



After our warning, the deception (*Ante nuestra advertencia, el engaño*)

10 February 2014

On 8 February, during a hearing with FUUNDEC regarding the government search operations for disappeared persons, the Governor of Coahuila, Rubén Ignacio Moreira Valdéz and the Public Attorney Juan José Yáñez Arreola, reported on the progress of the search for our loved ones who have been disappeared for years; in particular, on the search made in the northern part of the state in recent days.

The Governor, accompanied by the Interior Secretary and the State's Attorney General, expressed to our organization, the representative in Mexico of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the National Human Rights Commission and representatives of the federal government, that heavy machinery had never been used during the search operation; furthermore, that the press was not allowed in the search area, and that all of the search protocols were followed during this delicate and hazardous operation where human remains were still present. However, there is irrefutable evidence to the contrary.

In this regard, FUUNDEC states the following:

1. For five years, FUUNDEC-M has called on the Mexican government to fulfill its responsibilities. During his term in office, Felipe Calderón dedicated his efforts to dragging out the conflict in Mexico; in Coahuila, the administrations of Humberto Moreira and Jorge Torres López were no exception. However, with Rubén Moreira we achieved some substantial progress regarding legislative harmonization and full attention to the issue from a human rights perspective, which are expected to be maintained and fulfilled, honoring the commitment made to FUUNDEC and all the authorities involved in the process.
2. In recent years we have maintained our demand, which is: AN EFFECTIVE SEARCH, but it is the least developed measure and lacks concrete results, at least for those from FUUNDEC who have faced neglect and impunity when dealing with the Mexican bureaucracy. For this reason, we were surprised to hear of the search operation in the northern part of the state of Coahuila, which began around 26 January and lasted ten days. On 31 January, we expressed our enthusiasm, but also our concern that the search operations be carried out correctly and that the press maintain absolute professionalism concerning the ethical reporting of an event that overwhelms us.

3. After the meeting with the Governor, the families in FUUNDEC-M were surprised by a broadcast on the *Primer Impacto* news program, part of the *Univision Network*, which shows the absolute violation of the rules of preservation of the site, which includes: fixing, lifting and packing fundamental evidence (kicking clothes, for example), but also, one can see the use of heavy machinery for excavation. The journalist reports from within the property that should have been closed off for its preservation. It is not possible to notice whether the authorities attempt to stop him from contaminating evidence connected to an incineration hypothesis.

4. Since the beginning of our struggle, we have insisted on our demand for search and investigation protocols to be put in place, not only to improve the likelihood of finding disappeared persons, but also to clarify the facts and prosecute those who are responsible. Therefore, our persistence to the Governor, and also our sentiments of disappointment, impotence, indignation, anger and pain, are the result of the irrefutable evidence that the operation looked more like a sensationalistic journalistic gateway, with evidence contamination and the confirmation of our worst fears.

5. Therefore, FUUNDEC's plenary has taken the decision to suspend dialogue with the state and federal governments, stepping away from the case-tracking meetings, until the Governor of Coahuila and the General Commissioner of the Federal Police, Enrique Galindo, give us a satisfactory explanation concerning the serious anomalies detected in the operation that could have led to contamination, deterioration and even loss of substantial evidence. The analysis of all the collected evidence needs to be suspended until we have a clear answer of what happened. Furthermore, the Secretary of Government, Armando Luna Canales, the Attorney General of Coahuila, Homero Ramos Gloria, the Special Attorney for disappeared persons, Yanez Arreola, and the state's security spokesman, Jesús Carranza Oyervides, need to be held accountable for these missteps. We also demand scheduled search operations to cease until all these last operative actions are clarified, those responsible are held accountable and international expertise is called in to help prepare, conduct and systematize the results of such operations.

FUUNDEC-M categorically rejects the recent search operation, expresses immense doubt about the results, and suspends all dialogue with the Mexican government until those responsible for this outrageous event give us clear answers and be held accountable, and the Governor and the General Commissioner of the Federal Police publicly and transparently state what happened. Meanwhile, FUUNDEC-M will focus on denouncing the gravity of this action to the families of other organizations, civil and human rights organizations that accompany them, and international bodies interested in supporting the efforts of families who have been tormented by the scourge of disappearances in Mexico.

“Por una búsqueda incansable” (For a tireless search)

Porque vivos se los llevaron y vivos los queremos! (They were taken alive, we want them back alive)

Fuerzas Unidas por Nuestros Desaparecidos en Coahuila (United Forces for Our Disappeared in Coahuila)

Fuerzas Unidas por Nuestros Desaparecidos en México (United Forces for Our Disappeared in Mexico)