

11 June 2009

Human Rights Council
Eleventh Session

Item 6
“Consideration of UPR reports”

Oral Intervention by Amnesty International on Mexico

Mr. President,

Many of the recommendations made to Mexico during the review in the UPR Working Group are consistent with those repeatedly expressed by members of both Mexican civil society and Amnesty International.

While we recognise Mexico’s positive engagement with the UPR and its stated support of 83 recommendations made by other states, we also note that successive Mexican governments have made similar commitments to address longstanding human rights concerns without delivering effective results. Examples of such earlier commitments include pledges to eradicate the use of torture in the criminal justice system and to end impunity for past human rights violations.

In this statement we focus on the issue of violence against women although we share many other concerns addressed today by other civil society organizations. We welcome the recommendations, made during the review, to end discrimination and violence against women, to strengthen women’s access to justice and reparation, to review legislation at state and federal levels, and to end impunity for the perpetrators.¹

Although we note some welcome legislative advances, most authorities in the country have not taken measures to effectively implement these legal obligations and, as a consequence, many victims and relatives continue to face obstacles in filing complaints and receiving prompt and effective redress. Many local, state and federal government authorities continue to view violence against women as a low priority which does not engage their responsibilities.

Mr President,

In recent years, the federal government has had two important opportunities to demonstrate its commitment to prevent and punish violence against women; however, it has failed to do so. In Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua City there are persistent reports of abductions and murders of women; yet too many perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity. And in San Salvador Atenco, Mexico state, the federal and state governments have failed to hold to account public officials responsible for the torture,

¹ A/HRC/11/27, paragraph 93, sub points 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.