

DECEMBER, 2019



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The voice of the president

The CNDH highlights the potential and work of civil society organizations to address the challenges that Mexico faces regarding human rights

DGC/468/2019

December 4, 2019

Rosario Piedra Ibarra, National Ombudsperson, held a meeting with representatives of civil society organizations from different states of the country. Previously, she listened to families of disappeared persons of several states. She expressed her solidarity and support to them, and said that actions will be developed to reinforce the work of search.

To face and solve the challenges that our country faces regarding human rights like gender violence, feminicides, school harassment, and discrimination towards indigenous peoples and communities, it is fundamental to seize the potential and daily work of civil society organizations in favor of people and sectors that live in vulnerability.

María del Rosario Piedra Ibarra, National Ombudsperson, said it at the reunion with representatives of 30 organizations of civil society from different states of the country. She reaffirmed to them the commitment of this autonomous body to work together for the protection of human rights and to address various social demands.

During the meeting, that took place in the CNDH's facility in downtown Mexico City, Piedra Ibarra noted that the institution's doors will always be opened to civil society organizations that wish to collaborate on the construction of a country more just for everyone. Different problems will be addressed to solve them like the right to adequate housing, to live in an environment free of violence, to enjoy a healthy environment, and to guarantee the right to consult of indigenous peoples and communities.

Later, the representatives of civil society stressed the importance of creating joint strategies to promote a peace culture among girls, boys, and teenagers that allow fighting school violence. Also, to design communication campaigns for preventing and eradicating violence against women, to encourage productive projects to be respectful of the environment, and to address the demands from people whose houses were damaged by the earthquakes in Oaxaca and Mexico City in 2017.

In this regard, Ileana Hidalgo Rioja, social activist citizen and advisor of the Commission of Human Rights from Mexico City affirmed the willingness of civil bodies to join the training, promotion, and dissemination work carried out by the CNDH. Likewise, to help with the designing of action programs in favor of a culture of respect for people's dignity.

Next, Armando Hernández Cruz, member of the organization Soy Asperger A.C., highlighted the willingness of the National Ombudsperson to address the concerns and demands of the civil society organizations. He asked the establishment of a direct link between the national commission and such organizations to keep the communication and to tighten the cooperation. Therefore, the President of the CNDH temporarily appointed Gerardo a Rivera Camacho to carry out such a task while she appoints the definitive person that will be in charge of the linkage with the organizations of civil society.

The voice of the president

Some of the organizations –coming from Sinaloa, Guerrero, Querétaro, and Mexico City— that attended the meeting were: Un ladrillo más en la construcción de una nueva nación; Yo soy Asperger A.C., Nuestros Amigos A.C., Mujeres Unidas por la Justicia, Fundación López de la Rosa, Instituto para el Desarrollo y Cooperación Comunitaria, Asociación Civil Despertando Conciencias, and Agencia Mexicana de Representación y Liderazgo, among others.

Previously, Rosario Piedra Ibarra welcomed families of disappeared persons from different states of the country, who expressed several concerns and asked for the support of the CNDH to determine the whereabouts of their loved ones. The National Ombudsperson after expressing to them her solidarity and support, said that various actions will be developed to reinforce the work of search and address their demands.

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COM_2019_468.pdf



Event of the month

DGC/474/2019

PRESIDENT LÓPEZ OBRADOR DELIVERS THE 2019 NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD TO INDIGENOUS DEFENDER OBTILIA EUGENIO MANUEL OF THE ME'PHAA PEOPLE

December 10, 2019

Obtilia Eugenio Manuel, who received the 2019 National Human Rights Award from Andrés Manuel López Obrador, President of the Mexico, and joined by María del Rosario Piedra Ibarra, President of the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH), talked about the grievances and human rights violations that the indigenous population has suffered, especially women from her community and emphasized that “my conscience tells me to keep fighting”.

Obtilia is a member of the organization of the Me'phaa Indigenous People (OPIM) and was born in Barranca de Guadalupe, Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero. She received from President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, such award for her remarkable career on the effective promotion and defense of fundamental human rights. The award is a medal, a diploma, and a check. Likewise, the Honorary Mention was granted (post-mortem) to Margarito Díaz González for his merit defending human rights, particularly the rights of indigenous peoples and regarding the environment.

