1821-2014

Mexico's Independence

1821 - Mexico achieves independence from Spain, ending three centuries of colonial rule.

End of Mexican-American War

1848 - Under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo, which concludes the Mexican-American War, Mexico cedes half of its territory to the United States.

Mexican Revolution

1910 - The Mexican Revolution. Landowning lawyer Francisco Madero declares war on the ruling Díaz regime. Madero is elected President in 1911. Popular leaders such as Emiliano Zapata and Pancho Villa emerge as champions of the peasant and working classes.

Photograph: Ai Weiwei Studio

Establishing of Normal Schools

1926 - Raúl Isidro Burgos Rural Teachers' College otherwise known as Ayotzinapa Rural Normal Teachers College is established. The government expands rural normal schools in the wake of the Revolution as part of ambitious mass education plan to provide free, secular education in the country's farming regions. The students, known as normalistas, go on to become teachers in impoverished rural communities. Today the schools still offer boarding-school conditions and do not charge fees but are underfunded and neglected. They are often the only option for the children of poor campesinos (farmers) who otherwise cannot afford a college degree.

Rule of PRI

1929 - The National Revolutionary Party (PNR), later renamed Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI), comes into power. It will continue to rule Mexico until 2000.

Mexican Dirty War

1964 - The Mexican Dirty War begins. A Cold War conflict between the PRI-dominated government and left-wing student and guerilla groups, the Mexican Dirty War sees the first systemic use of disappearances by the State. The failure to date of Mexico to establish an effective transitional justice mechanism to investigate past atrocities means that the full extent of the crimes committed during Mexico's decades-long 'dirty war' remains unknown. Estimates suggest between 1,200-3,000 people are disappeared or killed.

Photograph: Wikipdedia

Tlatelolco Massacre

1968 - Tlatelolco Massacre. Ten days before the 1968 Olympic Games are held in Mexico City security forces massacre approximately 300-400 students and civilians at a protest of around 10,000 people being held in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas in Mexico City's Tlatelolco area. The protestors, calling for freedom of assembly, the freeing of political prisoners and the ending of political repression by the Díaz Ordaz government, are brutally massacred and their bodies disappeared. The October 2, 2014 commemoration of the massacre is the reason why the Ayotzinapa students go to Iguala, having been delegated the task of obtaining buses for all the normal schools to be able to attend.

Enforced Disappearances in Latin America

1970s-1980s - The contemporary practice of enforced disappearance, of a State deliberately 'disappearing' its own citizens, grows out of the Cold War 'dirty war' period. Across Latin America right-wing dictatorships, notably in Argentina and Chile, employ enforced disappearances to covertly eliminate those perceived as threatening the social order; often the victims are political opponents, students, teachers, and labor or rural activists. In Argentina, the Asociación Madres de Plaza de Mayo famously leads the protests for the return of the disappeared. In Mexico it is similarly the family members who rally for the whereabouts of their missing children or at least for a body to bury.

Democratic Transition

2000 - The 2000 election of President Vicente Fox of the PAN party ends 71 years of uninterrupted rule by the PRI and marks the beginning of Mexico's transition to multi-party democracy.

Mexican Drug War

2006-2012 - The Mexican Drug War begins. President Felipe Calderón launches a military drug war against drug-trafficking cartels, deploying approximately 50,000 Army troops and 35,000 Federal Police throughout the country, with disastrous results. Calderón's term in office proves to be the bloodiest period in Mexico's history since the Mexican Revolution, until the election of President Enrique Peña Nieto in 2012. During Calderón's term in office, 25 of the 37 most wanted drug bosses are captured or killed. However, the largest cartels fracture, making way for new, more violent players, who partly shift their focus to kidnapping and extortion, and rivalries between different groups multiply. The United States offers support for the 'war on drugs' in the form of funding, training and military assistance, ignoring the fact that Municipal, State and Federal authorities, along with the police and military forces, often collude with the cartels. In 2010, Mexico signs the UN Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances. By 2011, disappearances have become common practice throughout the country, with mass graves frequently being discovered. Between 2006 and 2012, more than 26,000 people are reported missing or disappeared and there are a reported 121,669 homicides, an average of over 20,000 people per year, or more than 55 people per day, just over two people every hour.

Homicides and Disappearances Intensify Under Peña Nieto

2012 - The Mexican Drug War continues. During Calderón's successor Peña Nieto's Presidency there are an average of 23,376 officially reported homicides per year, or over 3,000 more per year than during the Calderón administration. 2018 is the bloodiest year on record, with over 33,000 officially reported homicides. Disappearances also continue. The official number of disappeared as of 2019 is 40,180. Over 90% of disappearance and homicide cases are either never reported or never investigated. Impunity is the rule, with prosecutors and police routinely failing to take the basic investigative steps needed to identify those responsible for enforced disappearances. Authorities also typically fail to identify remains recovered from the many clandestine graves found throughout the country. Five states, including Guerrero, account for more than half of all disappearances, Guerrero having the greatest number of unresolved investigations. Families are often told they have to investigate on their own.

September 26th 2014

- A Iguala Tollbooth
- B Bus Station
- C Juan Alvarez North
- D Palacio de Justicia

5:00-5:30PM

Approximately 100 mostly first-year students are gathered by the organizing committee in order to go obtain buses. The students travel in two buses, which they have already obtained, buses Estrella de Oro 1531 and Estrella de Oro 1568. The students do not intend to go to Iguala, but to nearby Chilpancingo. However, since police are at the city entrance to Chilpancingo, they head north to Iguala instead.

6:00PM-Onwards

The students are actively being monitored by Federal Police, State Police and the Army, all of whom are aware that they are students from Ayotzinapa commandeering buses for fundraising activities in Iguala.

7:30-8:30PM

The students park in two locations near Iguala. One bus parks outside the La Palma Restaurant (on the road, 4km away from the entrance to Iguala) and the other near the tollbooth at the entrance to the city. Near the tollbooth, Federal Police are already aware of the students' movements and attempt to stop them from boarding buses that heading to the city.

8:00 - 8:30PM

The students manage to get hold of a third bus Costa Line 2513 at the Iguala tollbooth. Some students go with this bus into the city as requested by the driver so that its passengers will not be inconvenienced. The bus is driven to the central bus station where the passengers get off and the driver locks the students inside of the bus. The students confined on the bus telephone for help to other students waiting at the Iguala tollbooth.

9:20PM

The remaining students arrive at the bus station to free them from the bus. Abandoning the Costa Line 2513 bus in which they had been trapped, the students together obtain three more buses; Costa Line buses 2510 and 2012 and the Estrella Roja 3278. When leaving, the buses Costa Line 2510, Costa Line 2012 and Estrella de Oro 1568 head in the direction of Juan N. Álvarez street. The Estrella de Oro 1531 and Estrella Roja 3278 take a different route.

9:20-10:00PM

The Estrella Roja 3278 is on its way down the street when the driver asks the students to stop so that his wife can bring him documents and clothing that he needs. After a long wait a woman arrives on a motorcycle, speaking with the bus driver and delaying their departure.

9:30-9:40PM

The first attack on the students takes place on Galeana street, where police begin shooting at first into the air, then at the buses (Costa Line 2510, Costa Line 2012 and Estrella de Oro 1568) and students as they attempt to leave Iguala. An Army intelligence agent is also seen at the Galeana street site near the exit to Juan N. Alvarez.

9:40-10:40PM

The Estrella de Oro 1531 is held up in front of the Courthouse (Palacio de Justicia). The students (13-15 persons) from the Estrella de Oro 1531 are all disappeared, but testimony from other witnesses and criminal evidence indicates the participation here of the Iguala Municipal Police, Huitzuco Municipal Police, Federal Police, local Ministerial Police, as well as a military intelligence (OBI) observer on a motorcycle reporting live to his superiors.

9:45-10:40PM

At the same time as the Estrella de Oro 1531 is held up at the Courthouse (Palacio de Justicia), the three buses Costa Line 2510, Costa Line 2012 and Estrella de Oro 1568 approach the crossroad intersection of Juan N. Alvarez and Periferico Norte, where an Iguala police vehicle blocks the way. Other Iguala Municipal Police, minutes later joined by Cocula Municipal Police, surround the students' caravan and open fire. Students from the first bus get off to move the obstructing police vehicle, throwing rocks to defend themselves. One student, Aldo Gutiérrez Solano, is shot in the head. The others are unable to move him due to constant shooting by police. The students run to shelter between the first and second buses. Police force the students from the third bus Estrella de Oro 1568 to disembark and lay down on the ground.

10:00-10:40PM

14 students on the Estrella Roja 3278, the so-called 'fifth bus', which has now continued on its way after having been halted by the driver, are also stopped by police around 150 meters away from the Courthouse (Palacio de Justicia). These students are forced to get off the bus, but manage to escape, running away into the local neighborhood and surrounding forest, where they hide from pursuing police. Witnesses testify to seeing Federal Police and local Ministerial Police present. In contrast to the other buses, the Estrella Roja 3278 is the only bus that is not violently attacked by police. (The Estrella Roja 3278 in fact quickly disappears from the record of the investigation, and the existence of this 'fifth bus' the authorities will try to keep hidden from the IACHR experts during the independent investigation).

