

DECLARATION OF THE CHILPANCINGO & AYOTZINAPA

“INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOLIDARITY WITH AYOTZINAPA AND FOR THE REPEAL OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM”

The attack on public education is international, which is why the fight for the 43 students from the Isidro Burgos Normal School in Ayotzinapa, who were disappeared in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico to be returned alive; and for the repeal of the neoliberal education reform of the Mexican government, is a banner that unites the international fight, of teachers, students, mothers and fathers together with our communities to preserve education as a social right; an education that is scientific, secular, free, humanistic and for emancipation.

Internationally we are experiencing the criminalization of social struggles, an increasing use of police and military action by the State to exercise its power, and as a means to attempt to strip us of our rights. The repression of youth is particularly serious, as the murder of African-Americans and migrants in the United States, the murder of students in Honduras, in Mexico and other countries demonstrate.

The crime committed by the State in Ayotzinapa is part of the distorted politics of an illegitimate government that is breaking the social contract established by the Mexican Revolution and which seeks to corporatize the right to education and culture.

After six months of fighting for the disappeared students to be returned alive, Ayotzinapa has become a focal point for the indignation and resentment of the imposition of politics and reforms that are incompatible with the national interest of all Mexicans. The crime against humanity committed against the students from Ayotzinapa was intended to instill fear, in order to paralyze students, professors and the general public into not resisting the neoliberal reforms that are stripping away their civil rights: but it failed.

The 35 years of resistance and development of educational alternatives by the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE), together with the unfolding nationwide movement demanding that the 43 Ayotzinapa students be returned alive, have shown that the people of Mexico are confronted with a government that criminalizes social struggles and hands over its national sovereignty; not only by giving away Mexico's natural and energy resources, but by willingly embracing the U.S. intervention embodied in Plan Merida.

The testimonies about the struggles of education workers and social organizations in Chicago and California in the United States, Ecuador, Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, Canada, England, and France, prove that the policies to privatize education, of funding university education with loans that enslave students with insurmountable debt for the rest of their lives, of teacher layoffs based on punitive forms of evaluation, of the closure of public schools based on

standardized tests results, in order to later reopen them as charter schools, just like the campaigns to discredit the teaching profession, teacher-training schools (normales), as well as education workers' unions, are all global policies, designed by international organizations such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and instruments of transnational capital and governments in all of our countries.

In the case of Mexico, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been the great dictator of policies that privatize education and strip away labor rights. The Ministry of Public Education (SEP) has become subordinate to its dictates and to the lackeys of the transnational companies and public-spending parasites such as the "Mexicanos Primero" group.

The global economic and political crisis is a product of the voracity of big capital, austerity programs and the cuts in public spending that were promised to us represent new threats and the possibility of the destruction of public services and erosion of social rights such as education, healthcare, and housing. Judging by the results of their implementation in previous decades, we know this will further exacerbate the social crisis that we are living under in each of our countries.

We have established that in each of our countries, we are living in a crisis of the legitimacy of our political institutions and electoral processes, which compels us to create new forms of organization that will guarantee truly democratic participation and representation at the grassroots level.

In response to all of the above, the participants in the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOLIDARITY WITH AYOTZINAPA AND FOR THE REPEAL OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM call for:

- An end to the interference of the international organizations, in public policies in order to take away our rights. We demand the cancellation of the contracts with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED), to stop the use of standardized tests for students and using them as instruments of exclusion, control, and layoffs in evaluating teachers. Stop the privatization of education, health, social security, housing and other social rights.

The implementation of public budgets that will guarantee the right to education and of decent conditions for the successful realization of teaching-learning processes. No more austerity for the people and accumulation of wealth for the entrepreneurial elite.

- The defense of teacher training schools and of the teaching profession.

- Reiterate our commitment to give broad support to the actions of the fathers and mothers of the disappeared students from the rural school at Ayotzinapa, in their demand that their children be returned alive.
- Support for the three caravans of students and family members of the 43 disappeared students, that are traveling in the United States and will meet in Washington, D.C. on the April 26, 2015 Global Day of Action, as well as support the future caravans in Canada and other countries. Demand that the Mexican government respect the rights of the participants in the caravans and that it abstain from any retaliation against them and their family members upon their return to Mexico.
- The end of repression and the criminalization of social struggles. We condemn the assassination of the students in Honduras at the hands of the police and the military and we demand the government of Honduras punish those responsible for that despicable crime.
- The end of repression and the immediate release of all political prisoners in Mexico and Latin America.

We reiterate our commitment to maintain solidarity with the Mexican teachers of the National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE) and for the repeal of neoliberal education reform. We support CNTE's decision to organize and promote a National Strike. We will be ready to support these actions when they are launched.

This international conference resolves to intensify the communication among our organizations, give greater visibility to our actions to transform education and coordinate and share our struggles to create an education for liberation become a reality that expands consciousness, builds democratic societies with social justice for all, and that eradicate poverty and the exploitation of labor by capital.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

We strongly condemn the systematic repression and the continued harassment that the student and parent community of Ayotzinapa are repeatedly subjected to while they continue to demand that the 43 disappeared students be returned alive.

We condemn the new police aggression against the students of Raul Isidro Burgos School, on March 28, where 6 students were injured, two of them had to be hospitalized, and two more were forcibly held in the offices of the University Institute of Police Science (INFOCAP), for 3 hours where they were subjected to abusive treatment that left visible injuries in different parts of their bodies.

We demand the Mexican government cease this systematic repression and we reiterate our solidarity with the three principal demands of the community of fathers, mothers, and students of the Teachers' School at Ayotzinapa.

1. The 43 disappeared students be returned alive.
2. Stop the repression and criminalization of the Teachers' School "Raul Isidro Burgos" in Ayotzinapa.
3. Punishment of those responsible for planning and carrying out the assassination of the 3 students on September 26 and 27, 2014, and for the execution of the 2 Ayotzinapa students on December 12, 2011.

¡They were taken alive, we want them back alive!

National Educators Union of Ecuador (UNE)

Social Network for Public Education in the Americas, Red SEPA

Justice in Ayotzinapa, Chicago Committee, USTIRED2, Caravana 43

Latinamerican Coalition for Ayotzinapa, Los Angeles, Caravana 43

Mothers and Fathers of the 43 disappeared Ayotzinapa students

National Coordinator of Education Workers (CNTE)

State Coordinator of Education Workers of Guerrero (CETEG)

Trinational Coalition in Defense of Public Education, Mexican Section

Trinational Coalition to Defend Public Education, U.S. Section

Union of Academic Workers at the Autonomous University of Chapingo (STAUACH)

Union of Nuclear Industry Workers (SUTIN)

Union of Workers at the Autonomous University of Mexico City (SUTUACM)

Independent Union of Workers at the Metropolitan Autonomous University (SITUAM)

Ayotzinapa, Guerrero

March 28, 2015