

Dear Colleagues,

On the night of the 26th September in the city of Iguala in the State of Guerrero in Mexico, three students from the rural teachers training college whose goal is to teach children in the poor rural communities in Mexico, were murdered by the state police and 44 of their colleagues were kidnapped. One of the missing students was found dead the next day with signs of terrible torture.

The other 43 students are still missing and were allegedly turned over to a drug trafficking gang linked to Mayor of Iguala and his wife, who are now fugitives. A full month has passed since these murders and kidnappings, and with every passing hour the hope of finding the kidnapped students alive is getting smaller. Moreover, mass graves with many badly burnt bodies were found near Iguala.

The federal government of Mexico has failed to offer a full explanation of what has happened and has not been able to find those responsible. The atrocities led to massive demonstrations within Mexico, including two 48-hour strikes by the main universities and by many schools. In a large demonstration of 200,000 people last weekend in Mexico City the protesters demanded that the Mexican government locates the missing students and punishes politicians linked to organised crime. Similar demonstrations have taken place throughout Mexico and in many other countries all over the world.

Our Mexican colleagues ask for international support from fellow academics. **This letter adds our voices to theirs demanding that the Mexican government, which is committed to human rights, to the dissemination of education and to the battle against corruption, takes immediate action to find the missing students and punish those responsible for these crimes.**

Signatories (please add you academic degree and affiliation)

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