10:40-11:00PM

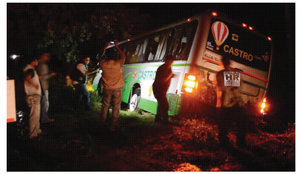
At the Courthouse (Palacio de Justicia) witnesses report police coerce the students and driver of the Estrella de Oro 1531 off the bus. The students are forced to the ground and the bus driver is put in the patrol car. Two patrols of Federal Police arrive on the scene and question the Iguala police over what is happening. The Iguala police reportedly reply, "Do not worry, the Huitzuco police will come, and we will take the students with the Patrón." Shortly afterwards, patrols of Huitzuco Municipal Police arrive and help the Iguala Municipal Police to apprehend the students. All the students from this bus are disappeared.

10:40-11:30PM

At the Juan N. Alvarez and Periferico Norte site, where the three buses Costa Line 2510, Costa Line 2012 and Estrella de Oro 1568 have been stopped students urge police to assist the students who have been shot, as well as another who has collapsed. The students call the federal emergency number 066 for an ambulance, which only arrives after approximately 30 minutes. Students then call for a second ambulance, which eventually arrives, though at first the students are told over the phone that the ambulance does not know how to get there. The wounded students are taken away in the two ambulances. All the students (25-30 persons) from the Estrella de Oro 1568 – except one who was injured – are loaded onto police vehicles and disappeared, after which police clear bullet shells and blood from the scene before leaving. Afterwards students from the Costa Line 2510 and Costa Line 2012 buses cordon off the area and photograph evidence. The students contact other students at the school as well as members of a teachers' union who will arrive 1.5 hours later. They also notify the media.

11:00-12:30PM

Near the Courthouse (Palacio de Justicia), the students who have escaped from the Estrella Roja 3278 are chased into the 24th February and Pajaritos neighborhoods. There are continuing attempts to run them over, they are threatened, stones are thrown at them, and police shoot at them. The escaping students hide in a house (10 students) and on a hill (4 students). According to testimony from the survivors, local Ministerial Police are also involved in their pursuit. The 14 students manage to return to the Courthouse, where they are able to see the Estrella de Oro 1531 bus abandoned.



Photograph: Posta

11:30-11:40PM

At the Santa Teresa intersection 15km outside of Iguala an unrelated bus carrying the teen football team 'Avispones de Chilpancingo' is stopped by men in civilian clothing armed with machine guns who start shooting at the Avispones' bus and at other passing vehicles. The bus driver as well as a 15-year old boy are killed and a number of others severely wounded. A woman riding by in a taxi is also killed and the occupants of two taxis are wounded. 10 minutes later a second shooting attack against a passing taxi and truck leaves several other persons seriously injured. Testimonies from witnesses and criminal evidence indicate the participation of civilians, Huitzuco Municipal Police, and Tepecoacuilco Municipal Police in the attacks, and later on the presence of Federal Police and the Army who deny assistance to the injured.

12:20-1:05AM

Forensic experts and Ministerial Police from the local Office of the Attorney General of the State Guerrero process the scene at the Palace of Justice. The Ministerial Police, who have already witnessed the detention of the students at that scene, order a crane service to quickly remove the Estrella de Oro 1531. Military patrol vehicles also arrive at the site.

Photograph: Flor Miranda

12:30-2:15AM

Approximately two hours after the first attack, students at the Juan N. Alvarez site are holding a press conference for journalists who have arrived with members of the teachers' union, when masked men wearing bullet proof vests arrive in unmarked cars and begin shooting with machine guns. The attack lasts three to five minutes, during which time two students, Daniel Solís Gallardo and Julio César Ramírez Nava, are killed. Another student, Edgar Andrés Vargas, is shot in the mouth and seriously injured. He is taken by other students to the nearby Cristina Clinic to seek medical attention. Two receptionists at the Clinic let the students in to hide and then leave after calling the owner, who calls the Army. An hour later soldiers arrive, collect the students' phones so they cannot take photographs, photograph them, threaten to hand them in to local police, refuse to help the wounded and then leave. Edgar is taken to a hospital in a taxi by a local teacher and another student, while the others flee. Police also arrive at the local hospital to search for the students who were shot and sent there.

12:30-2:00AM

While attempting to escape from the attack at Juan N. Alvarez and Periferico Norte Julio César Mondragón Fontes is caught, then later tortured and executed most likely in the early hours of the morning (the exact time is unknown) by the Camino del Andariego road in the Iguala industrial area.

1:50-5:45AM

Trucks and motorcycles continue to drive through the area all night looking for the students in hiding. An Army patrol vehicle visits the Barandilla Police station where the detained students would evidently have been taken. They later state they were there looking for a motorcycle. The same Army patrol vehicle later visits the Cristina Clinic and is the same vehicle which protects the scene of the crime where two students have been killed during the second attack by masked men at the Juan N. Alvarerz Periferico Norte site. Another Army patrol vehicle also later protects the site where Julio César Mondragón Fontes is murdered, before the arrival there of the civilian authorities.

The Assistant Attorney General of the State of Guerrero and his men arrive in Iguala. Collecting the students from the streets, they bring them to the State Prosecutor's Office, where the first testimonies are taken. Student survivors try to locate their missing classmates. The mutilated body of Julio César Mondragón Fontes is found on a street, the face having been torn off and eyes gouged out. Families of the students begin to be informed of the events and travel to Ayotzinapa.

Telephone analysis indicates that other federal, state and local authorities were communicating during the night and were aware in real time of the events, some of them in coordination with alleged criminals.

2014

Iguala Municipal Police Officers Arrested

September 28th - State authorities arrest 22 Iguala Municipal Police officers. Charged with murder of the six people killed during the night, they are taken to a prison in Acapulco.

Mayor Comes Under Suspicion

September 29th - Coming under suspicion, the Mayor of Iguala José Luis Abarca Velázquez gives a radio interview distancing himself from the events, saying he was busy dancing at his wife's event and did not order the attacks.

Students Set Number of Disappeared at 43

September 29th - The Student Committee of the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal Teachers College and the human rights organizations that accompany them eventually set at 43 the number of disappeared students. The students do the authorities' work by compiling the list of the disappeared as well as those who have been injured or killed.

Mayor And Wife Go Into Hiding

September 30th - The Mayor of Iguala asks for a leave of absence and he and his wife María de los Ángeles Pineda both go into hiding.

IACHR Adopts Precautionary Measure

October 3RD - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) adopts Precautionary Measure MC 409/14 in favor of the disappeared students, at the request of the families and their representatives, including the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center (Centro Prodh), José María Morelos Regional Human Rights Center, and Tlachinollan Human Rights Center of the Mountains.

RED - State BLUE - Independent GREY - Quotes

Photograph: El Tvoro matutino

Mass Graves Found in Cocula Landfill

October 4th - Federal Police and Guerrero State Police locate six clandestine graves in the Cocula landfill, containing the charred remains of at least 28 persons.

State Attorney General Says Guerreros Unidos Cartel Killed Students

October 5th - The Attorney General of the State of Guerrero Iñaky Blanco Cabrera reports detained Guerreros Unidos members have told investigators they killed and burned 17 students nearby where the graves have been located. He says local police may have been acting in collusion with the cartel in the attack on the students, but that the remains are in too poor condition for immediate identification.

Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) Visit Ayotzinapa

October 5th - The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team 'Equipo Argentino de Antropologia' (EAAF), an organization with expertise in locating disappeared persons developed during Argentina's 'Dirty War', visit the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal Teachers' College at the request of the human rights organizations accompanying the families. It is agreed the Argentine experts will accompany the investigation acting as independent forensic investigators, on behalf of the families.

"This incident is without a doubt shocking, painful and unacceptable… Mexican society and the families of the youths who are regrettably missing rightly demand that the incidents be cleared up and that justice be served".

Peña Nieto, October 6th

Photograph: Quartz

President Peña Nieto Speaks for the First Time About the Events

October 6th - President Peña Nieto gives a televised address to the nation speaking for the first time about the events. The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam announces that he will travel to Guerrero to personally lead the investigation.

Chamber of Deputies Creates Special Commission for the Ayotzinapa Case

October 7th - The Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the General Congress of the United Mexican States, Mexico's legislature, announces the creation of a Special Commission for the Ayotzinapa Case to monitor the progress of the investigation.

Guerrero Governor Says Case Is Closed

October 8th - The Governor of the State of Guerrero Ángel Aguirre Rivero says the investigation is "practically concluded".

Photograph: mashable.com

First 'Action Day for Ayotzinapa' Protests

October 8th - Large-scale protests are held in Mexico City and around the world as thousands of people participate in the first national and international 'Action Day for Ayotzinapa'. Ayotzinapa students and families of the disappeared 43 lead the march in Mexico City.

