

Committee: International Criminal Court

Topic: The International Criminal Court of Justice vs. President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador: Failure of the State to fulfill its duty to protect the population from crimes against humanity and enforced disappearances.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an international court independent of the United Nations (UN) that investigates and tries individuals that are charged with crimes against humanity such as crime of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. In 1998 120 countries adopted the Rome Statute after it was made available for signatures by the UN in Rome, the Rome Statute set out the court's jurisdiction over the aforementioned crimes. The Rome Statute then set out the creation of the ICC on July 1st, 2002. An aspect that makes the ICC stand out is that it's the first permanent treaty-based international criminal court and it is located in the Hague Netherlands. The main purpose of the ICC is to put an end to the perpetrators that commit grave offences to the international community as a whole. The ICC is composed of 4 main organs: the presidency, the judicial divisions, the office of the prosecutor and the registry.

The Presidency carries out judicial and legal operations, external relations related to the court and administration. The Presidency is also made up of Chambers (which have the task of assigning certain judges to cases), conducts judicial review of the Registrar's decisions and realizes the conclusion of agreements with states partaking in the Rome Statute. This branch also ensures proper administration within the court, exempting the Office of the Prosecutor that carries responsibility for its own administration. Overseeing the work of the Registry, the presidency's role in maintaining state-court relations and promoting public awareness, plus the understanding of the Court through external relations.

The chambers: Chambers are composed of 18 judges in total. These judges are distributed by different stages/divisions: the pre-trial division, the trial division and the appeals division. Then, each judge is separated into Chambers which have the responsibility

for conducting Court proceedings on specific cases and situations within different stages of procedure.

The office of the prosecutor is responsible for overlooking situations where the previously mentioned crimes have been committed. It is mainly in charge of carrying out investigations against the perpetrators of the alleged committed crimes. The prosecution is also responsible for presenting enough evidence to the judges on the case so that the trial can move forward; there is also the defense team that defends the rights of the accused and helps uphold a fair trial, however, defence attorneys are independent of the ICC. Finally, the Registry is the organ that offers support and provides different services to all the other organs in the ICC, like management of the budget and external affairs.

The ICC can operate under any situation where the previously listed crimes were committed during or after the court's creation in July 1st, 2002 and if the crimes were committed by someone that has nationality of a state party within the Rome statute or if the aggression was committed in the territory of a state party. In some cases even, the court may exercise jurisdiction if the case is referred to a prosecutor by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, often referred to as “AMLO”, was a politician, public administrator and has served as President of The United Mexican States for a term of 6 years; from December 1st, 2018 to September 30th 2024. He was born in Tepetitán, Tabasco, and began his career in the “Partido Revolucionario Institucional” (PRI), a well established centre-right party in The United Mexican States, or more commonly referred to as México. This development and his figure likewise transcended past the 1988 presidential elections, consequently forming the “Partido de la Revolución Democrática” (PRD). Amidst many of his controversies regarding accusations (of his own) towards Felipe Calderon's poll results in the 2006 July elections, his withdrawal of parliamentary privileges stretching from 2005 to 2006 as an attempt to prevent him to run for presidential elections; one of the most notable aspects in Andres Manuel's life is his role as President of the Republic.

According to the Rome Statute, crimes against humanity are defined as “*systematic attacks directed against any population or civilization, such as murder, deportation, torture*

and rape”. There must be knowledge of the attack for it to fit into the Statute’s description. The following are crimes that are considered as systematic: murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation or forcible transfer of populations, imprisonment or severe deprivation of liberty under international law fundamentals, torture, enforced disappearances, etc. For this, we must focus on the crime of enforced disappearances as outlined by the Statute. The statute refers to it as arrest, abduction or detention of persons with support or acquiescence of the state or a political organization, which is then followed by a refusal to acknowledge this removal of freedom or inform on the fate or whereabouts of the victims with the main goal to remove them from the protection of the law for a certain period of time.