Previously, the President of the CNDH noted that the honoree stands out for denouncing abuses committed by personnel of the Army against indigenous peoples, especially against women who have been at permanent risk because of the multiple threats they have gotten. “I have told and documented violations in the State of Guerrero, from forced sterilization of indigenous women to the massacre of El Charco, where eleven mixtecos were killed in 1998.

About the Honorary Mention, she said that was awarded (post-mortem) to Margarito Díaz González, who was representative of the Security Council of Wirikuta, defender of the environment and of the rights of the original peoples and of native languages. He also fought against the construction of La Maroma Dam and other constructions integrated in that project in the municipalities of Real de Catorce, Villa de Guadalupe, and Matehuala, in San Luis Potosí. He also was recognized for his defense of the sacred sites and the arrival of Canadian mining companies in the zone.

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/Com_2019_474.pdf



THE CNDH REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT WITH THE FAMILIES OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS AND DEMANDS AUTHORITIES TO AVOID THEIR RE-VICTIMIZATION AND TREAT THEM DECENTLY

DGC/469/2019

December 6, 2019

The National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH) reaffirms its commitment to supporting and accompanying the families of the disappeared persons and the civil society organizations on their demand for justice. The CNDH believes that it is fundamental their participation in the inquiries and localization activities. At the same time, the CNDH demands authorities to avoid their re-victimization and to provide them a decent and respectful treatment.

The only way to eradicate impunity in many cases and guaranteeing the rights of victims to truth and reparation of damage is to punish those responsible for the impunity, independently if members of organized crime or authorities are involved; it is also paramount to eradicate insecurity in some regions of the country in which people are afraid to be in the streets to do their daily basic activities.



María del Rosario Piedra Ibarra, President of the CNDH said this at the reunion with families and members of search groups of disappeared persons from different states of the country. She expressed her solidarity and accompaniment to them for their pain. She joined her voice with theirs to demand the whereabouts of their loved ones and asked them to not give up on their fight until the eradication of this scourge so they can know the truth and get the guarantee of non-repetition.

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COMUNICADO_469-2019.pdf

THE CNDH CONDEMNS THE BREAK-IN INTO THE DOMICILE OF JOURNALIST EMIR OLIVARES FROM THE NEWSPAPER LA JORNADA AND THREATS AGAINST HIM. THEREFORE, ACCOMPANIMENT WILL BE PROVIDED TO HIM DURING THE INVESTIGATION

DGC/470/2019

December 6, 2019

The National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH) condemns the break-in into the domicile of journalist Emir Olivares Alonso from the newspaper La Jornada and the threats against him today. The CNDH expresses its solidarity to him and will provide him accompaniment with deputy visitors during any necessary investigations. For this reason, personnel of the CNDH talked to him to offer attention and accompaniment. Also, the CNDH asked for information to the Mechanism for the Protection of human Rights Defenders and Journalists in order to implement the proper protection measures.

This national body learned about the break-in that Olivares Alonso suffered today. Unknown people got into his house, stole some things and threatened him.

The CNDH highlights once again that aggressions against journalists ought to be investigated and punished to prevent impunity no matter what. The CNDH will be vigilant on the progress of the inquiry.

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COM_2019_470.pdf



MARÍA DEL ROSARIO PIEDRA IBARRA, PRESIDENT OF THE CNDH, WELCOMED GRADUATES OF 32 GENERATIONS OF THE AYOTZINAPA TEACHER'S COLLEGE WHO ASKED SUPPORT TO BECOME A NATIONAL COORDINATION

DGC/477/2019

December 14, 2019

María del Rosario Piedra Ibarra, President of the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH), welcomed a commission of graduates of 32 generations of the Teacher's College "Raúl Isidro Burgos" in Ayotzinapa, who asked for the collaboration of this national body to become a National Coordination of Graduated from that Ayotzinapa college.



The meeting took place in the CNDH's office in downtown Mexico City, and the National Ombudsperson Nacional listed to the different proposals and concerns of the leaders of such organization.

Piedra Ibarra reminded that regarding the strengthening actions of the work of the organizations (OSC), the CNDH, from the very beginning has helped this kind of groups that have shown their commitment with all people on several tasks of promotion and dissemination of human rights and their protection. This support from the CNDH comes from the social vision that these organizations put in place in each one of their actions to make human dignity a priority for institutions to guarantee freedom, equity, and the recognition of fundamental rights.

