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**REPORT OF THE MEXICO CITY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ABOUT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL SITUATION OF THE
EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS**

April, 2013, Mexico City, Mexico

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SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON ARBITRARY, SUMMARY OR EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS MR. CHRISTOF HEYNS

I. Introduction

The CDHDF is a *quasi-jurisdictional* which competence is determined in accordance with article 102 section B of the Constitution of the United Mexican States, its competence is local and is a part of the institutional structure of the Mexican state that safeguards Mexico City citizens' Human Rights.

The CDHDF carries out a work of defense, promotion, education, research and diffusion of Human Rights in Mexico City, which functioning, in line with the principle of this Country, is autonomous in financial and administrative matters as well as independent in its resolutions.

In consideration of the foregoing and due to his visit in Mexico, the Human Rights Commission for Mexico City (hereinafter CDHDF) submits to your consideration this Report herein, expecting that its contents provide you with additional and valuable information on the situation concerning arbitrary, summary or extrajudicial executions in our country with emphasis on Mexico City and the behavior of its authorities.

II. National Context

II.1 The position of the Federal Government: National Public Safety Strategy 2007-2012

The *National Public Safety Strategy 2007-2012* implemented during the government of Felipe Calderón was supported in the joint participation of the police and armed forces, throughout the national territory, in order to face organized crime. The supposition from which said strategy rose was that the threats posed by organized crime lessen freedom, order, and social peace in the country, hence, according to the version by the Federal Government, the preponderant participation by armed forces in the fight against organized crime was one of the first steps towards restoration of the order, enabling it, in the long term, to recover the citizens' confidence in the authorities and to assert respect for the law¹.

In context, the governments involved in the cited *Strategy* used from the beginning, repeatedly, the title of "war against drug traffic" – evidence of this can be found in journalistic and social communication records -². In addition to the foregoing, it is important to say that at that time there was not a regulatory framework *on the exceptional use of force by law enforcement officials*³.

¹ First State of the Union Address. *Presidencia de la República*. Chapter 1. *Estado de Derecho y Seguridad* available in: <http://primer.informe.calderon.presidencia.gob.mx/informe/>

² Calderón Hinojosa, Felipe, *XXI Sesión del Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Pública*, January 22, 2007, *Cfr.* Interventions by President Calderón during the *Sesión Plenaria del Foro Económico Mundial para América Latina*, April 17, 2012: "[Y]o en lo personal, soy reacio a usar el término de: guerra contra las drogas" (I, personally, am reluctant to use the term war against drugs) <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/2012/04/intervenciones-del-presidente-calderon-durante-la-sesion-plenaria-del-foro-economico-mundial-para-america-latina/>

³ This framework, towards the end of this administration, 4 agreements, 1 convention and one guideline on the use of force by State agencies which participated in the National Public Safety Strategy were approved and published in the Official Journal of the Federation. *Cfr Diario Oficial de la Federación*, April 23, 2012.

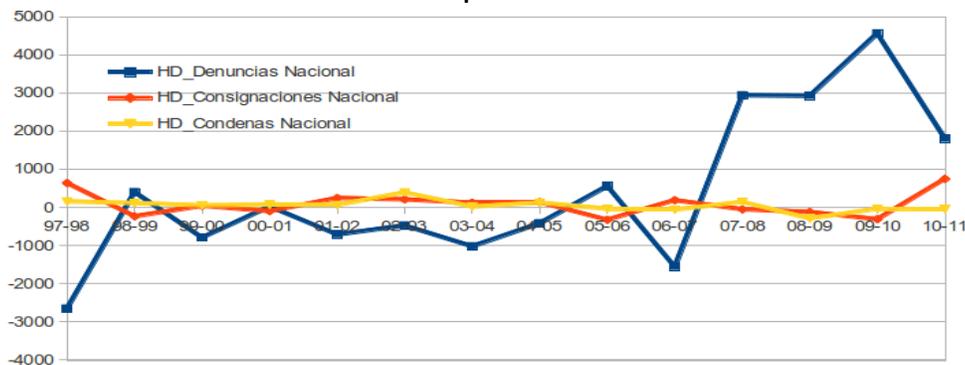
While the strategy announced at the beginning of Felipe Calderon's administration intended to focus on organized crime, as the years passed it consolidated in confronting "like never before"⁴, drug cartels by means of the application of the force of the State⁵ and joint participation by the *Office of the Mexican Attorney-General (hereinafter PGR)*, the *Ministry of National Defense (hereinafter SEDENA)*, the *Ministry of the Navy (hereinafter SEMAR)*, the *Ministry of Public Safety (hereinafter SSP)* and the *Customs General Administration Office*.