Photograph: Excélsior

Families Meet With Attorney General of Mexico

October 10th - Families meet with Secretary of the Interior Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong and Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam. The Attorney General reports the arrest of four alleged perpetrators and the discovery of four more mass graves.

Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Takes Over the Investigation

October 12th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam assumes responsibility for leading the investigation.

Attorney General Says Bodies Found Not the Students

October 14th - Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam acknowledges that 28 bodies found in the graves are not those of the students. Federal authorities arrest a further 14 police officers allegedly involved in the events.

"Today our priority task is to seek and find the young students of the normal Ayotzinapa".

Peña Nieto, October 16th

Attorney General Arrests Alleged Guerreros Unidos Leader

October 16th - Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam authorizes the arrest of Sidronio Casarrubias Salgado, the alleged leader of the Guerreros Unidos cartel, and announces the discovery of three more clandestine graves in the Iguala area.

Families Lead Search Efforts for the Missing Students

October 19th - Families lead ongoing search efforts for the disappeared students. They criticize the apparently lackluster official search efforts, saying they appear to be simulated.

Attorney General Accuses Mayor of Ordering Attacks

October 22nd - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam gives a press conference accusing former Iguala Mayor José Luis Abarca Velázquez and his wife María de los Ángeles Pineda of having ordered the attack on the students, issuing warrants for the arrest of the Mayor, the Mayor's wife, and former Iguala Director of Public Security Felipe Flores Velázquez, all of whom remain in hiding.

Photograph: izquierdadiario.mx

'Fue El Estado' ('It Was The State')

October 22nd - Large protests take place in Mexico City. 'Fue el Estado' ('It Was the State') is spelt out in Mexico City's central Zocalo plaza. Families of the 43 disappeared students address thousands of demonstrators from a stage raised in the Zocalo.

Guerrero Governor Resigns Amid Protests

October 23rd - The Governor of the State of Guerrero Ángel Aguirre Rivero resigns in the face of statewide protests over his handling of the case.

Head of Criminal Investigation Agency Makes Irregular Visit to San Juan River With Key Detainee

October 28th - In a serious violation of due process and of a detainee's human rights, prosecutors and Tomás Zerón de Lucio, head of the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency, take a detainee to the San Juan River to identify a location where bags with ashes are allegedly found. The highly irregular visit is not properly recorded in the case file.

"There is not the slightest bit of room for impunity …we will go to the end of the investigations to find those responsible, to apply the law, reaching anyone".

Peña Nieto, October 29th

Photograph: Official Presidential Photo

Families Meet With President Peña Nieto

October 29th - Families travel in buses to Mexico City where they meet with President Enrique Peña Nieto. After the five-hour meeting, families express disappointment and frustration with Peña Nieto, saying they do not trust the President's words and that Peña Nieto has offered nothing substantially new during their meeting.

"The promises aren't enough. The results will be significant when they return our children to us alive".

Melitan Ortega, uncle of Mauricio Ortega Valerio, October 29th

Photograph: La Razón

Federal Police Search San Juan River

October 29th - Federal Police allege they have recovered bags with human remains from the San Juan River. The Argentine experts are not summoned when the remains are purportedly recovered, but only afterwards presented with the alleged evidence.

Mayor and Wife Found Hiding in Mexico City

November 4th - Federal authorities arrest former Mayor of Iguala José Luis Abarca Velázquez and his wife María de los Ángeles Pineda who are found hiding in a house in Mexico City.

Protestors Call for President Enrique Peña Nieto's Resignation

November 4th - Large-scale protests are held in Mexico City, with protestors calling for the resignation of Peña Nieto.

Attorney General Says Students Remains Found in San Juan River

November 7th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam gives a press conference announcing that two detained suspects have led investigators to the San Juan River where plastic bags apparently containing the burnt remains of the students have been recovered. He shows videos of detained alleged Guerreros Undios cartel members confessing to having killed and burned the students for 15 hours in a large fire they built out of tires, diesel and wood in the Cocula landfill, afterwards wading into the ashes to crush and bag the burnt remains, disposing of the remaining teeth and bones. The Attorney General says positive identification of the remains will be difficult due to the degree of incineration of the remains and announces samples are being sent by the Mexican government to an Austrian laboratory for DNA identification.

Photograph: Twitter @La EscribesTu

#YaMeCanse (#I'm Tired Of It)

November 7th - Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam's press conference abruptly ends with his refusing to take any more probing questions from the assembled journalists. His concluding comment "Ya me cansé" ("I'm tired of it") is taken up on social media under the hashtag '#YaMeCanse' as a popular rallying cry amid the ongoing protests over the disappearances as ordinary Mexicans respond to the Attorney General's comments by posting, tweeting and uploading videos of what they are 'tired of'.

"Senor Murillo Karam, I, too, am tired…I'm tired of vanished Mexicans, of the killing of women, of the dead, of the decapitated, of the bodies hanging from bridges, of broken families, of mothers without children, of children without fathers. I am tired of the political class that has kidnapped my country, and of the class that corrupts, that lies, that kills…I, too, am tired."

Natalia Beristain, Filmmaker, November 7th

Large Protests in Chilpancingo

November 7th - Large protests are held outside the Guerrero state government building in Chilpancingo.

Door of Mexico's National Palace Set on Fire During Protests

November 8th - In response to Attorney General Murillo Karam's controversial press conference, large angry protests erupt in Mexico City, with police arresting people apparently at random. During the protests, sporadic violence erupts and the door of Mexico's historic National Palace is set on fire.

"These killings and forced disappearances reflect a much broader pattern of abuse and are largely the consequence of the longstanding failure of Mexican authorities to address the problem".

José Miguel Vivanco, Director of Human Rights Watch's Americas Division, November 9th

Argentine Experts Say Remains Found in Graves Not Those of the Students

November 11th - The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) report that that there is no genetic correlation between the remains recovered from the various graves and DNA samples taken earlier from the families.

Peña Nieto Says Protests Aiming to Destabilize the Government

November 18th - President Enrique Peña Nieto says that the widespread protests appear to be an orchestrated attempt to destabilize the country and its government.

IACHR Agrees to Provide Technical Assistance

November 18th - At the request of the families and their representatives an agreement is formalized according to which the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) will provide technical assistance in the investigation.

"The shout 'We are all Ayotzinapa' is a cry to continue transforming Mexico. The shout 'We are all Ayotzinapa' is an example of a nation that has come together in solidarity in difficult moments. As a society we should have the capacity to channel our pain and indignation into constructive propositions".

Peña Nieto, November 27th

Photograph: César Alan Ruiz Galicia

#Todos Somos Ayotzinapa (#We Are All Ayotzinapa)

November 27th - President Peña Nieto responding to the gravity of the protests gives a televised address outlining a package of proposed reforms aimed at placating the growing disaffection with the government over its handling of the events. Laying the blame on local corruption at the municipal level Peña Nieto proposes transferring responsibility for municipal policing to state authorities. His co-opting of the protestors' slogan 'Todos Somos Ayotzinapa' ('We Are All Ayotzinapa') is roundly criticized.

Photograph: Regeneración Radio

Videos Show Police Beating Protestors

December 1st - Major protests continue in Mexico City with videos emerging of police apparently beating protestors and of plainclothes police seemingly infiltrating the protests.

"I want to call upon Guerrero society so that with its capacity, with its commitment to its state, to its community, to its own families, we really make a collective effort so that we can move forward and really overcome this moment of pain".

Peña Nieto, December 5th

Photograph: Twitter @VictoriaCo3

#YaSuperenlo (#Get Over It)

December 5th - Peña Nieto visits Guerrero for the first time but does not visit Iguala. His statement that Mexican's should "make a collective effort so that we can move forward and we can really overcome this moment of pain" ("superar este momento de dolor") elicits outrage as in the face of the continuing massive unrest over the disappearances the President is perceived to be asking the country to just "get over it". Similar to #YaMeCanse, within minutes the hashtag #YaSuperenlo "#GetOverIt" trends nationally on social media, with users sarcastically outlining what they can 'get over'.

Remains of Alexander Mora Venancio Identified

December 12th - The family of missing student Alexander Mora Venancio is informed by the Argentine experts that the Austrian laboratory has positively identified their son's DNA from a bone fragment provided by the Mexican authorities. The Argentine experts raise doubts however about the origin of the evidence, arguing that while the DNA match for Alexander Mora Venancio is valid, the EAAF were not present when the Attorney General's office purportedly recovered the bag of remains from the San Juan River. The EAAF release a statement saying they had been called to the San Juan River site only when "the bag of remains had already been opened and the evidence laid out".

Families Lead Rallies in Mexico City

December 7th - Families rally in Mexico City.

Families Suspend Dialogue With Government

December 16th - Families suspend dialogue with the Federal Government in response to police aggression against members of their movement in Chilpancingo.

2015

"All lines of investigation that have arisen during the inquiry have been exhausted".