Members of the Council of that national coordination like Antelma de la Cruz Clemente, Moisés Antonio González Cabañas, José Ángel Román Espinoza, and José Guadalupe Flores Cordero were present, among others.

<https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COM-477-2019.pdf>

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CNDH WELCOMES JESÚS PEÑA, ACTING DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN MEXICO

DGC/478/2019

December 16, 2019

María del Rosario Piedra Ibarra, President of the National Commission of Human Rights, welcomed Jesús Peña, Acting Deputy Representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico. Both agreed on keeping an intense and fluent dialogue over fundamental rights.

The meeting was the starting point to work on the international linkage of the CNDH, and an agenda was established with a permanent communication with the UN. Besides, different topics were attended like immigration, defense of journalists and human rights defenders, indigenous communities, among others.

The President of the CNDH highlighted the importance of the process of cooperation between the CNDH and the UN. This process has the goal of encouraging the effective defense of human rights and the fulfilment of international treaties of which Mexico is part of.

Jesús Peña noted that the UN recognizes the CNDH as a key actor that creates certainty and trust for its constant participation in the UN Treaty-based bodies about the situation of the human rights in Mexico, this previous of the presentation of reports from the Mexican state.

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COMUNICADO_478-2019.pdf



https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COMUNICADO_478-2019.pdf

THE CNDH AND ARTICLE 19 WILL ENCOURAGE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY FROM AGGRESSIONS TOWARDS JOURNALISTS

DGC/479/2019

December 17, 2019

The National Commission of Human Rights and the organization Article 19 will work together to encourage freedom of expression and to fight impunity to create a more favorable environment for the work of journalists, communicators and all those professionals who need to use their word in writing or voice.

The CNDH and Article 19 established an agenda to increase from January the joint work on prevention and protection actions of human rights of journalists in Mexico that allow to guarantee their life, integrity, freedom and safety when doing their job.

María del Rosario Piedra Ibarra, President of the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH), and Ana Cristina Ruelas Serna, Regional Director of Article 19, agreed that for guaranteeing freedom of expression, our country has enough tools, instruments, and laws, and that the challenge is to enforce them and make them more effective.

They also realized that those legal instruments contrast with the increase of the risk of fulfilling such right, resulting in a higher number of aggressions, less work of investigation and lack of effective outcomes. Other problems related to this issue are self-censorship, forced displacement, and exile of journalists, zones of forced silence in the country and violation of fundamental principles of an opened, plural and democratic society.

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COM_2019_479.pdf



APPOINTMENTS IN THE CNDH TO RENEW IT AND STRENGTHEN ITS ATTENTION CAPABILITY OF VICTIMS

DGC/480/2019

December 17, 2019

In order to strengthen the renewal of the National Commission of Human Rights and to move forward towards the goal of putting in the middle of its interest the victims, María del Rosario Piedra Ibarra, President of the CNDH, from the very beginning of her tenure has held meetings with organizations and groups of proven advocacies of different sorts. But most of the meetings have included victims to listen to their demands and petitions as a starting point to form her work team.

Thus, Piedra Ibarra has determined her first designations according to the commission's legal framework and complementing at the same time legal experience and the work carried out with the victims. The appointments will strengthen the "Defender of the People" and will be a step forward to widen representativity, functionality, and independence of this autonomous body.

After accepting the resignations of the heads of the six General Visitorships, recognizing their special transition process, she has appointed José Martínez Cruz as General Director of the First Visitorship; Carlos Fazio as General Director of the Second Visitorship, with a special task of addressing the topics on the Army, the Navy, and the National Guard; Hilda Téllez Lino, General Director of Complaints in penitentiaries and complaints of the Third Visitorship; Joaquín Aguilar Méndez, who is currently deputy visitor, as General Director of the Fourth Visitorship; Elizabeth Lara Rodríguez, currently in charge of the regional office in Oaxaca, as General Director of the Fifth Visitorship; and Edgard Sánchez Ramírez, as General Director of the Sixth Visitorship.

All will be in charge of their respective general visitorships from January 1, 2020, and entrusted of "searching and applying better formulas and policies to promoting and defending human rights in those specific areas".