There has been a crisis of enforced disappearances in Mexico before Andres Manuel even ran for president and while there are certain states that seem to be deeply affected by organized crime and enforced disappearances like Jalisco, Michoacan and Tamaulipas this is a nationwide problem that only grows every day in every single state, specifically under Andres Manuel’s presidency. Families, women and children all across the country seemed to have disappeared without any recent information from authorities. The number of missing people has surpassed 50,000 since 2024, which has raised concern from intergovernmental bodies like the United Nations. Statistically speaking women and minorities have always been main targets of crimes against humanity, especially in Mexico.

With so many international organizations showing deep concern for the crisis it is important to note the human rights violations that take place in the act of forced disappearance and crimes against humanity, such as the right to security, the right to humane conditions, the right to dignity of person and the right to not be subjected to torture or any other inhumane acts. The Mexican population has suffered an indistinguishable amount of mental anguish every single day. Authorities and political figures under Andres Manuel’s presidency have only kept victim’s families more in the dark of their loved one’s whereabouts. Often, prosecutors usually dismiss the cases by expressing that the victim was most likely involved in some sort of “criminal organization” or involved in “illicit activities” even if there is absolutely no evidence to support their claims. Because of this, Mexico has been living in constant terror and insecurity due to the lack of protection, accountability and action from the government. As it was stated before, the crisis has extended to the point where organizations like the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and the International Coalition Against Enforced Disappearances (ICAED) have stepped in and

showed concern on the situation, with the CED going as far as submitting official reports on the statistics of rising missing persons cases. Although Andres Manuel and other members of the government have stated that they are open to international support no attempts have been made at receiving further support or taking a further plan of action.

During Andres Manuel's six-year term, The New Generation Jalisco cartel (CJNG) operated out of the Izaguirre ranch, kidnapping people on social media and offering them fake jobs. People fell for the false advertising and were hired to work for a cartel itself. The Mexican government took an interest in the issue until May 2023 and published the first national search plan, which they did not have, and the investigation data ended up being incoherent and random. One organization involved in the issue is Families United for Our Disappeared, Jalisco (FUNDEJ). This organization, During Andres Manuel's six-year term, declared that Andres Manuel and his government were "covering up" the reports. With this, the organization has put pressure on the authorities to step in and help. Talking about the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, during the six-year term, in Jalisco, too many disappearances occurred due to the state insecurity. Before this six-year term, there were records of 5,623 missing people (2013-2018), but when this six-year term arrived, the numbers increased to 13,471 missing people. This is linked to the Cartel because it is speculated that the ex-governor of Jalisco and successor of Jorge Aristoteles Sandoval Dias was Enrique Alfaro Ramirez, from the political party of *Movimiento Ciudadano*, who was linked to the CJNG. With the arrival of "Morena", the cartel also benefited from the new regime, thus helping them with new pacts and deals with local authorities.

II. HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT:

Andres Manuel's presidential term lasted from 2018 to 2024, since the president took office, the number of missing people in the country has exceeded 50,000 (as it was already stated before), according to a report from Mexico's National Register of Missing and Disappeared Persons 10,064 people have gone missing during just a year of Andres Manuel's presidential term (2022-2023). Usually, enforced disappearances are carried out due to several factors amongst criminal organizations, such as the participation of drug trafficking. While there have been several public figures like Manuel Bartlett, Alejandro Esquer and Santiago Nieto close to Andres Manuel that have been involved in illicit activities a particular

