

Search Board for Missing Migrant People



Creation:

Thanks to the boost of families of missing migrants, non-profit organizations and the Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda (National Search Commission), the Board was passed unanimously on November 9th of 2021 by the Sistema Nacional de Búsqueda de México (National Search System).

What is the Search Board for Missing Migrant People?

It is the Mexican mechanism to search for migrants with international scope. It is a space of coordination, information exchange and update on missing migrants, with the participation and involvement of authorities, non-profit organizations, groups of families of missing migrant people and social organizations.



Objective:

To facilitate the interaction and information exchange among institutional and civil participants, both national and foreign, in order to search for missing migrant people, both alive and deceased, through the immigration passage between Central America, Mexico and the United States.



Do the families or missing migrant persons participate in the Board?

Yes! The Board won't be able to meet validly without their presence, and their representatives must be included in all the commissions, work groups or their equivalents created for the aforementioned purposes.



What is Mexico committed towards missing people?

Mexico –as well as Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and the United States– are part of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which obliges them to “save lives and undertake coordinated international initiatives on missing migrants”. Saving lives includes the search for those missing migrant people.



What is happening in Mexico?

100,000+
missing persons.

- Migrant people do not appear in this statistic.
- It is required that the countries of the region update their numbers of missing migrants in order to provide them to the National Search Commission.

Who has to integrate it?



Families of missing migrants, Mexican and international non-profit organizations, international organisms, public institutions –both Mexican and from other countries– who are related to the search of migrants, as well as national and international experts. It shall be coordinated by the National Search Commission, as a Technical Secretariat.

How will it work?

The guidelines are being carefully written in order to pay attention and watch over the involvement of the families, the organization of national and regional efforts to have updated numbers of missing migrants and create its own methodologies for their search. This is one of the first institutional effort in the region for the international search of missing migrant people.

Origin of the Search Board for Missing Migrant People

1 The Governing Principles for the Search of Missing People, approved by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances of the UN, advises the following:

- Public policies regarding search for people must be constructed and implemented with the involvement of victims, people and non-profit organizations with the experience and willingness to cooperate with the construction and/or implementation of said policies.
- The victims, their legal representatives or the people authorized by them, as well as any person, association and organization with legitimate interest, have the right to participate in the search and have access to the information on the actions performed, the progress and results of the search and the investigation, taking into account their input, experiences, alternative suggestions, questionings and doubts, without submitting them to formalisms that could block them.
- “The search must take into consideration the particular vulnerability of migrant people”, and emphasizes that the governments must take specific and coordinated measures, ensuring quick and safe information exchange, in order to prevent the disappearances of migrant people and search for the ones that are already missing.

2 The Committee on Enforced Disappearances of the United Nations pointed out in the report submitted by Mexico that the Mexican State should, in cooperation with the countries of origin, transit and destination of migrant people, and with the participation of the victims and the civil society, step up efforts to prevent and investigate the disappearances of migrant people, as well as to locate the victims.



3 Groups and organizations of families, social and non-profit organizations, with headquarters located both in Mexico and abroad, have developed experiences, initiatives and projects aimed at the search, localization and identification of migrants missing in the region, both alive and deceased, and have established mechanisms to collaborate with Mexican and foreign authorities.



4 The search of missing migrant people requires an international scope, given the need to coordinate actions and exchange information among institutions, families and organizations of several countries.



5 The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in its virtual work visit to Mexico regarding People in Situation of Human Mobility, recommended to develop and implement national and regional search mechanisms for missing migrant people.

