

**Blanca Isabel Martínez 's speech for the "Sergio Vieira de Mello" award reception.**

**Blanca Martínez is director at the Human Rights Diocesan Center Fray Juan de Larios (Coahuila, Mexico) and former director of the Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas Human Rights Center (Chiapas, Mexico) ex director  
Blanca Isabel Martínez Bustos**

**Polish Prizes of Sergio Vieira de Mello, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights,  
In Krakow, Poland, October 24th, 2019.**

**Reputable members of the "Sergio Vieira de Mello" foundation,  
Reputable representatives of the Polish government,  
Reputable members of other Human Rights Civil Organisms,  
To everyone here today.**

We, members of the Human Rights Diocesan Center Fray Juan de Larios, are honored to be part of the bold and courageous living memory of *Sergio Vieira de Mello*, and his tireless commitment to fight for peace and Human Rights, which is polish people's heart itself.

It is a great responsibility and an honor to receive this recognition for our work, which really is a recognition for the thousands of mothers and families, who search tirelessly and endlessly for their missing loved ones in Mexico. I receive this recognition on their behalf, on behalf of my partners, and of bishop Raúl Vera López, OP, president of the Human Rights Diocesan Center Fray Juan de Larios.

***"Looking for words" said Wieslawa Anna Szymborska\*.***

***We look for our missing loved ones,  
for a missing word to name them and bring them back.***

We have ten years searching relentlessly for our loved ones, in Coahuila, Mexico. Ten years following cases of disappeared persons, first on the northwest part of the country and now on national territory.

Ten years of hope, building our path and our own search; years of demanding and pressuring authorities to assume their responsibility to protect, respect and guarantee Human Rights for everyone nationwide. Nevertheless, the systematic answer has been the same until today... impunity.

Over these years, we have learned that only with our own effort and organization as citizens we can achieve results of hope for humanity.

Nothing has come from the governments in power; it only has from our own search.

But the perpetrators, sponsors and accomplices of crimes against humanity in Mexico do not listen:

\* Literature Nobel Prize in 1996

- There are nearly forty-five thousand missing people in Mexico! Approximately ten thousand of them have disappeared during the current administration which continues the long-standing strategy of past governments of managing the pain and wanting death and to forget. It is this way simulation is a key component to perpetuate impunity.
- More than thirty-seven thousand unidentified bodies and thousands of bone fragments have been found in clandestine graves and death camps. The Polish people knows what we are talking about when we refer to the fact that disappearances are part of a state policy.

The current Mexican government has not been capable (in one year) to deliver a response to the call for justice. Not even to the forty-three missing young students from Ayotzinapa. Far from that, it pretends, like the past administrations did, to hide the fact of nearly forty-five thousand disappeared persons.

Violence in Mexico is a serious concern and it doesn't stop.

In our country, political will has a hollow meaning and condemns bleached stone graves. In Mexico we cannot talk about democracy, nor transitions or transformations, when we are missing thousands of people and on a day to day basis, they keep on disappearing.

Insecurity and grave human rights violations have become normal throughout the country; the strategy to manage the pain, despair and the legitimate demand of thousands of families who cry out the return of their missing loved ones to their home.

To talk about justice in Mexico would mean to break pacts of impunity. Justice means that every missing person come back home, even if their hearts are not beating anymore, or their eyes do not shine anymore. Justice means punishing those responsible of allowing the massacre of our people. Justice means to know what happened, why it happened, who sponsored it and enabled it. Justice means never again a missing person. Justice means no more death camps. Justice means to build hope and worthy life for our peoples.

We cannot talk about democratic processes in Mexico when impunity rules.

Violence towards Central American migrants is widely known; the murder of journalists and hundreds of Human Rights defenders; the thousands of women murdered every day; indigenous peoples outraged and expelled from their lands...

It has been the work of human rights organizations and the victims of violence and disappearances who have been searching, the ones that propose, denounce, demand, but also the ones that build organization, research and hope.

Enforced disappearances in Mexico are linked to powerful economic and political interests.

A terrified and violent country is only useful for the great capital who is also administering weaponry.

They are the same economic and political interests that are destroying the planet.

The same ones snatching and controlling indigenous lands in Mexico and the world.

And impunity is the wall to unable justice.

For that, we request today, from this important place in the planet, from within this symbolic and important act, to internationally urge the Mexican government to accept and take the necessary steps towards the creation of an:

**INTERNATIONAL MECHANISM AGAINST IMPUNITY IN MEXICO  
and an  
EXTRAORDINARY FORENSIC IDENTIFICATION MECHANISM.**

**There is an urgent need of international pressure for this to happen!**

With these mechanisms being real and effective we could then talk about new paths of hope being made for democracy in Mexico.

We as human rights and victims' organizations in Mexico, are prepared and ready with proposals, work and method.

To you we ask civil international pressure and diplomatic efforts.

Our defense and our believe on human rights have been and will be tireless!

We are searching for more than forty-five thousand missing persons in our country, more than eight thousand who are underaged. Thousands of migrants who have disappeared in Mexican soil whose families are in worse conditions to access justice and search possibilities.

... And if life is the search of life, then this should happen without violence. Nevertheless, the search of the missing ones, for inherent causes to a system which creates and serves itself from violence, has been the drama that the Center has accompanied; it has been a pioneer search for justice and against impunity since crime has govern.

Human rights to peace, justice, air, water, work, and land, which is for everyone, are the rights that should drive us today.



Centro Diocesano para  
los Derechos Humanos  
Fray Juan de Larios

Today, the Civil Organizations and the people of the world are united by the great task and need of building a different path for our people and the planet, from every corner of the world. From each effort, from each proposal, from each construction.

Thank you!

Thank you very much to the Foundation and the Polish Government for looking towards Mexico and Latin America, for looking our way and appreciating our humble but deep and multiple efforts to promote peace, justice and Human Rights!