controversy struck up the nation with the allegations of the infamous Sinaloa Cartel financing Andres Manuel's political campaign, a cartel known for its endless list of crimes against humanity and corruption. Another major fact to take into consideration is that this problem was already a topic of discussion since 2006, especially with Felipe Calderon's militarization strategy to fight with the racketeering, this mark an after-in disappearances due to the fight between these both ideologies. The military, previously mentioned, also is important due to the alarming news resurfacing of military generals being involved in corrupt ways in several cases of forced disappearances like the "Ayotzinapa case" in which members of the military were involved with the group "Guerreros Unidos" (the ones in charge of the case) like the general Jose Rodriguez Perez which was the most important in the case for being former commander of the 27th infantry battalion, Jose Rodriguez Perez was later arrested along with several other military officials. Another controversy is the "Guerra Sucia" that happened between 1960 and 1970, in which the military was involved in repressive action against groups against the government. Nowadays, the disappearances have escalated in an alarmingly drastic way, and the control of racketeers in the nation has also increased. While no public figures are openly mentioned within reports, there are a lot of cases of arrests made due to past public figures like ex-prosecutor Jesus Murillo (he worked under a previous president's term) for being accused of obstruction of justice in a missing kids case in 2014. Even the government of Andres Manuel accused ex-chief of the agency of investigation Tomas Zeron of torturing witnesses on cases of forced disappearances. Another infamous case was the ex-governor of Puebla Mario Marin being sentenced to prison in August 2024 for the illegal detention and torture of journalist Lydia Cacho 20 years ago, with the case going as far as Andres Manuel offering public apologies. With cases like these it is evident that many state actors such as law enforcement and officials contribute to the problem and prevent the advancements of bringing justice to all the victims.

The Cartels and racketeers have used the disappearances as a way or strategy to instill fear to the society, this has created an insecure idea that affects not only the family of the person disappeared, but also to the community they live in. Meanwhile, the victim could be subdued to torture. There has been a pattern among the missing cases of people, experts have recognized that most of the criminal organizations in the seek out victims especially in the ages of 15 to 29 years old (men usually being 25 to 29 years old and women being 15 to 19 years old), but all the ages in general take part of the disappearances in the country, even though the ones with higher rates are the younger generation.

There are a lot of Cartels that have targeted people (For example the “Cartel Nueva Generación Jalisco, the Sinaloa cartel, Cartel NorthWest,etc) but one with the most disappearances is the called “Los Zetas” known for their normalization of brutality, especially with their victims that have gone missing. The racketeers are the speciality of criminal groups due to their organization and effectiveness in disappearing people and how to make it perfectly difficult for authorities to track them. Another factor that has prevented justice from being properly served is that as it was previously mentioned, authorities have often avoided covering the cases at a deeper level and have dismissed the data continuously.

Andres Manuel did eventually propose a strategy to eradicate the issue, in 2019 he brought up the idea to create a plan to prevent, investigate and sanction anyone involved/responsible in the “alleged crimes”. The plan is called “General Law in the Topic of Forced Disappearances of People, Disappearances Committed By Particulars and the National Search System” in which he planned to consult the families of victims all across the nation to “discuss the social problems”. Specifically the plan consisted of the following: reinstallation of the national search party system (created in 2018), a new president for the national search party system, local search party entities, a use of 400 million pesos for the budget of the “plan”, a protocol of investigation and research, coordination, attention to victims, a national institute of identification, a unique system of technology, international assistance and protection to witnesses testifying in court. This plan at first seemed promising, however overtime due to lack of coordination between prosecutors and search party organizations the number of disappearances barely decreased.

In the plan of Andres Manuel there were different conventions established with many international organizations so that financial cooperation could be provided like the International Committee of the Red Cross, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances and even setting up reunions with the European Union. Andres Manuel has continued to state throughout his presidency that Mexico will gladly accept all the possible help from international organizations, but apart from receiving funds from the UN no further elaborations were made. During Andres Manuel’s term 44.9% of the disappearances make up for the total cases ever recorded since 1964. While Enrique Peña Nieto’s term (2012-2018) exceeded 40,000 that number only increased when Andres Manuel took office, and despite his initial proposals of ideas and strategies the rate for

missing people under his term had reached such drastic numbers that at one point an estimate of one person per hour would disappear in the country. A report by “*Causa en Común*” showed that 99% of the cases in Mexico still remain unpunished, in addition, there are over 72,100 bodies resting in morgues that are yet to be identified.

