

GENDER ALERT DECLARED FOR THE STATE OF MEXICO

On the 28th of July 2015, the National System for the Prevention, Attention, Sanctioning and Eradication of Violence Against Women, in an extraordinary session, decreed for the first time and in a unanimous decision the procedure to emit an Alert of Gender Violence Against Women (known by its acronym in Spanish AVGM) for the State of Mexico.

The National System was created under and following the measures set out in articles 35 and 36 of the General Law for Women's Access to a Life Free from Violence - in Spanish, Ley General de Acceso de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia - (known by its acronym in Spanish LGAMVLV). Its objective is to co-ordinate the efforts, instruments, politics, services, and inter-institutional actions for the prevention, attention, sanction and eradication of the violence against women.

The extraordinary session was chaired by the Undersecretary for Human Rights of the Ministry of Governance, Roberto Campo, and by Lorena Cruz, President of the National Institute for Women, as Secretary of the National System. It resolved unanimously in favour of the declaration of the Alert of Gender Violence Against Women in the 11 municipalities in the State of Mexico, which have the concentration of the highest index of violence and crimes against women, pursuant with article 38 of the Regulation of the LGAMVLV, legislation in force at the time of the request of the declaration, the 8th of December of 2010, by the Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights and the National Citizens Observatory of Femicide.

Both organisations backed their application to denounce that there exists a systematised patriarchal violence against women, with the majority of the female assassinations presenting characteristics of femicide and were found in public areas such as open places, vacant lots, landfills, amongst others; in addition to the high number of accusations of rape, disappearances and unidentified murdered women.

Deriving from this evidence, the inter-institutional and multidisciplinary group —which proposes a non-limitative base for the National System's decisions— presented the report concluding with the fact that there exists a context of violence against women in the State of Mexico that translates to common order crimes against their life, liberty, integrity, and judicial security.

This report found that:

- a. From 1985 until 2013, the State of Mexico has been ranked amongst the top places for female death, with the presumption of those being homicides and disappearances.
- b. According to the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI, by its Spanish acronym) all indexes of violence —sexual, physical, economic and psychological— are superior to the national average level.
- c. In more than half of the homicides committed against women, no charges have been made, indicative of the lack of completeness and due diligence in the prosecution.

The Alert of Gender Violence Against Women is a pioneering protection mechanism for the human rights of women in the world. It consists in implementing a set of emergency governmental actions to confront and eradicate the femicide and/or the existence of a comparative wrongdoing. Its fundamental objective is to guarantee the security of women and girls, the end of the violence against them and/or to eliminate the inequalities produced by a legislation or public policy that breaches their human rights.

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By publishing the alert, emergency measures will be implemented to guarantee the security of women and to stop the violence against them. The co-ordination of the actions is taken on by the federal government by means of the National Commission for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women of the Ministry of Interior (SEGOB, by its Spanish acronym), and the state and municipal authorities where the alert is activated.

The declaration of the alert and the recent modification to the Regulation of the LGAMVLV to make the procedures more transparent, efficient and impartial attend the recommendations from the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), in order to surpass in practice the legal obstacles which have limited the activation of the Gender Alert, simplify its the procedures and to improve the co-ordination between its members.



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References.

Official Gazette of Mexico City: http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5386784&fecha=26/03/2015