

United Nations Says Torture by Mexican State is Widespread



Geneva, March 9 (teleSUR-RHC)-- A report by the U.N. Human Rights Council, released on Monday, states that torture by the Mexican state has become a regular occurrence.

The 22-page report by the U.N. Special Rapporteur Juan Mendez was leaked to Mexican weekly magazine, Proceso, on Sunday. The report is the product of an investigation conducted by Mendez in Mexico in April and May of last year.

Proceso says that the U.N. report includes allegations of physical violence, electric shock, suffocation, sexual assault, and psychological abuse. Mendez reveals that multiple elements of the state are guilty of utilizing torture, from local police, to state and federal police, as well as the armed forces.

Apart from being tortured, Mendez alleges that these detainees are held in preventative detention for lengthy periods without being afforded the right to appear before a judge.

The U.N. special official also states that it is difficult to know how many cases of torture there may actually be in Mexico, as a federal record is not maintained. Mendez also claims that many victims do not come forward for fear of reprisals.

Mendez' report harshly criticizes the Mexican state for failing to put in place measures to prevent the use of torture and makes a series of recommendations to the Mexican government.

Suspects connected to the case of the missing 43 students are also suspected to have been tortured in order to coerce statements from them that would match the government's version of events.

The U.N. also recently criticized the Mexican government regarding forced disappearances in the country.

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