III. CURRENT HAPPENINGS

[After Andres Manuel’s presidential term ended, the rate of missing people in Mexico prevailed even higher, at the beginning of march of this year a clandestine crematorium in Jalisco was found with burnt human remains and 200 pairs of shoes within, authorities state that this must have been work of the New Generation Jalisco cartel, and while the current president and ally of Andres Manuel, Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, has expressed more sympathy for the victim’s families and proposed a new strategy similar to Andres Manuel’s, no significant progress has been seen as of 2025. With the rise of social media attention to these cases, inconsolable mothers have posted their situations on the internet hoping for help to locate their children, as it has become evident that authorities still will not provide further information. Nowadays, movements like “Movement for Our Disappeared in Mexico” are gaining significant attention for the rise in protests and rise of action to locate victims. *“It’s about searching for them and finding them, it’s about doing the work that authorities won’t do and that we as a town have to”* stated Tita Radilla, vice president of the Association of Relatives of Detained and Disappeared Persons and Victims of Human Rights Violations in Mexico (AFADEM).

Immigrants are also a very common victim in the topic of disappearances in Mexico, because as is the country with the border between the United States of America and Mexico, they are vulnerable to being victimized by this crisis. The USA is involved with the migrants due to the new political laws that the president Donald Trump imposed on the border, that directly affects the migrants, making it a vulnerable place for people. The Jalisco Cartel is one of the most involved cartels in cases of forced disappearances. It is also important to recognize that the bigger a Cartel is, the more violence they will use, and the Jalisco Cartel is one of the biggest cartels by selling drugs internationally but specially in the USA, central and south America. This problem has been growing throughout the past years and the current president Sheinbaum has also taken notice of this. Because of this she implemented 6

solutions to help. The first thing she stated that will be implemented is the empowerment of the National Search Commission, to help develop their attention, capacities and analyzing level. The second thing is a proposal of making a reform of the actual law of “General on Forced Disappearances of Persons, Disappearances Committed by Individuals and the National System of Search Persons”. The third thing is to implement in the law a new protocol that permits it to make alerts of disappearances search. The fourth one is to equate the crime with kidnapping, also in the legal procedures of kidnapping. The fifth and sixth is to empower the Executive Commission on attention to victims, and with this, established the monthly publication of the disappearances in every state. Internationally, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) that decided to activate the Article 34 of the OHCHR Office of the High Commissioner Human Right (OHCHR) that starts with the procedure of asking information about disappearances to the Mexican government. The Article 34 states that if the Committee contains well founded clues that the disappearances are practiced in a “generalized and systematic” way in the country and soliciting the state to collaborate, laying down for consideration by the United Nations General Assembly through the Secretary General of the UN.

The UN’s Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) has urged Mexico to double down on its incompetence regarding the situation unfolding within the country; It has also claimed state sponsorship regarding the case. The government and its Ministry of Interior deny these claims and assure that the country is following and respecting human rights, and dealing with causes of violence; However, the veracity of these claims cannot be verified as contradicting information disputes these allegations.

AMLO’s most recent public appearance is in the polling stations at Palenque, Chiapas for the judicial elections that took place June 1st, 2025. Other than this, following the end of his term on Sept. 30th of 2024, he has made no further appearances. Meanwhile, as of March 18th, 2025 in a morning press conference, current President Claudia Sheinbaum announced that she’ll be taking action against these crimes, encompassing a variety of legislative reforms (these laws include and improve methods of identification, a common problem that strengthens the impact of these cases), strengthening the National Search Commission (NSC), immediate search alerts to be issued upon a person reported as missing, increased penalty for enacting, or taking part in the crime which totals to 80 years. Missing person statistics being published monthly, and strengthening the Executive Commission for the Attention of

Victims. As of June 24th, 2025, a list of 17 reforms will be reportedly sent to congress, of which, one of these is the promised legislative reform on enforced disappearances and population.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS

Since The Committee on Enforced Disappearances of the UN has published studies done on the statistics of missing persons cases in 2021, they have openly welcomed Mexico's willingness to collaborate on the issue. In said studies there were many references to progress, like data from the National Forensic Data Bank, the National Search Program for Missing and Unaccounted Persons and a drastic increase of personnel and budget from Mexico's National Search Commission. Once again, the Mexican government has stated its gratitude for the committee's help and observations. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has also put out statements regarding the crisis in Mexico, in August 30, 2024 the committee has put out an article titled "Mexico's disappeared: Pain Serves as an Engine for Collective Struggle", in which it states many different cases of victims and statements from the victim's families throughout the years. A UN High Commissioner for Human Rights named Volker Türk has stated in the article "Widespread impunity needs to be urgently addressed and that good governance depends on holding accountable those responsible for human rights violations". The article also states the importance of strengthening a legal framework and the visitation of UN Human Rights Staff to the countless families in the country that have missing loved ones. In Mexican communities like Iztapalapa the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has also released reports and articles on "urban safety". The committee has conducted research on crime and violence, including forced disappearances, that is connected to a high rate of poverty and drug trafficking.

