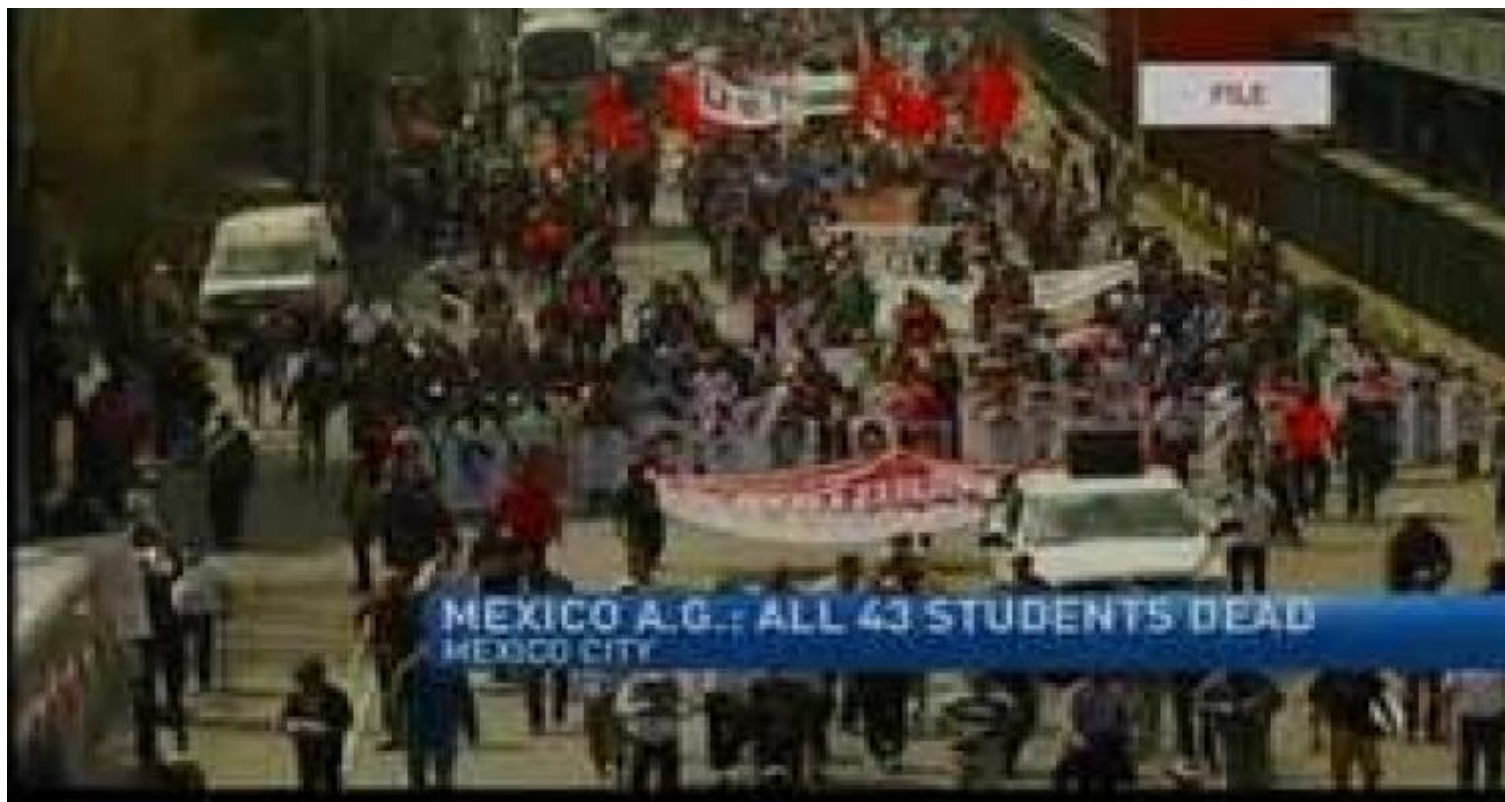


Despite Lack of Evidence, Mexico Declares Missing Students Dead



Mexico City, January 28 (RHC-teleSUR) -- Mexican Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam claimed Tuesday that all 43 Aytozinapa students missing since September are dead, citing several confessions, as well as the forensic evidence from a garbage dump linking one of the students to the remains.

"The evidence allows us to determine that the students were kidnapped, killed, burned and thrown into the river," Murillo said in a press conference.

Murillo, who also showed the media a video reconstruction of the slaughter and the investigation process, has long maintained that the students were killed and incinerated at the garbage site shortly after being abducted by police in the city of Iguala. Family members and activists have continued to doubt the official account of events, saying no concrete evidence has been provided.

This is the first time that authorities have "confirmed" the version of the events they argued took place, despite the fact that only one of the students, Alexander Mora, has been identified so far. Meanwhile, forensic experts at a lab in Austria said it will be impossible to identify anyone from the remains found at the site.

Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets across Mexico Monday, blaming the state for the students' disappearance. In Mexico City, protesters gathered in the Zocalo plaza in a mass rally.

More than 90 people, most of them local police from the southwestern state of Guerrero, have been detained so far in connection with the case, including the former mayor of Iguala who along with his wife are accused of ordering the attack on the students by local police and the local Guerreros Unidos (United Warriors) cartel.

According to Murillo Karam, the arrest of Felipe Rodriguez, known as "El Cepillo" or "The Brush" by U.S. authorities, was a key element in concluding the case.

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