



# Ayotzinapa to Ottawa Caravan

April 12–May 2, 2015

**Vivos se los llevaron, ¡Vivos los queremos!**

They took them alive, we want them back alive!

 @ayotzi2ottawa

 /ayotzinapa2ottawa

 [makemexicosafe.ca/ayotzinapa2ottawa](http://makemexicosafe.ca/ayotzinapa2ottawa)

## Caravan from Ayotzinapa to Ottawa

On September 26, 2014, Mexican state security forces attacked a group of students from the teachers' college in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, killing 6 people and forcibly disappearing 43 others who were never seen again. The crime has pulled the veil off an acute human rights crisis in Mexico. The search for the students has uncovered more than 15 mass graves, none of them containing the bodies of the students.

Now, Canadian solidarity and human-rights organizations are organizing a Caravan from Ayotzinapa to Ottawa that will bring a student leader from Ayotzinapa, a parent of one of the disappeared students, and a human-rights lawyer representing the students' families to Canada in order to tell their story to the public and to Canadian policy makers. The caravan will take place from 11 April to 2 May 2015 and encompass events in British Columbia, Quebec, and Ontario.

Through public education events, workshops for teachers and other groups, meetings with Members of Parliament, and community fundraisers, the tour will focus on four main objectives:

1. to raise public awareness of the permanent and systemic violence, both criminal and state-supported, that permeates public life in Mexico;
2. to generate media coverage about human rights violations in Mexico in general and attacks on the Indigenous peoples of Mexico in particular, and the challenges facing those seeking justice;
3. to forge links between Mexican and Canadian civil-society organizations; and,
4. to press Canadian parliamentarians and policy makers to acknowledge the human rights crisis in Mexico, to hold the Mexican government to international human rights norms, to review Canada's program of cooperation with Mexico, and to eliminate barriers for people seeking protection in Canada.

The tour is supported by a wide range of organizations who ask the Canadian Government to break its public silence about the violence in Mexico and to urge the Mexican authorities to effectively investigate the murders and forced disappearances that took place on September 26 and 27, 2014 until the missing students are found and all those responsible have been identified and brought to justice, including public officials who had a direct or indirect role in the crime.

We also call on the Canadian Government to urge the Mexican government to respect freedom of expression and assembly in Mexico. The murders and disappearances from Ayotzinapa have awakened a massive movement pressuring the Peña Nieto administration to resign and calling for fundamental change, recognizing that at least 22,000 people are reported disappeared in Mexico, nearly one half of them during Peña Nieto's mandate. Those who speak up for human rights or take part in protests face a pattern of disproportionate use of force, trumped up charges, threats, and attacks, amidst a climate of widespread impunity. Canada must not let considerable commercial interests in Mexico prevent it from taking a forceful stand on this dire situation.

Organizers: CIPO-Vancouver and Co-Development Canada (CODEV) in British Columbia, the Committee for Human Rights in Latin America (CDHAL) in Quebec; Fuerza-Puwerza, Latin American and Caribbean Solidarity Network (LACSN), and Common Frontiers in Ontario, and Amnesty International Canada.

Sponsors and Supporters: BC Teachers Federation (BCTF), United Food and Commercial Workers Canada (UFCW), United Steelworkers Canada (USW), Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE National and CUPE BC), Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) Social Justice Fund, Simon Fraser University Graduate Students Society (GSS), SFU Education Graduate Students Association, Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group (SFPIRG), UBC First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program, UBC Global Fund, UBC Department of Sociology, UBC Program of Latin American Studies, SFU Institute for the Humanities, SFU Department of History, SFU School of Criminology, Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean, York University (CERLAC), Ontario Public Interest Research Group – Guelph (OPIRG), The peak, Growing community health, Colectivo Alternativa latinoamericana, Pay more get less campaign, Centrale syndicale du Québec (CSQ), Conseil central du Montréal métropolitain de la CSN, Laboratoire interdisciplinaire d'études latino-américaines, Faculté des sciences humaines, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Institut d'études internationales de Montréal (IEIM), L'Entraide missionnaire, Coalition québécoise sur les impacts socio-environnementaux des transnationales en Amérique latine (QUISETAL), Chaire Nycole Turmel sur les espaces publics et les innovations politiques de l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Mexicain.e.s uni.e.s pour la régularisation, Réseau québécois d'intégration continentale (RQIC), Fédération des travailleuses et travailleurs du Québec (FTQ), Centre international de solidarité ouvrière (CISO), Laboratoire d'études latino-américaines, Réseau d'études latino-américaines de Montréal, Comité UQAM Amérique latine, Solidarité Laurentides Amérique centrale, Comité de solidarité québécoise à Ayotzinapa and many more organizations and individuals of the community!