Mexico has also collaborated with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) on its "week plan." Information gathering and comprehension of the national theme are the goals of the first week. They asked 32 states in the country and the National Prosecution Office (FGR) the exact amount of investigations that had been opened on disappearance based on the General Law. In week two, they made an analysis of the methods, offices, etc., that Mexico has. They want to create investigative offices, ensure all disappearances had an investigation plan and classify disappearances crimes by complaint and circumstances. Week

three consists of making the General Law more valid, as every case should base due to the problems of prosecutors offices. Also its related to hearing the familiars of the victims to help in the cases and take into account their opinion for other clues on different victims. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights is also involved on the topic, but specifically in cases such as the one of Antonio Gonzales Mendes in which the Court determined the state responsibility (regarding the lack of an adequate investigation of the facts and effects on the personal integrity). They also determined laws that Mexico violated, such as right of jurisdictional personality, right to life, right to personal integrity, right of personal liberty, freedom of association, etc. Other organizations like The World Bank Organization hasn't made any specific reports on the forced disappearances in Mexico but they have been open on elaborating reports with statistics on other social problems in Mexico like poverty and the gender gap.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is an NGO that also has some things to say to the ex-president Andres Manuel due to the promise (when he was elected in 20218) to ascertain the facts of the Ayotzinapa students' case, the issue, and the HWR's statement that he has permitted the inquiry to stall(apparently to protect the military allies he had), or in words of the HRW “They are symbols of the president inability, or more likely unwillingness to reveal what has plagued Mexico for decades. Amnesty International reports that those who continue to look for their relatives in these cases are at serious risks; Reporting that “During the year, at least one woman searching for her disappeared relative was killed and another was disappeared[...]” (Amnesty International, n.d.). The International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) has also released various articles and reports with statistics of Mexico’s crisis, with the organization going as far as stating that “disappearances are reflected on the repression on groups that compete for control in illegal markets”. The ICMP has also collaborated with other NGOs like Citizens in Support of Human Rights (CADHAC) and universities like the University of Oxford to gather data from Nuevo León, Jalisco, Tamaulipas and Estado de México. From 2021 to 2022 ICMP has stated that it will extend its cooperation with the Mexican Federal Prosecutor’s Office by strengthening infrastructure, DNA identification and advocating for the victims. Finally, the Peace Brigades International organization (PBI) has openly released many information on stories from all across Mexico on protests for the disappeared, violation of human rights to human rights defenders and the increasing violence that has come with militarization. In an article published in December 2018 titled “2018: A Turbulent year for Mexican Human Rights Defenders”, it is stated: “*PBI*

remains committed to protecting the space in which human rights defenders continue their work”. However it is rather clear that even with the cooperation of international organizations like these cases in Mexico still prevail.

V. BLOCK ANALYSIS

Four months before Andrés Manuel’s presidency drew to an end statistics were published on the nation’s approval of the former president, and despite the controversies regarding corruption, cartels, disappearances and homicides around 60% of people allegedly approved of Andres Manuel’s six year term, which is significantly higher compared to previous presidencies is like Enrique Peña Nieto’s (which ended up being 24%). To this day however, many movements throughout the country protesting the loss of family members are still very active.

In the **United States of America** president Donald Trump has also declared war on all Mexican cartels, going as far as secretly authorizing the use of military force in order to take down individuals associated with terrorism, extortion and even forced disappearances, he has even gone as far of accusing cartels of “having total control over politicians in Mexico”.

