

URGENT ACTION

ADEQUATE RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION NEEDED

A devastating earthquake hit Mexico on 19 September. Hundreds of people have died, thousands have been made homeless, and essential services have been compromised in various locations. Mexican authorities must ensure that relief and reconstruction efforts safeguard human rights without discrimination.

On 19 September, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake occurred in Mexico, seriously impacting vast portions of the country, especially Mexico City and the states of Guerrero, Mexico, Morelos, Oaxaca, and Puebla. More than 300 people have died, and thousands have lost their homes and property. The Mexican government implemented survivor rescue and emergency care actions with participation of both civil and military personnel and with the support of the international community. Across the country, both Mexican and migrant people joined extraordinary efforts to save lives and help the victims.

However, several reports have emerged in the days following the earthquake of poor coordination among authorities, illegal commandeering of food and other necessities meant for survivors, and insufficient aid delivered to many devastated areas, especially in small impoverished communities. Media reports state that expert's preliminary assessments suggest that some of the collapsed structures might have been in breach of building regulations. The devastation caused by the 19 September earthquake only adds to the destruction caused by an earlier earthquake that occurred on 7 September. The previous earthquake had an 8.2 magnitude and affected southern Mexico, including Chiapas and Oaxaca states. In both earthquakes, more than 150 thousand households were affected and at least 250 thousand people have been made homeless. Official documents about risk propensity and prevention have not been made public.

1) TAKE ACTION

Write a letter, send an email, call, fax or tweet:

- Calling on the authorities to ensure that reconstruction and relief efforts safeguard human rights and are delivered on a non-discriminatory basis, considering cultural and gender specific requirements of those affected;
- Urging them to ensure that people who have been rendered homeless are provided with safe and adequate housing options and access to essential services on an urgent basis;
- Calling on them to carry out a prompt, full and impartial investigation into allegations of defective or poorly maintained buildings, including the responsibility of public servants in charge of building authorizations and supervisions;
- Urging them to guarantee access to relevant information regarding communities' safety, including the Mexico City Risk Atlas and similar documents from other states, in an accessible and timely manner.

Contact these two officials by 9 November 2017:

President of Mexico

Enrique Peña Nieto

Residencia oficial de Los Pinos

Molino del Rey s/n, Del. Miguel Hidalgo

Col. San Miguel Chapultepec

Ciudad de México, México, C.P. 11850

Email via web: <https://www.gob.mx/atencion/>

(this form is in Spanish)

Twitter: @EPNSalutation: Dear Mr President / Señor Presidente

Ambassador Geronimo Gutierrez Fernandez, Embassy of Mexico

1911 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20006

Phone: 1 202 728 1600 | Fax: 202 728 1698

Email: mexembusa@sre.gob.mx

Twitter: @GERONIMO_GF

Salutation: Dear Ambassador

2) LET US KNOW YOU TOOK ACTION

[Click here](#) to let us know if you took action on this case! *This is Urgent Action 224.17*

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Here's why it is so important to report your actions: we record the actions taken on each case—letters, emails, calls and tweets—and use that information in our advocacy.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

After an 8.1 magnitude earthquake in 1985 devastated huge portions of Mexico City and compromising basic infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, roads and the media, stricter construction standards were adopted. The collapse of public buildings revealed inadmissible defects and serious cases of corruption. There were no serious official investigations into what happened and those responsible enjoyed impunity.

Federal law establishes the creation of a National Risk Atlas, and called on states and Mexico City to develop similar mechanisms. Nevertheless, it has been a common practice not to publish such information even though it could improve urban planning, citizen monitoring of the construction industry and megaprojects, and the evaluation of public policies. Mexico has robust access to information legislation that would allow citizens to access the risk atlases.

On 7 September 2017, an 8.2 magnitude earthquake impacted southern Mexico and Central America, with an estimated death toll of 100 people. In Mexico, thousands of buildings were destroyed or seriously damaged.

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