

11/03/2014



**JUSTICIA Y PAZ** -□ The promotion and the protection of the Personal Freedom of Migrants and the Right of Freedom of Movement of all persons throughout Mexico.

### **First Meeting of Experts**

Several tables made up of experts in the area of migrations discussed the implications of the application of the Migration Act and its implementation, in light of personal guarantees in general and freedom of movement in particular.

Discussions on Human Rights in Mexico at academic institutions was emphasized.

Mexico City, February 14, 2014. On February 14 at La Salle University the First Meeting of Experts on the Promotion of the Rights of the Personal Freedom of Migrants and the Right to Freedom of Movement for all persons in Mexico was convoked by the Law School of La Salle University, the Meso-

American Commission of Jurists, A.C. (CMJ) and the Institute for Women Migrants. A.C. (IMUMI). Representatives from the High Commissioner for Refugees (ACNUR), a United Nations Agency, were also present as were various NGO's and distinguished academics, both domestic and foreign.

The main goal of the meeting was to look at, from various specialized points of view regarding migration, the implications of the Migration Act (in force since May 25, 2011) as well as its implementation (in force since September 28, 2012) in light of personal guarantees in general

and freedom of movement in particular as specified in Article 11 of the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico.

The discussion was organized in three panels with the following topics:

The freedom of movement and migration, moderated by Santiago Corcuera, a member of the Organizing Committee of the United Nations on Forced Disappearance, with the participation of representatives of IMUMI as well as Guadalupe Barrera, a member of the Human Rights Clinic of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

The process of migrant detention and immigrant checkpoints, moderated by Dr. José Antonio Guevara, President of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, AC, along with Elba Coria from the International Detention Coalition (IDC).

Various experiences in the matter of strategic litigation on the part of attending civil organizations.

Among the conclusions of the meeting, Blanca Lilia Ojeda, former Directress of Legal Affairs at the National Institute of Migration (INAMI) and a graduate and current professor at the La Salle University Law School, stressed the need for studying the INM operation, as it should increase the training of public servants with regard to immigrants, especially among vulnerable groups.

The experts agreed that the actions of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) have proved inadequate and that, far from preventing the safeguarding of the rights of migrants, have focused exclusively on sanctions for the public servants in charge.

The panel expressed its concern about the operation of the detention facilities in Mexico and invited an open the discussion in other areas to review in depth the alternatives to detention and, where appropriate, the deportation of migrants in Mexico.

Finally, the various migration experts, NGO's and academic attendees welcomed this initiative of the La Salle Law School and even more, the social commitment of the institution in the defense and promotion of human rights.

On behalf of Mr. Germán Martínez Cázares, Director of the La Salle Law School, Mr. Adalberto Méndez López, Academic Secretary at the same school, thanked the speakers and mentioned the need to open external academic discussion of the monitoring and protection in Mexico of the international standards of human rights.

Dr. Pablo Martínez Linares, Researcher

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