Based on the foregoing, the Federal Government reported that between March 2009 and July 2011, 21 criminal leaders⁶ had been removed⁷. During the last state of the union address by Felipe Calderón, the number was updated and reported that up to July 30, 2012, removal of 60% of cartel leaders had been accomplished. It is important to highlight that the term "removal" proved to be a term for social communication and not necessarily a legal term, since it encompassed in the same manner both the detention as well as the takedown of individuals during armed confrontations⁸.

As for official numbers, from 1997 to 2011, 216,250 intentional homicides were denounced in Mexico, and, out of these, 72,479 were denounced during the last four years, which accounts for 33.4% of the total denounces. In other words, the trend in the last four years is markedly upwards, in comparison with the previous decade, always downwards.

Complaints of unlawful killings recorded (blue line), arrests confirmed (orange line) and sentences (yellow line) in whole country, 2007-2011, Source: INEGI

Graphic: 1



With regards to the record of individuals assassinated in events potentially related to organized crime, there is a wide variety of counts performed by the civil society and the media, which originated in the institutional deficiencies which prevented the existence of a reliable record of said events. So then, according to the National Public Safety System (SNSP) and the PGR, between 2007 and 2011, 47 thousand 515 intentional homicides

⁴ Second State of the Union Address (2007). *Presidencia de la República*. Chapter 1. *Estado de Derecho y Seguridad*, available in: <http://segundo.informe.gob.mx/informe/>

⁵ Second State of the Union Address (2008). *Presidencia de la República*. Chapter 1. *Estado de Derecho y Seguridad*. Subchapter 1.4, available in: <http://segundo.informe.gob.mx/informe/>

⁶Fifth State of the Union Address (2011). *Presidencia de la República*. Chapter 1. *Estado de Derecho y Seguridad*, page 27 and 36, available in: <http://quinto.informe.calderon.presidencia.gob.mx>

⁷ There is not a definition of the concept *removal*; however, it makes reference to the *casualties* caused in the high commands of organized crime.

⁸ Sixth State of the Union Address (2012). *Presidencia de la República*. Chapter 1. *Estado de Derecho y Seguridad*, page 41, available in: <http://bit.ly/ZsSoqe>

linked to federal crimes were perpetrated; while SEDENA, during the same period, indicated the demise of 1,391 individuals allegedly responsible of a crime as a “result of aggressions repelled by military personnel”⁹. It is important to point out that this official numbers ceased to being made public since September 2011, when the government reported issues “in the methodology” for recording.

In this sense, under their own methodologies, independent records of individuals assassinated were consolidated. An example of the foregoing were the counts elaborated by the media such as *Grupo Milenio*, which concluded that by the end of the presidential term of Felipe Calderón, 65 thousand 362 cases had been recorded¹⁰, or the *Semanario Zeta*, which counted¹¹ 109 thousand 142 intentional and unintentional homicides, pointing out that, at least in 43% of the cases, the identity of the victim was unknown.

Specifically in the topic of extrajudicial executions, there are two important registries nationwide. The first one pertains to the international organization *Human Rights Watch* which documented the existence of 24 cases where, through *credible evidence*, it was possible to asseverate that members of the security forces committed extrajudicial executions and attempted to conceal them.

These demises are classified under two categories: civilians executed by authorities or that died as a result of tortures, and civilians who died in military checkpoints or during armed confrontations where there was unjustified use of lethal force against them¹².

The second registry corresponds to the National Commission on Human Rights which through its recommendations documented that, between 2007 and 2011; the lives of 68 individuals were taken away by agents of the State.

**Victims of right to life violations committed by federal agencies
2006 - 2011, Own preparation, Source: Recommendations CNDH**

Table: 1

| Year | Victims |
|------|---------|
| 2007 | 8 |
| 2008 | 11 |
| 2009 | 6 |
| 2010 | 14 |
| 2011 | 29 |
| | 68 |

As it can be observed in the following table, the Mexican State institutions involved in the *Strategy* were those which during the term of it, were identified as the main perpetrators of violations to the right to life.