Countries like the **Republic of el Salvador** have also been affected as well, in 2022 a group of 12 salvatorians travelled to Mexico to demand authorities to launch an official investigation on the missing migrant families that disappeared on their way from Mexico to the United States.

On the other hand, in **Republic of Costa Rica**, the crime of enforced disappearances isn’t even officially recognized in its legislation but it has also had cases of citizens travelling to Mexico and disappearing, like the case of Seidy Marleny Marleny Lopez Vargas, a forty year old woman from Costa Rica that travelled to Mexico to meet a man has been reported missing.

Countries like the **Federal Republic of Germany** on the other hand, have expressed support to Mexico. President Frank-Walter Steinem has stated that “it is a tragedy to the

families that don't know what happened to their loved ones just because they disappeared” and he has also assured that Germany will continue collaborating with Mexico on the issue.

Meanwhile, the **Republic of Guatemala** has facilitated temporary visas to 500+ refugees from México avoiding the current situation, while the government itself avoided collaboration with the Guatemalan Government.

The United Mexican States is not a safe place even for tourists and that's the case of the tourists of **China**, Yugui Weng and Zhou Mengquin. They were tourists in Mexico and they travelled to Campeche, until one day they vanished. In response, the state search commission started posting about them to make it easier to recognize them; however, the problem is that the Chinese embassy reported that no entity informed them about the disappearances and they had to ask the authorities for information to discuss a solution.

On the other side there is the **Kingdom of Spain** which his monarch, Felipe VI, said that “the loss of a loved one generates pain, uncertainty, anxiety fear and many others feelings that are difficult to process”, giving his support to all the families in Mexico with this problem, he has also shown support to the group Fundej (Families United for Our Disappeared Jalisco) boosting the group courage.

Also, in the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** citizens are well aware of the topic, that is why a tribute was placed with the help of B-Arts and Arte Sustentable to the mothers that are searching for their loved ones with the art piece called “Searching Mother”. This sculpture tries to make an international empathy about the struggles Mexican families have.

Canada, as a trading partner of Mexico, has declared that they have no intention to enter on political internal problems. The reason for this is that Andres Manuel put a pause to the Canadian embassy due to the problems and critics of the reform of the judiciary. Canada has stated that they value the relationship with Mexico as an ally.

VI. KEY POINTS

Defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organized crime is strategic and planned criminal acts that are not spontaneous or random. Many statistics have also pointed out that the main purpose of organized crime is to gain financial profit and also respond to public demand. Usually, threats are used to protect criminal operations and corruption serves as a way to allow criminal organizations to flourish. In the case of the situation in Mexico, organized crime can be one of the biggest underlying factors in the disappearances of individuals, given that Cartels from all across the country are notoriously known for carrying out criminal operations which affect civilians therefore affect the rate of disappearances.

Militarization is defined as equipping a place with resources in preparation for war, so in other words militarization can also refer to giving something or someone a military characteristic. As it has been stated before militarization has been used amongst the nation in order to strategically combat criminal organizations in Mexico by former president Felipe Calderon in 2006. Calderon even declared an official war on Cartels, and whether or not this strategy was deemed successful militarization can be used as a means to combat internal issues within a country.

Another prominent term used frequently in the topic of disappearances is corruption, which is defined as the misuse or abuse of power to gain illicit benefits. Corruption can occur in any place, sometimes it can even benefit a larger group of people, like a political party. Throughout the years of Andres Manuel's presidency corruption has been closely interlinked with a multitude of different cases, like the daily lack of cooperation from prosecutors and law enforcement, the misuse of funds from international organizations and the controversy of Andres Manuel receiving support from the Sinaloa Cartel to rise to power. After so many cases surfaced to the public eye many have demanded justice to be served, like the punishment of figures in power that have turned away from the crisis, but still haven't been held accountable in any way which leads to impunity.

Impunity refers to the exemption from punishment, in this case it's when people in positions of power abuse different rights and are exempt from being held accountable.

During 2018 Andres Manuel first proposed "The Fourth Transformation", a political project which looked to change the regime of the country that entailed the independence of the Legislative and Judicial branches and was looking to combat corruption and impunity.

