

**IACHR APPOINTS GROUP OF EXPERTS TO FOLLOW UP THE AGREEMENT ON
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CASE OF THE MISSING STUDENTS IN IGUALA**

On January 16th, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) formally notified the list of the persons designated to form part of the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts on human rights, which was established under the Agreement on Technical Assistance signed on November 12th, 2014, between representatives the Mexican government, the IACHR, and the beneficiaries of the precautionary measures granted for the case of the students of the Teachers' Rural School "Raúl Isidro Burgos" in Ayotzinapa, State of Guerrero.

It was established in the agreement, *inter alia*, that the IACHR would be responsible, in consultation with the Government of Mexico and the beneficiaries of the precautionary measures, for determining who would form part of the Group of Experts chosen to undertake a technical oversight of the actions taken by the Mexican government after the disappearance of the 43 students.

According to these criteria, the IACHR determined that the Group will be made up of the following persons:

- Mr. Francisco Cox (Chile) - Attorney in Constitutional Law.
- Ms. Claudia Paz y Paz (Guatemala) - Attorney specialized in Criminal Law and Human Rights.
- Ms. Angela Buitrago (Colombia) - Attorney specialized in Criminal Law and Criminology.
- Carlos Beristain (Spain) - Doctor and specialist in health education. (Submitted by Mexico)
- Mr. Alejandro Valencia Villa (Colombia) - Attorney specialized in promoting and defending human rights and international humanitarian law. (Submitted by Mexico)

In light of the terms of the Technical Assistance Agreement, the Interdisciplinary Group of Experts will have the following mandate: i) Assistance for the development of search plans for missing persons; ii) Technical analysis of the investigations to determine criminal liability; iii) Technical analysis of the Plan for Comprehensive Attention of Victims of the events of September 26th and 27th in order to ensure that comprehensive attention and reparations are being provided.

The Group may make relevant technical recommendations in each of the three areas of action. In addition, through this agreement, the Mexican government reiterated its willingness to strengthen the institutional capabilities for searching and locating missing persons, as well as for investigating cases of enforced disappearance, as it may be recommended by the Group of Experts.

The mandate of the Interdisciplinary Group of Experts shall be six months and may be extended for the time necessary for the fulfillment of its purpose.

The Mexican government will continue to work with all stakeholders to monitor the Technical Assistance Agreement and for the adequate implementation of the precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American body on October 3rd, 2014. The close cooperation will complement the efforts taken to ensure that access to justice is given to the victims and that incidents such as this do not take place again.

References:

Technical Assistance Agreement <http://www.sre.gob.mx/images/stories/doceventos/2014/noviembre/>