⁹ Ministry of National Defense. Official Communication No.0001857 dated April 27, 2011, issued in response to the information request No. 0000700062411, in which, information on “the number of alleged criminals taken down during confrontations with the personnel of the branch office during the same period of time” is requested. The document is available in: <http://bit.ly/14xllAo>

¹⁰ Available in <http://www.milenio.com/cdb/doc/noticias2011/bfa2b0eda97fcfc2a1f45995a54794e9>

¹¹ See <http://www.reporteindigo.com/reporte/mexico/el-sexenio-de-las-71-mil-ejecuciones?page=2>

¹² Human Rights Watch. *Ni seguridad ni derechos*. Ejecuciones, desapariciones y tortura en la “guerra contra el narcotráfico” de México. 2011. p. 7, 174 and ss

**Right to life violations committed by Federal agencies
2006 - 2011, Own preparation, Source: Recommendations CNDH**

Table: 2

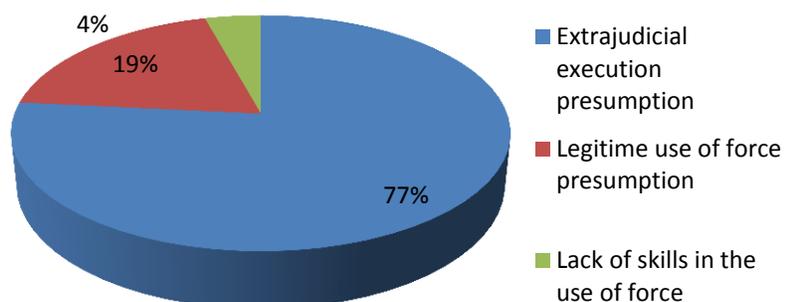
| Federal Agencies | Mentions by agency | % related to 75 mentions |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Mexican Army (SEDENA) | 56 | 75 |
| Mexican Navy (SEMAR) | 13 | 17 |
| Federal Police (SSPF) | 5 | 7 |
| Attorney General of the Republic (PGR) | 1 | 1 |
| | 75 | 100 |

III. Local Context

From 2006 to March of 2013 the Human Rights Commission for Mexico City received 99 complaints related to right to life violations, of them, and to the effect of this report herein, only 47 complaints were analyzed. The common characteristic of the complaints was the loss of life as a consequence of the use of force by a local authority.

**Deaths in the context of right to life violations committed by local agencies
2006 - March 2013, Own preparation, Source: CDHDF**

Graphic: 2



The information analyzed permits to elaborate three large categories which encompass the totality of cases, these are: 1) There is a suspicion that *extrajudicial executions* were committed; 2) There is a suspicion of the *legitimate use of force*; and 3) It is evident the lack of skills by the authorities using the force.

The first category making reference to the perpetration of *potential extrajudicial executions*, integrates 36 cases (77% of analyzed complaints), the second category makes reference to 9 cases (19%) which present characteristics which presume that the authority may have acted in legitimate defense, while the third category makes reference to 3 cases (4%) in which the lack of skills by authorities involved is denoted.

A first observation is that in all cases, the victims were men whose lives were taken away, mainly, by elements of the Office of the Public Prosecutor of Mexico City (hereinafter PGJDF) (32%) and the Mexico City Police Department (hereinafter SSPDF) (68%).

**Deaths in the context of right to life violations committed by local agencies
2006 - March 2013, Own preparation, Source: CDHDF**

Table: 3

| Local agencies | Specific units | Victims | % related to 47 cases |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Office of the Public Prosecutor of Mexico City | Territorial Coordination | 1 | 2 |
| | Central Unit of Prosecution | 1 | 2 |
| | Police forces under Public Prosecutor authority | 13 | 28 |
| Mexico City Police Department | Preventive Police | 28 | 60 |
| | Auxiliary Police | 3 | 6 |
| | Police Department | 1 | 2 |
| | | 47 | 100 |