Tomás Zerón de Lucio, head of the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC), January 13th

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Photograph: Cuba Si

Families Want to Enter Military Barracks Unannounced

January 15th - The Mexican government briefly agrees to families entering the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion's barracks, after families have on a previous occasion confronted soldiers of the battalion while trying to enter the battalion's barracks to conduct a search for the missing students. The government later backs down on their agreement as the families want to enter the premises unannounced.

Alleged Guerreros Unidos Lieutenant Arrested

January 15th - Felipe Rodríguez Salgado, 'El Cepillo' or 'El Terco', alleged lieutenant of Guerreros Unidos, is arrested.

Austrian Laboratory Says it Cannot ID Remaining DNA

January 20th - The Institute for Legal Medicine of Innsbruck Medical University announces that it is not possible for them to identify DNA from the other 16 remains they have been sent.

"The evidence allows us to determine that the students were kidnapped, killed, burned and thrown into the river… This is the historical truth (verdad histórica) of what occurred, based on proofs supported by science, as included in the case record, and which has enabled us so far to take punitive action".

Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam, January 27th

Photograph: Aristegui

Attorney General Presents 'Historical Truth'

January 27th - At a press conference in Mexico City, the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam officially declares the students dead. Presenting what he calls the "historical truth" he says that the students were killed and burned in the Cocula landfill, after having been handed the students by corrupt local police, their ashes bagged and thrown into the San Juan River. The Attorney General says a fire burning for over 12 hours in the Cocula landfill and built out of tires, diesel and wood reached a temperature of 1,600 degrees Celsius (2,912 degrees Fahrenheit) incinerating the students' bodies and making DNA identification of the remains near impossible. He shows a video presentation of the government's "historical truth" of the events of the night, accompanied by mournful music, as well as clips of videotaped confessions and pictures of burnt remains. The head of the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency Tomás Zerón de Lucio, says that the students were killed after having been mistaken for members of Guerreros Unidos' rival cartel Los Rojos.

"The government has stepped all over our dignity. If I could give my life so that this could end, I would, but I can't do anything. I feel desperate. This is fatigue that I never imagined, but we are sticking with it, come what may".

Epifanio Alvarez, father of Jorge Alvarez Nava, January 27th

"This moment in the history of Mexico, of sorrow and tragedy and pain, cannot leave us trapped… We have to move forward with greater optimism and confidence… We recognize how much we still have to do, but the important thing is not to stand still, paralyzed and stagnant".

Peña Nieto, January 28th

IACHR Appoints Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI)

January 30th - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) appoints a team of independent investigators. The appointed experts are Claudia Paz y Paz, former Attorney General of Guatemala, a criminal law expert and human rights leader; Carlos Martín Beristain, a Spanish psychiatrist specialized in victim care and truth commissions; Angela María Buitrago, a Colombian lawyer who served as prosecutor for high-impact human rights cases; Alejandro Valencia Villa, a Columbian jurist with expertise in humanitarian law and international human rights law; and Francisco Cox Vial, a Chilean lawyer specialized in criminal law.

Photograph: Vice News

Families Speak Before the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

February 4th -Families of the disappeared students speak before the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED), where they contest the government's 'historical truth' and denounce the lack of progress made in the investigation.

"Our government has deceived us. We do not trust them. A good response would be to tell us: "We have your kids"".

Bernabé Abrajón, father of Adan Abrajón De La Cruz, speaking at the United Nations, February 4th

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Families Speak Before the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the European Parliament

February 5th - Speaking before the European Parliament, Hilda Legideño Vargas, mother of Jorge Antonio Tizapa Legideño, asks those present to "visit Mexico if you dare".

Argentine Experts Say DNA Evidence Unconvincing

February 7th - The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) announce that the families' DNA samples that the authorities have sent to Austria did not match with the Argentine experts' own samples, which they say is an 'unusual occurrence'. They re-state that they did not participate in the purported recovery by the authorities of remains from the San Juan River and report that the Cocula landfill site was left unsecured by the authorities during the investigation.

"For us it's clear that the 'historical truth' of the government has crumbled. We were right from the start to not trust the government's line".

Parents' spokesperson Felipe de la Cruz, in response to EAAF reportFebruary 9th

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Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam Resigns

February 27th - Amid ongoing controversy over his public comments and handling of the case Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Jesús Murillo Karam abruptly resigns and is replaced by Arely Gómez González.

Photograph: Centro Prodh

GIEI Visit Ayotzinapa

March 2nd - The Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) appointed by the IACHR begin their independent investigation by visiting the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal Teacher's College, where they meet with the families of the students.

GIEI Urge Authorities to Treat the Case as an Enforced Disappearance

March 19th - The GIEI urge the authorities to treat the case as an enforced disappearance. They entreat the authorities to conduct a second urgent neurological evaluation for comatose student Aldo Gutierrez Solano and request that the GIEI be permitted to interview the soldiers of the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion.

IACHR Warns of Military Complicity in Human Rights Violations

May 7th - Referring to Ayotzinapa, the IACHR in its annual report cautions about the large number of cases in the region in which security forces and state agents participate in human rights violations.

GIEI Say Government Not Answering to Requests

May 10th - The GIEI say that there are numerous pending requests from the experts to which the authorities have not yet replied, including the requested interview with the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion. The experts confirm that the students arrived in Iguala after the event held for the Mayor's wife had already concluded and point out that the authorities have always been aware of this.

Iguala Municipal Police Deputy Director Arraigned

May 11th - Francisco Salgado Valladares, former Deputy Director of the Iguala Municipal Police is brought before a judge for his alleged role in the attack against the students.

Secretary of Defense Says Military Operations Can't be Compromised

May 26th - The Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) states that disclosing information about military commanders who were aware of the events as they occurred would compromise ongoing military operations against organized crime and drug-trafficking. The Secretary of the Interior (SEGOB) has also earlier ruled out that the GIEI will be granted permission to interview the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion.

GIEI Report Widespread Torture of Detainees

June 29th - The GIEI state that approximately 40 detainees held in relation to the case show signs of having been tortured.

Families Resume Dialogue With Government

July 9th - After four months of suspension of dialogue between the families and the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) a meeting is arranged, with the GIEI acting as intermediary.

National Human Rights Commission Publishes Report

July 23th - The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) publishes its report on the case, pointing out deficiencies of the official investigation, including that the Attorney General has failed to compile basic information about the victims; that many suspects in the case have not been properly investigated; that there have been limited statements obtained from the soldiers of the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion; and that the army has not been assisting in the search for the students. The Commission condemn the authorities' use of arbitrary detentions and torture in obtaining confessions.

Photograph: guns.fandom.com

Illegal Trafficking of Heckler & Koch Weapons from Germany Revealed

August 5th - It is revealed that illegally trafficked assault rifles from German weapon manufacturer Heckler & Koch were used during the disappearance of the 43 students. The Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) replaces the weapons of the police forces in Jalisco, Chihuahua, Guerrero and Chiapas, where these weapons are being used illegally.

GIEI Report Destruction of Videos

August 17th - The GIEI state that there are "serious and worrying" faults in the official investigation, including the destruction of video surveillance footage that may have recorded the detention of the students. The experts lament their not being permitted to interview soldiers of the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion and indicate deficiencies in the autopsies performed on victims.

Photograph: GIEI

GIEI Say 'Historical Truth' "Scientifically Impossible" in First Report

September 6th - The GIEI present the results of their independent investigation. The experts' report 'INFORME Ayotzinapa: Investigación y Primeras Conclusiones de las Desapariciones y Homicidios de los Normalistas de Ayotzinapa' ('Ayotzinapa Report: Research and Initial Conclusions of the Disappearances and Homicides of the Normalistas from Ayotzinapa') indicates there have been "serious irregularities" in the official investigation, including loss and concealment of evidence, concluding that it is "scientifically impossible" for the students to have been incinerated in the Cocula landfill as the authorities contend. The GIEI say that the degree of incineration evident in the human remains delivered by the authorities to the Austrian laboratory can only have been achieved in a crematorium. The experts reveal that a military intelligence officer (OBI) gave a statement to investigators on 3/12/2014 of his having been present during the events, reporting live to his military superiors. President Enrique Peña Nieto publishes on Twitter that the GIEI report will be taken into account.

"There is scientific evidence that now tells us that our children did not die in that dump as Murillo Karam wanted us to believe with his historical truth that turned out to be a historical lie".

Parents' spokesman, Felipe de la Cruz, in response to the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI) report, September 6th

UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances Censures Mexican Government

September 16th - The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances censures the Mexican government for its lack of progress in addressing the problem of disappearances. For the Working Group, the disappearance of the 43, in addition to the delayed and deficient investigations which have followed, indicate "with crudeness" the Mexican government's lack of recognition of the magnitude of the problem.

Attorney General Says Second Student's DNA Identified

September 16th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) reports that forensic scientists from the Innsbruck Medical University have identified DNA belonging to a second student, Jhosivani Guerrero de la Cruz among the remains found in Cocula, but refers to the findings as "moderate evidence", meaning it is not a conclusive finding. Federal Police arrest Gildardo 'el Gil' López Astudillo, alleged lieutenant of Guerreros Unidos, for his alleged involvement in the disappearance of the 43.

Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) Dispute DNA Result

September 17th - The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) state that they do not consider the identification of student Jhosivani Guerrero de la Cruz a "definitive identification result", clarifying that the statistical significance of the genetic coincidence is low and is even more uncertain because of the multiple remains of victims of different incidents of disappearance having been found in the same place. The EAAF also raise again "serious questions about the origin of the samples analyzed", as they stress they were not present when the evidence was supposedly recovered from the San Juan River.

"We're poor, but we're not stupid. We don't want any more lies".

María de Jesús Tlatempa Bello, mother of José Eduardo Bartolo Tlatempa, September 18th

Governor of Guerrero Carried Out Fraudulent Investigation

September 23rd - Following former Governor of the State of Guerrero Ángel Aguirre Rivero's testimony, taken nearly a year after the events in Iguala, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Guerrero acknowledge that the government of the former Governor carried out a fraudulent investigation of the case. They reveal that following their arrival in the city on the morning of September 27th 2014 they were ordered not to interfere with the investigation.

Families Fast for 43 Hours on Eve of Meeting With President Enrique Peña Nieto

September 23rd - On the eve of their meeting with President Enrique Peña Nieto family members begin fasting for 43 hours to demand the return of their children.

"The Ayotzinapa tragedy is one of the worst human rights tragedies in Mexico's recent history. It has exposed how anyone can be forcibly disappeared into thin air in the country with those in power focused on covering up the traces".

Erika Guevara-Rosas, the Director of Amnesty International's Americas Division, September 23rd

Photograph: Diario Cambio.mx

Families Meeting with President Enrique Peña Nieto Ends Abruptly Over 'Historical Truth'

September 24th - The families' demanded meeting with President Enrique Peña Nieto ends abruptly over the President's refusal to accept the families' specific proposals, including the government's retraction of the 'historical truth' and further extension of the GIEI's mandate.

"We won't rest, we will be a pebble in his shoes. We won't go home".

María de Jesús Tlatempa Bello, mother of José Eduardo, addressed to Peña Nieto, September 25th

Photograph: PetrohsW

First Anniversary of Events

September 26th - On the first anniversary of the events tens of thousands of citizens protest demonstrating in solidarity with the families, decrying the lack of certainty over the fate of the 43.

"Today, the sky is crying, because the students are missing".

Cristina Bautista, mother of Benjamin Ascencio Bautista, September 26th

Attorney General Announces Second Investigation of Cocula Landfill

October 2nd - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) announces a second investigation of the Cocula landfill.

"I cannot permit that they (GIEI) interrogate my soldiers who have until now not committed a single crime… I cannot permit that the soldiers be treated like criminals… That's my position and I do not think that I can or should move, because I would lose a lot of who I am".

Secretary of National Defense Salvador Cienfuegos Zepeda, October 6th

Attorney General Creates New Team of Investigators

October 20th - Responsibility for the investigation is transferred from the Deputy Attorney General's Office Specialized in the Investigation of Organized Crime (SEIDO) to a new team of investigators under the Attorney General's Deputy for Human Rights, Crime Prevention and Community Services (SDHPDSC), Eber Omar Betanzos.

"We demand that the Group have the necessary conditions to fulfil its mandate, and if the Group considers that among the conditions there is the issue of the military and the interviews, we consider that it is appropriate to facilitate and make this request viable."

IACHR Commissioner James Cavallaro, October 28th

GIEI Mandate Extended

October 28th - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) extends the mandate of the GIEI to April 30, 2016, leaving the door open for further extension.

Federal Police Arrest Mayor of Cocula

October 29th - The Army and Federal Police arrest the Mayor of Cocula, Eric Ulises Ramírez, along with alleged Guerreros Unidos leader Adán Zenen Casarrubias Salgado, the brother of Sidronio Casarrubias Salgado. After two months the Mayor of Cocula is released.

Body of Julio César Mondragón Fontes Exhumed for New Autopsy

November 4th - The body of Julio César Mondragón Fontes is exhumed so that a new autopsy can be performed to clearly determine the cause of death. The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF), experts of the Attorney General's office and observers from the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) participate in the autopsy.

Smear Campaign Initiated Against GIEI

November 17th - Groups sympathetic to the Mexican Army, the ultra-right, and conservative sectors initiate a smear campaign against the GIEI including Claudia Paz y Paz, Angela Buitrago, and Carlos Beristain who are accused of being "anti-military" based on their established records of having faced down against powerful members of the military and corrupt government officials in their respective countries.

Photograph: Des Informemanos.org

Families Stage Sit-in Protest

November 26th - Families and students begin a sit-in protest in front of President Enrique Peña Nieto's office at Los Pinos.

Attorney General's Special Prosecutor Begins Investigating

November 27th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR)'s Special Prosecutor for the Iguala Case begins investigating.

Alleged Guerreros Unidos Member Arrested

December 3rd - Orbelín Benítez Palacios is arrested. He is accused of being part of 'Los Peques', a criminal cell allegedly belonging to Guerreros Unidos, and of having taken part in the disappearances.

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Alleged Murderers of Julio César Mondragón Fontes Arrested

January 22nd - Federal forces in Iguala arrest Bernabé Sotelo Salinas, Cruz Sotelo Salinas and Mauro Taboada Salgado as alleged perpetrators of the killing of Julio César Mondragón Fontes and of the disappearance of the 43.

Families Begin a New Search

January 26th - Families begin a new search for the 43 in Iguala.

Photograph: EAAF

Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) Present Their Findings on the Cocula Landfill

February 9th - The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) present their report 'Dictamen Sobre el Basurero Cocula' ('Opinion on the Cocula Landfill'), completely rejecting the government's 'historical truth' of the students having been burned in the Cocula landfill. EAAF conclude that it is impossible for a fire capable of incinerating bodies to have burned in the landfill, among other things evident in the absence of proportional damage to adjacent vegetation and other surrounding elements. The Argentine experts further restate that they cannot verify or account for the chain of custody of the remains allegedly recovered from the San Juan River. The EAAF report that the relation of the river and the landfill cannot be proven, as this relation is based solely on the declaration of an illegally detained suspect who was subject to torture and then taken to the site in a manner violating his rights as well as due process. The EAAF report that federal investigators, in violation of previous agreements, have unilaterally visited the Cocula landfill collecting ballistics evidence and soil samples without informing the EAAF, accounting for a "serious irregularity". The EAAF found nothing when searching the same spot where later the PGR allegedly discovered a cache of bullet casings (42). The EAAF assert that the Mexican government has only looked for evidence fitting its proposed scenario.

GIEI Accuse Authorities of Obscuring Progress in the Investigation

February 21st - The GIEI accuse the authorities of manipulating information in order to obscure the progress the experts have made in the investigation. They condemn the personal attacks being made against the experts.

Attorney General Announces Third Study of Cocula Landfill

February 28th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) informs that a third study of the Cocula landfill is under way but refuses to disclose the identity of the investigators.

IACHR Country Report Highlights Enforced Disappearances

March 2nd - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) releases its country report on Mexico. The IACHR report 'The Human Rights Situation in Mexico' says that Mexico is going through a severe human rights crisis with a particular emphasis on the problem of disappearances, particularly enforced disappearances. The report also mentions the problem of extrajudicial executions and torture as well as of lack of access to justice and impunity in Mexico. Referring to Ayotzinapa, the IACHR says that both the Mexican Army and Federal Police may have been colluding with organized crime in the disappearance of the students.

Attorney General Misrepresents Collegiate Fire Experts' Report

April 1st - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) unilaterally presents selected parts of a jointly commissioned fire experts' report on the Cocula landfill as if it were conclusive endorsement of the 'historical truth'. The GIEI and later the EAAF experts reproach the Attorney General's office for breaking with prior agreements and for misrepresenting the fire experts' findings, the EAAF reiterating that the remains found in the Cocula landfill are not those of the students.

Mexican Government Refuses to Extend GIEI Mandate

April 1st - The Mexican government formally rejects extending the GIEI's mandate.

National Human Rights Commission Implicates Huitzuco Municipal Police

April 14th - A National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) report reveals that Huitzuco Municipal Police also participated in the disappearances.

"We did not know that the PGR had destroyed security cameras, that there was a fifth bus, that there were hidden tshirts; all this was discovered by the experts. We want to ask the experts for their full support because we can't allow the government to continue deceiving us".

Clemente Rodríguez Moreno, father of Christian Alfonso Rodríguez Telumbre, in response to the end of the GIEI's mandate, April 22nd

Photograph: GIEI

GIEI Final Report Reveals Incriminating Video of Tomás Zerón de Lucio at San Juan River

April 24th - The GIEI release their second and final report 'INFORME Ayotzinapa II: Avances y Nuevas Conclusiones Sobre la Investigación, Búsqueda y Atención a las Víctimas' ('Ayotzinapa Report 2: Advances and New Conclusions in the Investigation, Search and Attention to the Victims'). They reveal the existence of a video of Tomás Zerón de Lucio, head of the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC), visiting the San Juan River site, accompanied by a detainee, pointing at a plastic bag, on October 28th, the day before the plastic bag with the remains of Alexander Mora Venancio was supposedly recovered from the river. The GIEI report also reveals there was activity in seven of the students' cellphones hours after the alleged cremation of the students.

