

ABSTRACT

MEXICO - RSF TRIGGERS ICC PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED AGAINST JOURNALISTS

- Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Mexican Human rights organization Propuesta Civica are about to ask the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to open a preliminary examination into the grave crimes committed against journalists in Mexico between December 2006 and December 2018. This communication is based on an extensive data collection, as well as a legal analysis of RSF and Propuesta Civica.
- Since the beginning of president Felipe Calderon's mandate in December 2006 and the war on drugs he declared on the country's cartels, till the end of the presidency of his successor Enrique Pena Neto, the number of collateral victims among the civilian population has continuously increased. Among them, journalists operating in Mexico have paid a particularly heavy price for investigating drug cartels or exposing corrupt officials: 102 have been assassinated and 14 others are still missing.
- With a record rate of 99.14% of unsolved cases for these crimes, impunity is almost total. Despite horrendous crimes that amount to crimes against humanity in the sense of international law, the Mexican justice system has been remaining totally passive for more than a decade.
- In this country where corruption is systemic, the deep collusion between organised crime and public authorities precludes any serious investigation for crimes committed against journalists who denounce this collusion. The almost total impunity for these crimes derives from a deliberate and complicit passivity of the Mexican authorities - national and local -, and an encouragement to commit them.
- By their gravity, their scale and their systematic nature of these crimes, and because of this complicit passivity of the Mexican State, these crimes amount to crimes against humanity. Since the Mexican State had neither the capacity nor the will to genuinely investigate these crimes, RSF formally seize the ICC, and calls on the Mexican president to do the same.