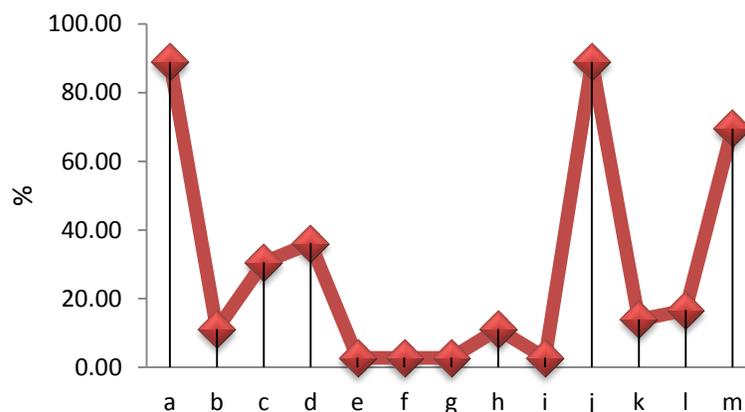
III.1 Cases where there is a suspicion that extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions were perpetrated in Mexico City

Cases identified within this category, address those narrations of facts where victims have died as a consequence of the disproportionate use of force; that is, cases with which is possible to indicate that there was not an open and direct confrontation and, otherwise, there is a founded suspicion that the authority did not act in self-defense.

From the narrations of facts, a single case can be identified where the demise of an individual was indeed the result of a confrontation. In said case, the victim was accidentally injured by the gun – when drawn out of its holster – of a police officer, subsequently, the victim snatched the gun and started shooting several members of the preventive police receiving a number of bullet impacts which eventually terminated his life. In the cited example, the *lack of skills by the authorities in the use of force*, as well as the unjustified use of force, from the beginning, turned into the demise of the victim.

Deaths in the context of extrajudicial execution presumption 2006 - March 2013, Own preparation, Source: CDHDF

Graphic: 3



| Characteristic | Frequency | % related to 36 cases |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| a) Gunshot wound | 32 | 88.89 |
| b) Vital organs shot | 4 | 11.11 |
| c) Escape from law enforcement | 11 | 30.56 |
| d) In the context of probable criminal offense | 13 | 36.11 |
| e) Shootout | 1 | 2.78 |
| f) Illegal possession of firearms | 1 | 2.78 |
| g) Attempting to Disarm Police Officer | 1 | 2.78 |
| h) Resisting arrest | 4 | 11.11 |
| i) Lack of skills in the use of force | 1 | 2.78 |
| j) Disproportionate use of force | 32 | 88.89 |
| k) Gunshot to the head | 5 | 13.89 |
| l) Trauma by an external force of violence | 6 | 16.67 |
| m) Direct aggression | 25 | 69.44 |

In 36.11% of the cases of this category, the acts were committed in the context of the possible perpetration of a crime. Here we find testimonies from police officers involved or witnessing the facts, which make reference to the fact that the assassinated individuals were probably committing or had just committed a crime. On the other hand, in 30.56% of the cases, the individuals were assassinated when they were attempting to escape the police which fired gunshots to prevent avoidance of justice without attempting to previously detain them through less injurious. According to the complaints documented by the CDHDF, it is possible to establish that in some situations the assassinated individuals attempted to flee only as a result of fear or mistrust towards the police authority.

In 88.89% of the cases, the demises were caused by gunshots, out of which 4 individuals died as a result of gunshots fired to vital organs, 5 as a result of headshots, while 6 suffered trauma by an external force of violence given by the police authority.

In the cases of death as a result of trauma by an external force of violence, the narrations of facts point towards potential arbitrary detentions where police authorities, without any justification whatsoever, beat the victims up to death. In these deeds the victims were, in different situations, an individual who lived in the street, and an African migrant.

The demises caused by a *direct aggression* account for 69.44% of the cases. These allude to circumstances, extracted from the narrations of facts, where the authority assassinated the victim without any apparent reason. The regularity detected in these cases was that authorities opened fire against the victims without a direct confrontation, violence, resisting arrest or any other action which may be claimed by the authority as a justification for self-defense. In the most severe situations, it is pointed out that the authority intercepted or even fired gunshots at a distance.

A first hypothesis generated from the analysis of the records pertaining to this human rights defense organism, points towards the fact that in the face of actions which involve the participation of the police, the latter resorts, to a greater extent, to the lethal use of force, without the existence of a motive which represents a real or imminent risk for the authority or third parties justifying its use. The foregoing is supported on the large number of direct aggressions or gunshots fired as well as on the low prevalence of demises in armed confrontations between the authorities and the victim. In this same line it is

highlighted that, in at least one third of the demises, the victim was apparently perpetrating a crime; however, the authority resorted to fire gunshots towards vital organs or headshots, without, based on the narrations, the previous use of less-extreme means to forestall the escape, to protect the integrity, or to prevent the perpetuation of crimes representing a risk to the life of others could have been deducted.