Families Demand Tomás Zerón de Lucio Be Investigated

April 28th - Families demand President Enrique Peña Nieto and Attorney General Arely Gómez dismiss Tomás Zerón de Lucio from his position in the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) and that he be investigated for crimes related to obstruction of justice. The UN and the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) both deny having witnessed the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC)'s actions at the San Juan River. The GIEI recommend Tomás Zerón de Lucio be dismissed.

Photograph: GIEI

GIEI Dispute 'Fifth Bus'

May 1st - The GIEI follow-up recommendations are delivered to the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR). They mention a dispute over the 'fifth bus' which authorities initially excluded from the investigation and hid from the experts. When asked about this bus in early June 2015 the authorities apparently presented the experts with a different bus. The GIEI refer to possible interruption of cross-border trafficking of narcotics to the US using buses as an explanation for the attack on the students and note the existence of court trials in Chicago against members of Guerreros Unidos using buses to smuggle heroin.

Confessions Obtained Under Torture

May 10th - Associated Press release documents in which ten of the main suspects in the case, on three of whose testimony the 'historical truth' has largely been based, report being subjected to beatings, electric shocks, partial asphyxiation and threats of their loved ones being killed, in order to obtain confessions supporting the government's version of events.

GIEI Follow-up Mechanism Agreed On

May 19th - The Federal Government and families agree to create a mechanism to monitor the recommendations of the GIEI. The mechanism will be coordinated by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)'s Rapporteur for Mexico.

Photograph: Regeneracion

Families Call for International Support

May 26th - Families protest in front of embassies in Mexico City asking for international support.

Alleged Guerreros Unidos Member Arrested

June 21st - Juan 'El Indio' Salgado Guzman, allegedly implicated in the events, is detained. He is alleged to be the founder of Guerreros Unidos and is accused of organized crime offences.

Alleged 'Los Tilos' Member Arrested

June 30th - Víctor Hugo Benítez Palacios is captured. He is considered the main operator of the criminal group of 'Los Tilos', the armed wing of Guerreros Unidos.

Julio César Mondragón Fontes Autopsy Reveals Evidence of Torture

July 11th - The panel conducing the second autopsy for Julio César Mondragón Fontes conclude he was tortured, a federal crime. The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) report that Julio César Mondragón died as a result of beatings and that his face was devoured by fauna. The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) however caution that although the wound on his neck shows traces of fauna activity, it also shows indication of cutting instrument intervention.

GIEI Follow-up Begins Working

September 9th - The IACHR's Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Iguala Case (MESA) begins its work.

Attorney General's Internal Investigator Dismissed

September 12th - César Chávez Flores, the Attorney General's General Inspectorate (VG), who has been conducting the internal investigation of the irregularities in the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR)'s investigation of the Ayotzinapa case, is abruptly dismissed from his position. It is later revealed that César Chávez Flores's dismissal is in retaliation for the content of his internal investigation, which stated that there were serious irregularities in the investigation and recommended that several of the authorities of the Attorney General's office involved in the investigation themselves be investigated and dismissed if they are found to have committed any criminal offences, including Tomás Zerón de Lucio.

Fire Expert Engaged by GIEI Rules Out Cocula Landfill Fire

September 13th - A broader investigation published in Science magazine by independent fire specialist José Torero, who conducted in the first fire study on behalf of the GIEI, again rules out the possibility that the 43 were incinerated in the Cocula landfill.

Photograph: Archivo Universal

Tomás Zerón de Lucio Resigns and is Promoted by President Penã Nieto

September 14th - Penã Nieto appoints Tomás Zerón de Lucio technical secretary of the National Security Council hours after Tomás Zerón de Lucio presents his resignation to the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC). Families and their representatives point out that this is an "announced acquittal" of the official, who is widely suspected of having committed serious irregularities during his tenure as head of the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC), and whose video-taped presence at the San Juan River site the day before the identified student Alexander Mora Venancio's remains were allegedly discovered there has not been explained.

Families Suspend Dialogue with Attorney General

September 16th - Families of the students refuse to resume dialogue with the Attorney General unless they are informed of the findings of the internal investigation of the former head of the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) Tomás Zerón de Lucio and demand that he be sanctioned for his illegal actions.

"What is unacceptable, and I do reject it categorically, is to pretend that all these events have a slogan of state action and state purposes… it is completely absurd, aberrant".

Peña Nieto, September 22nd

Attorney General Announces Fourth Investigation of Cocula Landfill

September 23rd - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) announces that it intends to carry out a fourth investigation of the Cocula landfill.

Second Anniversary of Events

September 26th - Two years after the events, the families march in protest in Mexico City.

Government Denies Federal Police or Army Involved

October 1st - The Federal Government asserts that there is no evidence pointing to the responsibility of the Army or the Federal Police for the disappearances.

Fugitive Iguala Municipal Police Chief Arrested

October 21st - Fugitive former Iguala Municipal Police chief Felipe Flores Velázquez is arrested at his family home in Iguala. The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) considers the arrest of Felipe Flores Velázquez, who was chief of the Iguala Municipal Police on the night of the disappearances, key to clarifying what happened on that night and bringing all those responsible to justice.

Attorney General Replaced

October 25th - Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) Arely Gómez is reappointed as Secretary of the Civil Service (SFP) and is replaced by Raúl Cervantes Andrade.

MESA Visits Ayotzinapa

November 11th - The Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Iguala Case (MESA) makes its first visit to the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal Teachers' College to present its work plan. The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) insists that the soldiers of the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion must elaborate on their statements.

Guerreros Unidos Contact Book Revealed Containing Names of Investigators

November 12th - A contact book secured from alleged leader of Guerreros Unidos Sidronio Casarrubias Salgado is revealed to contain the names of new head of the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) Omar Hamid García Harfuch, head of the Federal Police in Guerrero at the time of the events, as well as former Secretary of Public Security of Guerrero Leonardo Vázquez. The book also contains information which the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) hid from the GIEI concerning trafficking of narcotics in passenger buses from Iguala to the US. Following the revelation of the names contained in the contact book, the families demand the named officials be investigated.

Secretary of Defense Refuses MESA Access to Military

November 29th - The Secretary of National Defense (SEDENA) Salvador Cienfuegos rejects the possibility that members of the Mexican Army's 27th infantry Battalion in Iguala will testify before the Special Follow-up Mechanism on the Iguala Case (MESA).

Alleged Guerreros Unidos Leader's Organized Crime Charges Revoked

December 1st - Due to irregularities in his interrogation, including torture, a judge revokes Sidronio Casarrubias Salgado's formal prison sentence for organized crime and money laundering charges, although he remains in prison on other charges.

Leaked Internal Investigation Report Contents Revealed

December 16th - The New York Times reveals that the Mexican government refuses to recognize and has suppressed the conclusions of the internal investigation conducted by the Attorney General's General Inspectorate (VG) César Chávez Flores. The leaked internal investigation, the New York Times says, revealed a number of "serious irregularities" in the investigation, including the fact that the principal investigator [Tomás Zerón de Lucio] led a suspect to identify the alleged crime scene without defense counsel present, that the undocumented visit was never recorded in the case file, and that the site was left unguarded at night. The internal investigation also found that key suspects in the case were not afforded due process and queried the obtained confessions, several of which were in identical wording. The New York Times reports the Attorney General's General Inspectorate (VG) César Chávez Flores also queried why Federal Police and the Mexican Army's 27th Infantry Battalion who were stationed nearby did not act while Municipal Police attacked the students' buses.

Federal Government Testifies Before Chamber of Deputies

December 18th - The Federal Government testifies before the Chamber of Deputies that the line of investigation of the attack of Guerreros Unidos against the Ayotzinapa students provides the explanation for the disappearances.

Photograph: Grijalbo

Launch of the Book 'A Massacre in Mexico'

December 18th - Launch of the book 'La Verdadera Noche de Iguala: La Historia Que el Gobierno Trató de Ocultar' by journalist Anabel Hernández, published in English as 'A Massacre in Mexico: The Story Behind the Missing Forty-three Students'. The book presents for the first time the list of public servants involved in the use of torture during the investigation, as well as the specific case of a detainee who would have been killed as a result of torture inflicted by federal authorities, most likely by the Navy.

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Attorney General Downplays Torture Allegations

January 18th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) announces that it has carried out examinations on eight detainees; for six it discards signs of torture; for the others it admits certain acts of physical torture but refuses psychological examination, maintaining that the eight cannot prove that they have been psychologically tortured.

Families Meet UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

January 19th - Families meet with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders Michel Forst during his visit to Mexico.