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COMUNICADO_480-2019.pdf



THE CNDH AFFIRMS THAT THE YEARNING OF MIGRANTS FOR BETTER PERSPECTIVES OF LIFE HAS NO BORDERS, AND CALLS ON AUTHORITIES TO GUARANTEE TO FOREIGNERS A DECENT TREATMENT, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE IN CUSTODY OF MIGRATORY AUTHORITIES

DGC/481/2019

December 18, 2019

The National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH) underlines that the yearning of migrants searching better perspectives of development and life has no borders. Poverty, despair, family reunification, and more and more, social and family violence, are what causes that thousands of people undertake a long path in search of better life horizons.



International immigration has reached historic numbers of people moving out of their countries, either in a voluntary or involuntary way, either documented or undocumented because of the urgent need of searching options of a decent life just like the UN 2019 Migration Report shows. It also notes that the number of international migrants increased to 272 million, what shows an increase of 51 million people since 2010; while in Mexico the detained migrants as of October reaches 169,932 people, according to the Unit of Migratory Policy from the Ministry of Interior.

From such number 48,753 are girls, boys, and teenagers, and 22,550 of them were unaccompanied, what represents an increase of nearly 23% compared to last year. In 2018, 131,445 foreigners were arrested, from that number, 28,258 were girls, boys, and teenagers, and 10,417 were unaccompanied.

Such report shows that the United States, Canada, and Europe lead as receiving countries of migrants, while India, Mexico, China, and Russia send more migrants.

https://www.cndh.org.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/2019-12/COM_481_2019.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation

No recommendations in this month.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

2019 Nobel Peace Prize: who is Abiy Ahmed Ali and why was he awarded

Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed Ali, is the winner of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end a 20-year war between his country and Eritrea.

The Committee of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, announced it This Friday. Ahmed Ali was awarded for "achieving peace and international cooperation and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighboring Eritrea". A peace agreement was signed last year, put an end to two decades of military stalemate with Eritrea after a border conflict that lasted from 1998 to 2000.

He became Ethiopia's Prime Minister in April 2018 after the resignation of Hailemariam Desalegn because of three years of street riots. When he took office, Abiy introduced massive reforms of liberalization in the country with more than 100 million people, shaking a rigid country with extreme control. As Prime Minister he freed from jail thousands of opposition activists and allowed exiled dissidents to come back home. The most important thing is that he signed a peace agreement with neighboring Eritrea, ending two decades of conflict.

But Ahmed's reforms also exposed ethnic tensions in Ethiopia and the resulting violence forced some 2,5 million people to flee their homes. "Peace does not arise from the actions of one party alone. When Prime Minister Abiy reached out his hand, President Afwerki grasped it, and helped to formalize the peace process between the two countries". "The Norwegian Nobel Committee hopes the peace agreement will help to bring about positive change for the entire populations of Ethiopia and Eritrea".

<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-50011711>

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Chile under Pinochet

CLAUDE KATZ

NUMBER OF PAGES: 128 PAGES.

BINDING: NOT DEFINED

PUBLISHER: ANAGRAMA

LANGUAGE: CASTILIAN

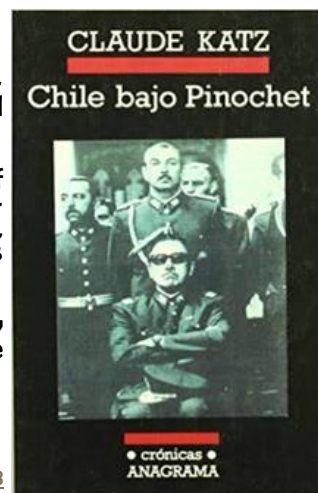
ISBN: 9788433925374

It seems appropriate to rescue these testimonies when the incarceration of Pinochet has revived now the remembrance of the coup d'etat that put an end to the legit government of de Salvador Allende.

In the book, result of being eight months in Chile, from the very first days of the coup, in various parts of the book, it is shown the situation in the countryside, the teaching, the economy, the "justice" of the Military Junta, repression, and the resistance. A series of interviews with people of different social status are included.

The writer says: "Beyond speeches and political statements, I will try in this way to enlighten specifically what it means to live in Chile under the regime of the Junta, and what a tough reality the Chilean people has to face daily".

<https://www.casadellibro.com/libro-chile-bajo-pinochet/9788433925374/629988>





Newsletter

The CNDH
Defends and protects your rights

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Rosario Piedra Ibarra

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Second General Visitor

Third General Visitor

Fourth General Visitor

Fifth General Visitor

Sixth General Visitor

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