

I am writing this letter to express my grave concern for at least 33 missing people, who have disappeared between February and May 2018 in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas State, and their family members. Relatives of the victims are feeling that the investigation by the authorities is not efficient and the time is wasted. Most of the searches for disappeared people have been carried out by family members themselves, at great risk to their personal safety. A number of relatives or witnesses have received threats, and the human rights organization which is supporting the families has been constantly attacked on social media. The testimonies of the witnesses indicate a possible involvement of the Mexican Navy in the disappearance. However, the Navy has not cooperated with the authorities on the investigation until now. I call on you to urgently and rapidly investigate the disappearances and executions reported in recent months, giving priority to the search for the disappeared as well as the examination of evidence and field-based work. I ask you to ensure protection for family members who request surveillance or other security measures, and public support for the human rights defenders involved in these cases. I also urge you to call on the Mexican Navy to fully cooperate with all investigations and provide detailed information on their operations in recent months in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely yours,