of the militarized security strategy. This research combined with impact litigation and advocacy using novel strategies at the national and international level has the ability to foster effective public policy and act as a hamper on further militarization of the country and prevent other serious violations of human rights.

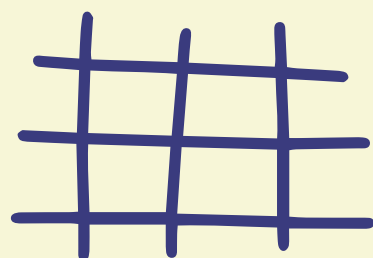




Specific activities

- Research involving official data and secondary sources (complemented by media and academic resources) on crimes and serious human rights violations, with gender perspective and intersectional approach (considering sex, age, indigenous origins, disability, nationality, migration status, etc.) from 2006 to 2022 in Mexico. Analysis of information requests submitted to institutions and local and federal authorities, emphasizing their methodology, systematization and use of demographic indicators.
- Publication of findings in a report that shows: a) the differentiated negative effects that militarization has on the population given their gender and other socio-demographic variables; and b) an evaluation of the way in which Mexican institutions gather and systematize data on victims of serious crimes and human rights violations. The report will include recommendations for institutions to improve their information management.
- Selection as a result of this analysis of two individual cases of relevant human rights violations with the purpose of sending relevant information to accountability mechanisms for sanctioning perpetrators (Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and 7031(c) DoS, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act).
- Organization of a public national forum with experts to debate the report's findings and recommendations.
- Submission of the report will to relevant institutions with a specific set of recommendations (both from the report and the forum), with the purpose of improving the management and systematization of the data of human rights violations; the recommendations will emphasize the gender perspective and intersectional approaches, highlighting the need for such data to foster better understanding of the issues and necessary public policies.
- Offer of technical assistance to authorities, and invitation to sign collaboration agreements for creating, assessing and improving public policies according to the recommendations.

- Delivery of training on criminal investigation with gender perspective to at least two offices of local prosecution and police authorities. Trainings will include: theoretical and contextual aspects of gender-based violence, national and international legal frameworks on the human rights of women (including standards and jurisprudence derived from CEDAW and Belém Do Pará Conventions); international standards on access to justice; and justice with gender perspective (including on CEDAW's General Recommendation 33)



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE
COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES
BETWEEN US!**

