On January 27, 2015, Mexico’s Attorney General, Jesús Murillo Karam proclaimed that the missing 43 college students from the Ayotzinapa Teacher Training School are dead. The students had been kidnapped last fall and the attorney general’s conclusion is based on confessions of the alleged perpetrators and forensic evidence.

In response to this announcement, and in solidarity with the victim’s families and Mexico’s academic community at large, the American Anthropological Association released the following statement today:

“It is with great sadness that we receive the news acknowledging the deaths of the students who had disappeared last October from Ayotzinapa. In their memory, the struggle for justice continues, and this horror-filled incident highlights how seriously and urgently we need to take on the problem of extrajudicial police violence wherever it is witnessed,” said AAA President Monica Heller. “Our thoughts are with the students’ families and colleagues at Ayotzinapa during this difficult time.”

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The American Anthropological Association, dedicated to advancing human understanding and addressing the world’s most pressing problems since its founding in 1902, is the world's largest professional anthropology organization.