

# *Obama and Peña Nieto Praise Trans-Pacific Partnership, Ignore Violence in Mexico*

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Washington, July 23 (RHC)-- Presidents Barack Obama and Enrique Peña Nieto didn't let human rights and violence in Mexico get in the way of celebrating their two nations strong political and economic ties. Claiming to have a "strong trade partnership," Peña Nieto met with Obama at the White House to formalize U.S.-Mexico economic and security initiatives. The agreements have been reached over the past three years in order to ensure they stay in force regardless of who will be the next U.S. president in 2017, the Mexican government said.

In a joint press conference, Obama praised Mexico as a "critical partner" and said the relationship created between the two countries through NAFTA will be reflected in the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement that both countries have signed. However, completely missing from the conversation was any mention of state violence in Oaxaca, the disappearance of the 43 Ayotzinapa students, or the overall deteriorating human rights situation in Mexico.

The meeting took place hours after Trump accepted the Republican presidential nomination at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. Peña Nieto has slammed on Trump's negative comments

toward Mexicans, including when he said “they bring drugs and crime to the U.S.,” while also calling them “rapists.” The Mexican leader believes these words have damaged relationships between the two countries and has also compared the Republican candidate’s rhetoric to that of Hitler and Mussolini.

When he announced his presidential campaign last summer, Trump pledged to build a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico and make Mexico pay for it – something the Mexican government said is impossible.

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