

A New Hope for Mexico

Saying No to Corruption,
Violence, and Trump's Wall

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¡Oye, Trump! Speech 8

The Silent Complicity of Peña Nieto's Administration

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Following my meeting with migrants in New York, we had scheduled an interview with the United Nation's High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations. The meeting was postponed due to a winter storm but we still managed to deliver a formal letter of complaint to his office condemning discrimination against the Mexican people and the orders issued by Donald Trump to begin construction of the border wall and widen persecution of migrants more generally.

This complaint should have been presented by the Mexican government the moment those arbitrary measures, which violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which all nations, including the US, are signatories, were taken. However, Peña Nieto's regime, lacking political and moral authority, permitted this affront to our people to go unchallenged.

The letter reads as follows:

Mr. Andrew Gilmour,

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dear Sir,

As the whole world is aware, the people of Mexico face a grave economic crisis as well as instability and violence.

This has resulted from the imposition of the neoliberal model derived from the so-called "Washington Consensus." Since that time, a small group of Mexicans and foreigners have dedicated themselves to pillaging the resources of Mexico and depriving the vast majority of the Mexican people of what is rightfully theirs, and thereby denying them any meaningful future.

This greedy minority cares nothing for the development of our country. The government—which exists to serve to serve the

people—has created widespread poverty. Government support for our rural areas ceased; jobs were no longer created, and our young people were neglected. They have been deprived of the right to education and work. This explains, in large part, the widespread resentment and violence that has plagued my country for many years.

Faced with this crisis, and lacking any other options, millions of Mexicans have undertaken an exhausting and painful journey through the desert to cross the border into the United States in the hopes of making an honest living there.

Millions of Mexicans have been driven from our country due to privatization and unemployment. They migrated to lessen their hunger and poverty, and now face a climate of hatred and discrimination disseminated during the campaign of president Donald Trump.

The plans to construct a border wall and persecute migrants in this country are in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights—fundamental documents signed by members of the UN, including the United States of America.

Based on the above, and given Enrique Peña Nieto's failure to act in the face of these threats, we have come to present this complaint and ask you to condemn the United States and call upon them to cease violating human rights and practicing racial discrimination.

We must not forget that that titan of liberty, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a champion and co-creator of the UN, proclaimed the four fundamental principles that went on to be codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to life, and the right to safety.

It's pertinent to contrast these four principles with the massive reversals in human rights spawned by Trump's politics of hate and chauvinism.

All human beings must raise their voices and confront racism, segregation, authoritarianism, and its most sinister expression of our time, neo-fascism.

The Statue of Liberty must not be an empty symbol, nor must the UN be a mere bureaucratic apparatus in a beautiful glass building.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador
National President of MORENA

On March 15, 2017, we arrived in Washington to formalize the complaint before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The complaint, drafted by lawyer Netzaí Sandoval Ballesteros, was signed by more than eleven million Mexican and American citizens from all walks of life, religions, and ideologies including Father Alejandro Solalinde, the Mexican activist Nestora Salgado, the author Elena Poniatowska, the philosopher Enrique Dussel, the attorneys Marco A. Palau and John Burroughs, and a wide range of prominent academics.

The complaint seeks to challenge two executive orders issued on January 25, 2017, by President Trump, one titled "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States" and the other "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements." We believe that these orders violate the presumption of innocence, disregard the right to asylum, ignore due process, and omit protections relevant to child migrants. They are discriminatory, equating grave crimes with minor offenses; they uphold the collective expulsion of foreigners without examining the specific circumstances in each case; and they trample over the concept of *jus cogens* (a principle of international law that is so fundamental that it binds all states and does not allow any for exceptions).

Additionally, these orders open the door to all foreigners being viewed as potentially deportable, whether or not they have been accused of a crime. Mere suspicion of any wrongdoing is now sufficient for immigration officers to take action.

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The authority to which we are appealing has had jurisdiction over such matters since 1959 and can take decisive action if it chooses to. The United States of America is subject to its obligations under the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man according to the Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as set out in Articles 20 and 51.

In the past, the Mexican State has been proactive in securing the protection of its people, for example, by asserting their right to consular assistance. For this reason, we have initiated lawsuits before the International Court of Justice and sought advisory opinions from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Faced with the passive and ineffective response of the Mexican government, we, independent citizens of both Mexico and the United States, have made the decision to defend the rights of migrants from Mexico and all over the world.