



# Massacres of Migrants in Mexico

Migrants in transit through Mexico risk death, torture and enforced disappearance.

The 3 massacres against migrants are proof of these dangers.

So far, Mexican authorities fail to investigate and prevent further mass killings against migrants.

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## 72 migrants killed

In August 25, 2010, 72 bodies of migrants were found in the ranch "El Huizachal", located in the municipality of San Fernando, Tamaulipas, north of México. There, 58 men and 14 women were killed by an organized crime group. The motive of the assassination remains unclear.

Amongst the victims there were 24 Hondurans, 14 Salvadorans, 13 Guatemalans, 5 Ecuadorians, 3 Brazilians and 1 person from India. Until now there are 11 unidentified corpses.

The criminal investigation of the Procuraduría General de la República (General Attorney of the Republic) is not public and the investigation of the Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (National Human Rights Commission) as well as the corresponding recommendation, have major flaws.

So far, the authorities have not clarified the case and many questions remain unanswered. There is no transparency regarding the role by the state, both at federal and municipal levels, nor of the motives of the perpetrators to carry out the largest massacre of migrants in the history of México.

## 193 bodies found in clandestine graves

One year after the massacre of 72 persons, crimes against migrants continued in San Fernando. In April 2011, 193 human remains were found in 47 clandestine graves. The bodies presented signs of arbitrary execution and torture. Most of the victims were migrants; San Fernando is an obligatory step in the Gulf route to the United States.

There is little information exists about these violent acts. Nevertheless, it is known that municipal police from San Fernando were involved. The organization, National Security Archive, through the Freedom of Information Act of the United States declassified archives that document the detention of nine members of the criminal group, *Los Zetas*, and 17 elements of the police forces of San Fernando for their participation in the assassinations. There is no known sentences for this case.

The forms of execution have been described by the media as extremely violent: it is mentioned that 130 died as a consequence of beating with blunt objects and eighty percent of the human remains presented signs of torture.

2010

## 72 Migrants Massacre, San Fernando

2011

## 193 human remains found in clandestine graves, San Fernando

2012

## 49 human torsos found, Cadereyta

"I do not trust the governments because when we went through this tragedy, we received no answer from them, no support..."

- Honduran mother of a victim found in Cadereyta.



## 49 torsos in Cadereyta

After the massacres of San Fernando, in 2010 and 2011, the Mexican authorities did not act to protect the migrants that cross the country. In May 2012, 49 torsos were found in the side of the road in Cadereyta, Nuevo León. Once again on the migrant's route. The first reaction of the authorities of Nuevo León was to deny that they were migrants.

However, of the 49 remains (32 men and 7 women) 13 have been identified; of Honduran, Mexican and Costa Rican nationalities. Later, the identity of eight people from Honduras was confirmed by the Forensic Commission where the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team and PGR experts as well as 11 civil society organizations participate. In July 2014 these bodies were returned to their families in Honduras.