



Press release
Geneva, March 13, 2018

A CALL BY ACTOR AND FILMMAKER GAEL GARCÍA BERNAL IN GENEVA

**“We need an international mechanism against
impunity in Mexico”**

The International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH), the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) have united to bring the deterioration of human rights in Mexico to the attention of the international community. Invited in Geneva by these three organizations, Mexican actor and filmmaker Gael García Bernal stated: “The serious situation concerning the rights of citizens in Mexico requires the urgent attention of the UN Human Rights Council.**”**

During a press conference organized by the FIFDH, prior to participating in tonight's public debate at the festival on the theme: [Mexico: towards the end of impunity?](#) Gael García Bernal explained that, for twelve years, Mexico has faced an alarming level of violence. *“The deployment of thousands of military personnel to perform public security tasks in the context of the war on drugs has resulted in serious violations of human rights and crimes against humanity. Since 2006, more than 200'000 murders have taken place, 2017 being the most violent year of the last few decades of Mexican history.”*

He adds: *“Mexico requires the urgent intervention of the Human Rights Council and its member states to recognize and address the human rights crisis. **We need the cooperation of member countries of the Council for the establishment of an international mechanism against impunity** that helps our country emerge from this crisis and ensure that the crimes that take place are not repeated. We want to stop the unbearable normalization of violence. We do not want life to be about survival but to live it fully, freely, with joy and hope. **In Mexico, we want peace.**”*

*"The FIFDH is carefully following the human rights situation in Mexico. This year, alongside **Gael García Bernal**, we have invited Mexican journalists **Anabel Hernández** and **Ixchel Cisneros**, as well as activist **Juan Carlos Soni Bulos**, who will speak of the latest events taking place in Mexico with the audience".* explained Isabelle Gattiker, the director of the FIFDH.

Gael García Bernal will speak tomorrow at the General Debate of the **37th session of the UN Human Rights Council**. Year after year, violence causes the deaths of young people, women and children, due to the actions of the Mexican authorities. The main cause of the perpetuation of these atrocious crimes and human rights violations, such as torture, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions, is impunity, fueled by corruption and the lack of willingness and diligence on the part of the institutions responsible for investigating and administering justice, stated Olga Guzmán Vergara, a member of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH).

"Although torture is a widespread practice in Mexico, as confirmed by reports of the UN Human Rights Council, impunity reigns and victims are forced to remain silent, without obtaining redress". states the Secretary General of the OMCT, Gérald Staberock.

It should be noted that among the more than 10,000 criminal investigations that have been opened, less than ten sentences have punished this crime.

Public debate at the FIFDH:

[Mexico : towards the end of impunity?](#)

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