

Protesters Hound Mexican Officials at Washington Meeting



Washington, October 31 (RHC-EFE)-- A group of protesters demanding justice for the 43 students who disappeared last month in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero jeered and chanted slogans Thursday at Mexico's delegation to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Washington.

The demonstrators chanted "Criminals, murderers!" at Mexican officials in the U.S. capital to explain their government's National Human Rights Program to the IACHR at the body's 153rd session.

"It is obvious that the Mexican government has provided an official version that is not true. We are here today to break that official version," Salvador Sarmiento, a spokesman for the protesters, said.

Sarmiento invited rights activists to attend one of the five sessions on Mexico being held by the IACHR.

The case of the missing students is expected to come up at the first IACHR session requested by the Mexican government to present its human rights program.

Deputy Foreign Relations Secretary Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo told Efe that Mexico's government and representatives of the missing students' families would seek to reach an agreement with the IACHR to form a panel of experts to help find the young people.

Municipal police fired at students on the night of Sept. 26 at the behest of then-Iguala Mayor Jose Luis Abarca, and his wife, Maria de los Angeles Pineda, suspected Guerreros Unidos drug cartel operators who are now fugitives, federal officials said.

Six people died that night, including three trainee teachers; 25 were wounded; and 43 others were detained by police and turned over to a Guerreros Unidos lieutenant identified as "Gil."

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