

The Drug War and Human Rights in Mexico



Photo: © 2009 Eros Hoagland/Redux—from <http://www.hrw.org>: Mexican Army and municipal police officers conduct a joint raid in Ciudad Juárez searching street vendors for drugs and weapons, March 2009.

Sister Consuelo Morales

Director of Citizens in Support of Human Rights (Monterrey, Mexico)

Nik Steinberg

Researcher for Human Rights Watch

Wednesday, November 7, 2012: 12 - 1:20 pm

5710 S. Woodlawn Ave - Community Lounge

Lunch will be provided. RSVPs encouraged, but not required: spmoberg@uchicago.edu

Sister Consuelo Morales is the founder and director of Citizens in Support of Human Rights (Ciudadanos en Apoyo de Derechos Humanos, CADHAC) in Mexico. After years working with indigenous communities in Veracruz and street children in Mexico City, Morales returned to her native city of Monterrey in 1992 to find a community rife with abuses but without a human rights organization. She helped found Citizens in Support of Human Rights (Ciudadanos en Apoyo de Derechos Humanos, CADHAC) to fill that void and has led it ever since. Over nearly two decades, CADHAC has addressed a wide range of serious human rights problems in Nuevo León, from abuse in state-run orphanages to the forced displacement of people from their lands. Since Mexican President Felipe Calderón deployed the military in 2007 to combat violent drug cartels, human rights violations in Nuevo León have skyrocketed. Security forces have committed widespread abuses against civilians including killings, torture, and “disappearances,” yet virtually none of the soldiers and police responsible have been held accountable. Under Morales’s leadership, CADHAC has taken the lead in documenting these violations, litigating key cases, and spearheading public campaigns to demand justice. The organization has also provided critical assistance for victims—both of the security forces and the cartels—such as psychological treatment and support groups. Morales has assumed her leadership role at considerable risk, persevering in her efforts despite constant harassment and threats.

Nik Steinberg is the Mexico and Cuba researcher in Human Rights Watch’s Americas Division. He is the author of the report *Neither Rights Nor Security*, which documented killings, torture, and “disappearances” by soldiers and police in Mexico’s “war on drugs.” Steinberg’s previous report focused on political repression in Cuba under Raúl Castro. His writing on Latin America has been published in the *New York Review of Books*, the *Washington Post*, and the *Nation*, among

Sponsored by the University of Chicago Human Rights Program, the Katz Center for Mexican Studies,
the Center for Latin American Studies, and Human Rights Watch.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Sarah Patton Moberg at spmoberg@uchicago.edu.

