



Canadian Association of University Teachers
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Mexico

Open Letter to Mexican President Nieto and Interim Guerrero State Governor Rogelio Ortega

The letter expresses our shock and collective outrage at the brutal assassination and kidnapping of students in Guerrero, Mexico. We join the growing demands around the world urging that every possible means be taken to immediately locate the missing students.

According to reports, on September 26th, police from the municipality of Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico, savagely attacked a group of college students from the Escuela Normal Rural Manuel Isidro Burgos Teacher Training College, killing 6, wounding 17 (one remains in a vegetative state) and kidnapping 43 whose whereabouts remain unknown. According to numerous news sources and human rights organizations, the police have been accused of direct links to "narco" criminal gangs, and students may have been brutally tortured, killed and buried in mass graves. There are allegations that the Guerrero State Attorney General's office is also linked to criminal gangs, raising concerns about the impartiality of its current investigation.

We urge the international community, particularly those working in the educational sector, to consider this grave occurrence beyond an isolated event, but in relation to growing violence, increasing marginalization, economic disparity, and state linked to extra-state violent repression around the world.

We are committed to the process of learning as a function of progressive and democratic societies, and thus urge that the relationship between the police and "narco" criminal gangs be fully examined and exposed, and that an investigation into the widespread occurrences of suppression of human rights be brought into the national and global spotlight. The Federal Attorney General must take responsibility for a prompt, full and impartial investigation. We urge further that a higher level investigation and public discussion take

place, regarding the use of violent repression, silencing and fear being imposed within educational spaces in particular.

As academics, researchers, staff, students and others at educational institutions who express outrage at this situation, we join the growing number of students, faculty members, families of these disappeared students, and community members in Guerrero, across Mexico and globally, who are mobilizing in indignation to demand the return of the missing students and to identify and hold responsible those who have committed these atrocities.

The undersigned,

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