

MESSAGE FROM THE MEXICAN EPISCOPATE
IN RESPONSE TO THE DISCOVERY OF AN EXTERMINATION AND TRAINING CAMP IN
TEUCHITLÁN, JALISCO: AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION

The Mexican Episcopal Conference expresses its deep indignation and sorrow over the recent discovery of a training and extermination camp run by organized crime at the Izaguirre Ranch, located in the municipality of Teuchitlán, Jalisco. This discovery, which includes clandestine crematories, represents one of the most cruel expressions of evil and human misery that we have witnessed in our country.

As pastors of the Church in Mexico:

1. We denounce with great concern the existence of many such places in our nation, which serve as sites where the most heinous crimes against humanity have been committed. These acts directly violate the sacred dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God.

2. We highlight that these discoveries expose the irresponsible omission of government authorities at all levels in addressing one of the most critical problems facing the country: the disappearance of persons. This reality demands an immediate, decisive, and coordinated response from the Mexican State.

3. We express our concern that while it is claimed that intentional homicides have decreased by 15%, the number of disappearances has increased by 40%. Unfortunately, most of these victims are our young people.

4. We recognize and commend the extraordinary work of searching mothers and various citizen organizations who, driven by their pain, courage, and tenacity, are the ones truly making progress in finding their loved ones and achieving decisive discoveries that keep the call for justice alive. Their testimony challenges us all as a society.

5. We respectfully urge the authorities to:

- Conduct a thorough investigation of these events with transparency and efficiency.
- Stop evading their responsibility or attempting to conceal this reality.
- Urgently strengthen, at all levels of government, the mechanisms for searching for and identifying missing persons.
- Implement effective policies to prevent these heinous crimes and ensure non-repetition. As a society and as a nation, we must commit to a resounding:

****NEVER AGAIN!****

- Definitively break any alliances that may exist between organized crime and certain political circles in order to free Mexico from this moral decay.

6. We offer our participation in spaces for dialogue and collaboration to address this humanitarian crisis, support the victims, and contribute to the reconstruction of the social fabric, which has been deeply wounded by these acts of extreme violence.

During this Lenten season, we invite the entire Catholic community to intensify their prayers for the missing persons and their families, to actively stand in solidarity with search collectives, and to work together for the construction of peace.

The Catholic Church in Mexico renews its commitment to be the voice of those who have no voice and to work tirelessly for the construction of a country where justice, truth, and unwavering respect for human dignity prevail.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

(Matthew 25:40)

Mexico City, March 12, Year of Our Lord 2025

+ Héctor M. Pérez Villarreal
Auxiliary Bishop of Mexico
General Secretary

+ Ramón Castro Castro
Bishop of Cuernavaca
President