Andrés Manuel proposed 100 different commitments in which he looked to fix many social demands like attention to indigenous groups, conditions in which people could be happy and safe, the end of corruption and “privileges” amongst many others. Even after Andres Manuel’s presidency The Fourth Transformation will continue to be expanded by the current president, Claudia Sheinbaum.

“Hugs, not bullets” is an anti-war slogan in which was due to more than 50 thousand disappearances and an alarmingly high number of clandestine graves. “This strategy just made Mexico more insecure and it was based on embracing crime and empowering the narcs” says Noemi Luna, vice coordinator of the National Action Party. Andres Manuel also used this phrase to start a new strategy to fight drug trafficking in a peaceful way, the idea was to create more social programs and get people jobs, the problem is that this didn't work, giving a lot of freedom to narcs to expand more and with this, the insecurity in Mexico increased resulting in more disappearances and social organizations demanding that Andres Manuel “saw the truth” of the country’s state. “Hugs, not bullets” strategy demonstrated the opposite effect of what was hoped to be achieved.

Political violence, defined by the United Nations Economics and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), is the use of force and violence to society in order to achieve a political goal. Enforced disappearances made by the governments are part of this violence, the reasons are normally for knowing a lot of information that the government doesn't want that everyone knows about. These political violations could be done by State agents, political parties or their representatives.

Also, extrajudicial executions are part of it. It is when a governmental authority approves the murder or murders a person without any legal sanction. This includes Andres Manuel's six-year term. Between December 1 of 2018 to December 31 of 2023, there were documented 92 extrajudicial executions and the majority were related to people that were protecting the human rights and environment. This also was important information within the idea of “Hugs, not bullets”.

The politicization is a way to make things in a political tone or character to, with this in mind, Andres Manuel said that Mexico is one of the most politicized countries in the world

as a result of the process of change in the country, he also said that an authentic democracy is the government for the people, of the people and with the people.

Another aspect is the manipulation of figures, often used to influence the public's opinions or distort the facts, they often use tactics such as spreading false information about opponents or use social media to create a false idea.

State repression encompasses harassment, surveillance/spying, banning, arrests torture and mass killings by state actors within their territorial jurisdiction. This may encompass a way to silence opposition and critics.

Responsibility to Protect (R2P) was a mutual agreement made by state governors at the 2005 world summit. They affirmed to protect the population of their territories against war crimes, such as genocide, ethnic cleansing, etc. This responsibility stands on 3 pillars: the responsibility of the state to protect its people, the international community's responsibility to aid the state in protecting their population and the international community's responsibility to aid the state to protect their citizens when the state fails to.

Attacking or withholding human rights from people, regardless of who they are, is considered a human rights violation. When the state is unable to provide them directly or find a way to, it is also a human rights violation.

Public approval constitutes measurements of the public's opinion on government officials, policies and/or institutions. Usually measured as a percentage (%), they are helpful tools to determine the overall trust of the public and opinion towards these actors. As it was stated before, statistics on the nation 's approval of Andres Manuel' s presidency showed to be significantly higher than previous presidencies. With the percentage going up 10% since 2023, and only around 38.3% of the nation have considered that the security and economy of the country has declined.

KEY QUESTIONS

- How have Cartels in the country interfered with the statistics of forced disappearances?

- How have other nations like The United States been affected during Andres Manuel's presidency?
- What has The Fourth Transformation proposed to combat or/and locate missing people?
- In what way can Mexican political figures like Claudia Sheinbaum interfere in the trial against Andres Manuel?
- Excluding financial aid, what have been Andres Manuel's previous proposals to work alongside international organizations? Have those proposals led to any significant results under his term?
- Are Andres Manuel's previous corruption controversies with narco trafficking related to a failure to protect the state?
- How has Andres Manuel addressed the cases of authorities not providing detailed or accurate information to the victim's families during his presidency?
- How has Andres Manuel responded to allegations of government officials "covering up" cases by Mexican organizations?
- Comparing statistics from when Andres Manuel started his presidency and after, how have the rate of crime rates fluctuated during his 6 years in office?

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