

September 26, 2016

Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Human Rights Council Branch-Complaint Procedure Unit
OHCHR-Palais Wilson
United Nations Office at Geneva
CH-1211 Geneva 10
SWITZERLAND
Email: CP@ohchr.org

Dear High Commissioner Al Hussein:

Two years ago today, 43 young Mexican education students disappeared. During these last two years, allegations of brutal torture, mutilation, murder and incinerated bodies at the hands of the local police have haunted their families, their fellow students and the community of educators locally and throughout the Americas.

What happened to them? This is the haunting refrain that echoes around the world wherever teachers assemble.

As elected representatives of the community of educators in the Americas, we are filing this complaint with the United Nations Human Rights Council on the second anniversary of the disappearance in a desperate attempt to bring justice and truth in resolving the questions that surround the atrocities that befell these young victims of state impunity.

The failure to resolve the mystery of these 43 disappeared students is empowering to the government authorities who were complicit in this heinous act and have sabotaged the efforts to bring justice and truth to the resolution and reconciliation. This lack of accountability and justice inflicts fear and anxiety that has a chilling effect on young adults in similar communities who might consider the profession of teaching.

We, a community of educators, who represent thousands who have been victims of similar atrocities in our own countries, are compelled to raise our voices for our 43 colleagues who have been silenced. These innocent students who had chosen to dedicate their adult years to the education and development of young people in their communities were summarily removed by the very government in whose service they aspired to be employed. The government must take responsibility and answer the question: *What happened to them?*

While we do not experience the daily pain and suffering that haunts the victims' families, we cannot stand by in silence. Their mysterious disappearance perpetrated by the state threatens the security of the profession. As trade unionists, we live by our motto "An injury to one is an injury to all."



A Federation of Professionals
American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

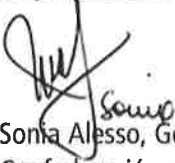


In filing this complaint, we call upon the United Nations Human Rights Council to expedite remedial action with the government of Mexico to prosecute those responsible and come forward with an attested record of the fate of the 43 disappeared young educators. Let the memory of their suffering be respected and not forgotten.

As it says in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, *"Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."*

Sincerely,

Republic of Argentina:




Sonia Alessio, General Secretary
Confederación de Trabajadores de la
Educación de la República Argentina

Republic of Colombia:



Luis Alberto Grubert Ibarra, President
Federación Colombiana de Educadores

Federal Republic of Brazil:



Roberto Franklin Franklin de Leão, President
Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores
em Educação

Republic of El Salvador



Israel Montano Osona, General Secretary
Asociación Nacional de Educadores
Salvadoreños 21 DE JUNIO

Republic of Chile:



Jaime Gajardo Orellana, President
Colegio de Profesores de Chile

United States of America:



Randi Weingarten, President
American Federation of Teachers