



**observatorio
de racismo**
EN MÉXICO Y CENTROAMÉRICA

RELEASE ON THE SITUATION OF VIOLENCE IN BAJA CALIFORNIA

AFaced with the reprehensible incidents of narcoterrorism registered last weekend in four municipalities of Baja California: Mexicali, Tecate, Tijuana and Ensenada, we call for reflection and action.

Acts of violence in the states of Jalisco, Chihuahua and Guanajuato prove that what happened in various parts of Baja California are not isolated cases, but the clearest expression of the situation in Mexico in terms of insecurity; Ciudad Juárez, a border point receiving thousands of people in a context of mobility, witnessed violence that escalated and took the lives of 11 people.

The downtown area of Tijuana, where shelters and organizations that serve people in a context of mobility are located, was one of the focal points of violent acts by organized crime; outside the facilities of Espacio Migrante and the Refugee Health Alliance clinic, a car was set on fire, which was recorded on video and viralized on social media.

Tijuana is not a safe city, much less for people who are in a context of mobility, displaced and forced to leave their cities and countries of origin because of the violence they are experiencing again today in Tijuana, evidencing the inability of the Government at its three levels to act and provide security to nationals and foreigners.

Civil society shelters are working to their maximum capacities, exceeded by absorbing the public burden the State should be bearing. This translates into shelters without space and, therefore, in more racialized migrant population in situation of homelessness, which aggravates and exposes them greatly, placing them in a situation of extreme vulnerability and imminent risk.

We speak out against the response from the Mexican authorities. The Federal Government of Mexico made the decision to send 300 soldiers of the Army and National Guard to Tijuana to deal with this wave of violence. At the municipal level, the Tijuana government deployed the police force, which undoubtedly represents a greater militarization of the border. We warn that this creates a breeding ground for new and terrible perpetrations of abuse and increased violence



We highlight that arbitrary detentions are also perpetrated by agents of the National Migration Institute (INM) in conjunction with the National Guard, systematically violating the Human Rights of people in the context of mobility by detaining them while they are traveling by bus through the Mexican national territory or on public roads, even if they have the immigration documents that allow them to do so in freedom and legality.

We do not accept under any circumstances the baseless voices that argue that migrants are in the same position of security and rights as the rest of the population. Due to racism and xenophobia, people on the move are in a situation of differentiated vulnerability.

The migrant community has suffered harassment and violations of their human rights by the police, the INM and the National Guard, who constantly use racial profiling for the criminalization and detention of people in the context of mobility, whom they physically and psychologically assault, in addition to depriving them of their belongings and identity documents. This has a particularly negative effect on the migrant population with double vulnerability when identifying as a person of African descent, indigenous, brown or member of the LGBTIQ+ community.

We also note with concern the militarization and patrolling of the area that aggravates what was described above and, therefore, **we demand that all levels of the Mexican Government put a stop to arbitrary detentions and racial profiling, respect human rights and guarantee the safety of all people regardless of their nationality.**

We highlight that it is intolerable and unsustainable for the United States Government to continue expulsions under Title 42 under the argument of public health, since this policy expels people without taking into account their protection needs. A cruel strategy of the governments of the United States and Mexico to contain migration.

While after the announcement of the end of the Migrant Protection Protocol, MPP, a policy that forced asylum seekers to wait for their processes on the Mexican side, we ask the governments of the United States and Mexico to facilitate the entry of asylum seekers placed under MPP as soon as possible, to generate mechanisms so that those who were placed under this policy during the first phase can access their processes regardless of where they are currently; and the government of Mexico to stop collaborating in migratory policies contrary to our Constitution, that endanger the life and emotional health of people with international protection needs.

The Observatory of Racism in Mexico and Central America, and civil society organizations in Tijuana, speak out against any hate speech against the migrant community due to the violent events that have arisen and we call on the relevant authorities to act and safeguard the integrity of the population in Baja California, regardless of their immigration status.