La Jornada Reveals Attorney General Hid Evidence of Drug Smuggling From GIEI

January 23rd - The newspaper La Jornada reveals that the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) had knowledge of members of the Guerreros Unidos cartel using buses to traffic drugs and that it hid that information from the GIEI, who suggested exploring this line of investigation.

Chamber of Deputies Refuses to Investigate Tomás Zerón de Lucio

February 7th - The Chamber of Deputies' Special Commission for the Ayotzinapa Case refuses to demand a more thorough and expeditious investigation of the former head of the Attorney General's Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) Tomás Zerón de Lucio.

Families Resume Dialogue With Government

February 9th - After six months of suspension of dialogue, families meet with Secretary of the Interior (SEGOB) Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong and Attorney General Raúl Cervantes Andrade.

UN Special Rapporteur on Torture Criticizes Mexican Government

February 17th - Following his visit to Mexico the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment issues a report criticizing the Mexican government for not thoroughly pursuing the lines of investigation suggested by the GIEI, including those related to torture of detainees. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights – Mexico (ONU-DH Mexico) later says it has evidence of the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) having tortured detainees.

Photograph: Reforma

IACHR Hearing on Ayotzinapa Case

March 17th - At an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) hearing on the Ayotzinapa case, families accuse the Mexican government of continuing to hide valuable information in the investigation into the disappearance. Roberto Campa, Undersecretary for Human Rights of the Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB), asks the families to accept the 'historical truth'.

Families Engage in Sit-in Protest

April 20th - The families engage in an indefinite sit-in protest in front of the headquarters of the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) after a meeting between the families' legal representatives and the authorities ends without satisfactory results.

Families Challenge Impunity of Tomás Zerón de Lucio

May 4th - Families file a constitutional challenge against the impunity of Tomás Zerón de Lucio whose administrative investigation is being conducted by former Attorney General Gómez González, Tomás Zerón de Lucio's former superior. The administrative investigation is suspended pending the outcome of the families' amparo trial constitutional challenge, which is filed against the decision of the Attorney General's General Inspectorate (VG) exempting Tomás Zerón de Lucio from prosecution for serious crimes.

Government Belatedly Deploys LIDAR Technology

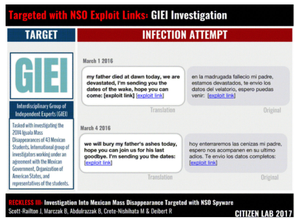
May 8th - 31 months after their disappearance, the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) announces that it will deploy LIDAR technology to expand the search for the 43 students to an area of more than 60km2 in the surroundings of Iguala.

Families Withdraw Sit-in Protest

May 16th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) and the Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB) agree to follow up on four lines of investigation suggested by the GIEI and highlighted by the families, after which the families withdraw the sit-in protest they are holding in front of the prosecutor's office.

Cartel Contact Book Names Being Investigated

May 24th - It is announced that the Attorney General's General Inspectorate (VG) is investigating Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) personnel for concealing from the investigating authorities and from the GIEI the existence of the contact book belonging to alleged Guerreros Unidos leader Sidronio Casarrubias Salgado.



Photograph: The Citizen Lab

Use of Pegasus Spyware Revealed

June 19th - The New York Times reveals that prominent human rights defenders, including lawyers from Centro Prodh, journalists and anti-corruption activists, have been infected with a spyware program acquired by the Mexican government. A few days later it is revealed that former Attorney General Murillo Karam and former head of the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) Tomás Zerón de Lucio were involved in the acquisition of the spyware.

Photograph: GIEI

Mexican Government Admits Cellphones Remained Active

July 6th - At a hearing on the Ayotzinapa case at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Mexican government admits that cellphones of nine of the 43 disappeared students remained active after midnight, at which time according to the 'historical truth' they would have already been incinerated. The Mexican government also states that the international transfer of drugs on buses is being investigated.

GIEI Report Receiving Messages with Pegasus Spyware

July 6th -The GIEI report that they have received messages containing the Pegasus spyware sent to their cellphones.

UN Experts Denounce Mexican Government's Use of Pegasus Spyware

July 19th - A group of high-level UN experts requests the government of Mexico carry out a transparent, independent and impartial investigation into the allegations of espionage against human rights defenders, activists and journalists, including GIEI.

Attorney General Says Lines of Investigation Exhausted

September 25th - The Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) announces that the lines of investigation requested by the families have been exhausted.

Third Anniversary of Events

September 26th - Recognizing that the nation is in mourning, the families lead a silent demonstration in support of those mourning losses as a result of the September 19, 2017 Mexico City earthquake.

Attorney General Resigns Leaving Post Unfilled

October 16th - Attorney General Raúl Cervantes Aguirre resigns amid nationwide political debate over the creation of a new independent institution to replace the Attorney General's office. The Attorney General's post is left unfilled following his resignation.

MESA Mandate Extended

November 28th - Government officials agree to extend the mandate of the IACHR's Special Follow-up Mechanism for the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA) to 2018.

2018

Chamber of Deputies' Special Commission for the Ayotzinapa Case Ends

February 3rd - In a coordinated action, all political parties, including PRI, PAN, PRD and PVEM, decide to end the work of the Chamber of Deputies' Special Commission for the Ayotzinapa Case. The current president of the Special Commission Candido Ochoa Rojas (PVEM) encourages the group of deputies to suspend their meeting for a period of nine months.

Mother of Disappeared Student Dies

February 4th - Minerva Bello Guerrero, mother of missing student Everardo Rodríguez Bello, dies with without knowing of her son's fate.

Photograph: Ai Weiwei Studio

Ai Weiwei Meets with Families

February 6th - During a visit to Mexico artist Ai Weiwei meets with representatives of the families of the 43 students. Following the meeting he decides to shoot a documentary film telling their story in collaboration with Centro Prodh, local researchers, film professionals, and the Mexican production company No Ficcion. The film aims to portray the human impact of the Iguala events on the families and classmates of the students whose lives have been changed irrevocably by Mexico's crisis of enforced disappearances.

Mexican Government Appears Before IACHR

March 2nd - During Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) hearings, the Mexican government undertakes to "reach conclusions this year" on the Ayotzinapa case. This is interpreted by families as an announcement by the government that it could potentially 'shelve' the issue so that it does not interfere in the electoral process.

Photograph: Fundar

Psychosocial Study of Ayotzinapa Families Highlights Trauma

March 14th - Fundar Centro de Análisis E Investigación (Fundar Center of Analysis and Research) presents the comprehensive psychological report 'Yo Sólo Quería Que Amaneciera: Impactos Psicosociales del Caso Ayotzinapa' ('I Only Wanted it to Dawn: Psychosocial Impacts of the Ayotzinapa Case'). Among the main points of the report are that a multidisciplinary team documenting the psychosocial impact of the Ayotzinapa case on the various groups of victims has found trauma-inducing processes deriving from the actions of the authorities during the course of the investigation. The team calls upon the Mexican government to eradicate harmful practices such as the authorities' constant repetition of the 'historical truth'.

"Serious human rights violations cannot be solved by committing other serious human rights violations".

Jan Jarab, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mexico (UN-OHCHR) – Mexico, March 15th

Photograph: OHCHR

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Report on Torture

March 15th - Jan Jarab, representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mexico (ONU-DH Mexico) presents the ONU-DH's report 'Double Injustice: Report on Human Rights Violations in the Investigation of the Ayotzinapa Case' in which the UN says it has found significant evidence of extrajudicial executions having taken place as well as of the widespread torture of the many detainees. For at least for 34 people detained in the Iguala case, the report says there are "strong elements of conviction" that they have been subject to torture. Of the 129 detainees, 63 cases have been examined, only in 12 of which has no indication of torture been found.

"For those of us who walk with the parents, this set of atrocious illegalities found by the UN call into question the so-called 'historical truth' of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, which fabricated a historical lie by resorting to torture".

Mario Patrón, director of the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Center, March 15th

"You can't construct a truth under torture. It has no sustenance. We continue to demand from the federal government the truth about where our children are".

Emiliano Navarrete, father of José Angel, in response to the UN report, March 16th

Intercepted Guerreros Unidos Cellphone Messages Reveal Chicago Bosses Acknowledged Disappearances in Real Time

April 12th - Intercepted cellphone messages exchanged between alleged members of the drug cartel Guerreros Unidos provided by the US authorities reveal that the disappearance of the 43 students was acknowledged in real time by the cartel's leaders in Chicago. US drug-enforcement agents obtained the messages – including those of the days subsequent to the event – through electronic intercepts in a 15-month narcotics investigation conducted in the United States and subsequently provided them to the Mexican government. The intercepted messages contain new details about the events, including the names of gang members involved, the demands of Chicago bosses that municipal police from neighboring towns participate, and their orders that the Guerrero state prosecutor and other state officials intervene to support them. This information clearly proves that international criminal syndicates are implicated and were colluding with the authorities.

Mexican Government Denies Torture

May 7th - The Mexican government reproach the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mexico (ONU-DH) for the recent 'Double Injustice' report detailing widespread torture.

Heckler & Koch Employees Appear Before German Court

May 14th - Six former employees of the German arms manufacturer Heckler & Koch (H&K) appear before a court in Germany for the illegal sale of several thousand weapons to Mexico. The weapons in question were used during the massacre of the students in 2014.

Federal Collegiate Tribunal Court Orders Truth and Justice Commission

June 4th - In an unprecedented development, a Federal Collegiate Tribunal court orders the creation of an 'Investigative Commission for Truth and Justice for the Iguala Case', concluding that the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR)'s investigation was neither prompt, effective, independent, nor impartial. The PGR maintains that the judges who order this are unaware of the division of powers and the faculties of investigation and prosecution devolving on the Federal Public Ministry.

Photograph: IACHR

MESA Presents Findings

June 5th - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)'s follow-up mechanism (MESA) publishes its first report, 'Situation Report: Special Follow-up Mechanism to the Ayotzinapa Case of the IACHR'. Among its main points are following up on the use of buses in cross-border drug trafficking, the use of Pegasus spyware against representatives of the families and GIEI and the evidence obstruction of justice in the case. The IACHR call on the Mexican government to change its narrative about the case, given the overwhelming evidence against the 'historical truth'.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador Elected President

July 1st - Andrés Manuel López Obrador wins the Mexican presidential election.

Federal Government Fights Truth and Justice Commission Ruling

July 9th - The Federal Government initiates an unprecedented legal offensive against the court rulings ordering the creation of a truth and justice commission by filing more than two hundred legal remedies against them.

Federal Collegiate Tribunal Court Upholds Truth and Justice Commission Ruling

July 12th - The Federal Collegiate Tribunal rules that, by law, not even the Supreme Court can modify or revoke its ruling to create a truth and justice commission.

The Supreme Court of Justice States it Can Review the Ruling on a Truth and Justice Commission

July 17th - The Supreme Court of Justice reserves its faculty to review an extraordinary remedy on the rulings that order the creation of the Truth and Justice Commission. The Third Unitarian Court holds that the PGR cannot comply with the ruling and sends back the ruling, leaving the last word to the Supreme Court.

Families Rally Outside Attorney General's Office

August 23rd - Families rally outside Attorney General's office demanding the reopening of the investigation and compliance with the Federal Collegiate Tribunal court ruling ordering a truth and justice commission.

"Be it a soldier, a member of the Navy, a public servant or a governor, there can be no impunity and that is the commitment of our president-elect, Andrés Manuel López Obrador and the government team, and I hope that together we all make this change for a dignified life with peace in all of Guerrero and the entire country".

Senator Alejandro Encinas Rodríguez, designated Undersecretary for Human Rights in the Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB), August 28th

"Personally, and with the pain it causes, and the sorrow it signifies for the families, I'm convinced that unfortunately it happened just like the investigation showed".

President Enrique Peña Nieto, in the context of his latest Presidential report to Congress, August 29th

MESA Visits Ayotzinapa

September 3rd - MESA presents to the families of the 43 normalistas the report on the first year of the Special Follow-Up Mechanism for the Ayotzinapa Case (MESA) and together with the ONU-DH and the CNDH rejects the 'historical truth'. The event for the presentation of the report is held at the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal Teachers College. Attending human rights organizations agree on the need for the incoming government to explore the lines of investigation that the current federal government has refused to investigate.

Federal Court Says Authorities Must Reopen Investigation

September 19th - The Federal Collegiate Tribunal unanimously ratifies its ruling that authorities must comply with the order to reinstate the investigation and to create a Truth and Justice Commission. They rule that the commission must have external controls, including the representation of families and the assistance of international organizations.

President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador Requests Return of GIEI

September 20th - President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador formally requests the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to continue their assistance and cooperation in the investigation including the return of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts (GIEI).

Photograph: Ai Weiwei Studio

Fourth Anniversary of Events

September 26th - On the fourth anniversary of the events President-elect Andrés Manuel López Obrador meets with the families in Mexico City, promising to create a truth and justice commission to decree that the entire public administration collaborate in the case, and to request the assistance of the UN and the IACHR. In the afternoon there is a massive protest march from the Angel of Independence statue to the Zócalo.

Federal Court Rules Out Statements Obtained Under Torture

October 25th - A federal judge rules that 83 statements made by the majority of people accused of having played a role in the disappearance and presumed death of the students must be omitted from the Ayotzinapa investigation, due to evidence that the accused's human rights have been violated by, variously; Guerrero State Police, Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) agents, Federal Police, and Army and Navy personnel. The judge states that most of the accused have been subjected to torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment, as well as to illegal arrest or unlawful prolonged detention, at times to all three.

Key 'Historical Truth' Detainees Released

October 26th - Due to insufficient evidence Agustín García Reyes, alias 'El Cheje or El Chereje'; Jonathan Osorio Cortés, alias 'El Jona'; Patricio Reyes Landa, alias 'El Pato', and Salvador Reza Jacobo, alias 'Lucas or El Wereke' are released; all of them were considered by the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR) to be key figures in the construction of the 'historical truth' of the Cocula landfill.

National Human Rights Commission Report Highlights Torture

November 28th - The National Human Rights Commission's report highlighting inconsistencies in the Attorney General of Mexico (PGR)'s investigation of the Cocula landfill draws criticism for focusing once more on the Cocula landfill investigation which has long been discredited. The CNDH report also draws attention to the large number of cases of torture of detainees.

"Authorities violated the right to truth of families and society by formulating and disseminating biased statements or partial or false information, which served to disorientate, confuse and generate uncertainty in public opinion, causing the victims to be re-victimized".

The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) president Luis Raúl González Pérez, November 28th

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador Inaugurated

December 1st - Andrés Manuel López Obrador takes office as Mexico's 58th President. During his inauguration he refers to the need to resolve the disappearances of the 43 Ayotzinapa normalistas.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador Attempts to Militarize Public Security

December 2nd - President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announces a plan for constitutional reform that would allow the military to form a National Guard to be used in matters of public security. The President's proposal is met with criticism from human rights organizations who see it as an attempt to further militarize law enforcement in the country. A month earlier Mexico's Supreme Court has struck down a similar controversial law adopted in 2017, ruling the measure to be an unconstitutional attempt at normalizing the use of the armed forces in matters of public security.

Photograph: Televisa News

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador Orders Creation of Truth and Justice Commission

December 3rd - With his first public decree as President, Andrés Manuel López Obrador orders the creation of a truth and justice commission for the Ayotzinapa case, to be coordinated by Alejandro Encinas, incoming Undersecretary for Human Rights, Migration and Population at the Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB). The decreed Commission is to include the students' families and their advocates and to lead a new investigation conducted by a Special Prosecutor's office, considering all lines of investigation including those that have been ignored or discarded by the previous government.

"I promise you there will be no impunity, not in this terribly sad and painful case, and not in any other".

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, December 3rd

"We ask you, as a father, to help us, to pull us out of this dumpster where Peña Nieto left us, and for you to gain the trust of all Mexicans, because we don't trust anyone anymore".

María Martínez Ceferino, mother of Miguel Ángel Hernández Martínez, in response to Andrés Manuel López Obrador, December 3rd

2019

Photograph: Telemundo20

Installation of Presidential Commission for Truth and Access to Justice in the Ayotzinapa Case

January 15th - The Presidential Commission for Truth and Access to Justice in the Ayotzinapa Case is inaugurated. Present are the families of the disappeared, injured and murdered students as well as their accompanying organizations Centro Prodh, Tlachinollan, Fundar and Serapaz. During the inauguration, the Secretary of Interior (SEGOB) reiterates the political will of the incoming Federal Government to clarify the truth of the case, "in the shortest time that is humanly, legally and scientifically possible." During the event President of the Commission Undersecretary Alejandro Encinas remarks that "in the Ayotzinapa case, the only truth is that there is no truth".

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador Announces End of Mexican Drug War

January 30th - President Andrés Manuel López Obrador officially declares the end of the Mexican drug-war, saying the country will no longer prioritize fighting drug bosses, but will instead focus on reducing homicide rates and improving public security. His announcement is met with skepticism, considering the continued deployment of the Armed Forces.

"There is no war, officially there is no more war…We want peace, we are going to get peace. We haven't detained capos, because that is not our principal mission. The principal mission of the government is to guarantee public security."

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, January 30th

Mexican Government Announces New Plan for National Search System (SNB)

February 4th - Mexican officials announce a plan for a new forensic National Search System (SNB) database to facilitate the ongoing search for the tens of thousands of disappeared persons throughout the country.

Heckler & Koch Trial Ends

February 21st - The ten-month trial of former employees of Germany's largest weapon manufacturer, Heckler & Koch, ends. Three of the five accused for their part in the illegal sale of G36 assault rifles to Mexico between 2006 and 2009, including the company's former CEOs, are acquitted, while two administrative employees are found guilty and given suspended prison sentences. The company Heckler & Koch is fined €3.7 million, the approximate value of the weapons at the time of their sale.