A concerning fact, according to the information recorded by this organism, is that in some occasions, family members of the victims of extrajudicial executions are apparently threatened and intimidated by the authority committing the execution. This situation is particularly severe when extrajudicial execution actions are committed by police officers who continue working in the geographical area where the homicide was committed, since they manage to keep direct and permanent contact with said family members, so facilitating the harassment.

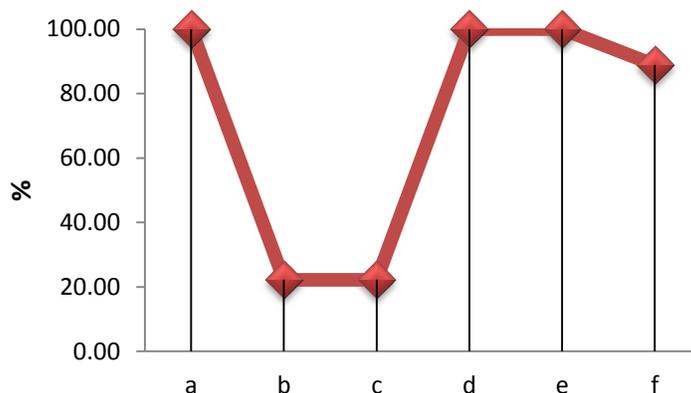
III.2 Cases where there is suspicion of *legitimate use of force* in Mexico City

Cases classified under this category herein contain elements to presuppose that the demise was the result of the *probable legitimate use of force*. In these cases, all the individuals killed were injured by gunfire; in two of them, the individuals received gunshots in vital organs and in other the area of impact of the bullet which caused the demise was specified. It is important to point out that in 22% of the cases, it was stated that the victim attempted to flee.

Deaths in the context of legitimate use of force presumption 2006 - March 2013, Own preparation,

Source: CDHDF

Graphic: 4



| Characteristic | Frequency | % related to 9 cases |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| a) Gunshot wound | 9 | 100 |
| b) Vital organs shot | 2 | 22.22 |
| c) Escape from law enforcement | 2 | 22.22 |
| d) In the context of probable criminal offense | 9 | 100 |
| e) Shootout | 9 | 100 |
| f) Illegal possession of firearms | 8 | 88.89 |

Another common characteristic is that in all cases, the victims died in the context of a probable perpetration of a crime while a firefight between the victim and the police officers

took place, since in 88% of the complaints it was mentioned that the victims had and activated a firearm.

III.3 Cases where it is evident the lack of skills by the authorities who use force in Mexico City

Category 3 encompasses those cases where the victims died as a consequence of the use of force by an authority, without being motivated by actions of the victim, in other words, they are circumstantial demises. In these cases, the homicides were produced as a result of a confrontation between the authorities and third parties and, in which, as a consequence of a lack of skills (an inadequate use of firearms), the victims died in a fortuitous manner, thus the possibility of an extrajudicial execution in accordance with the terms set forth in the first category is discarded.

The opinion by the CDHDF is that while the extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution is not evidenced, the foregoing does not exonerate the authorities from their responsibility of adequately using the force and of taking the necessary precautions to avoid as much damage as possible to individuals not participating in police operations¹³. In addition, the ministerial authority is exempted of carrying out a thorough, opportune, and efficient investigation.

IV. Situation of the right to life of individuals under custody of the authorities in Mexico City

In Mexico City, according to the information provided by penitentiary authorities, between 2009 and 2013, 521 demises have occurred, out of which 53 pertained to demises as a result of violent actions and 56 of suicides at the interior of the prisons. It is alarming that only in the first months of 2013, 140 demises have been recorded out of which 29 were the result of violent actions: 16 homicides and 13 suicides.

From the above-mentioned information it is not clearly deduced who has the active subject causing the demise been, nor it is pointed out what has been the division criteria between violent demises and homicides.

As for the causes of death in seclusion, penitentiary authorities indicate that the most common are: suffocation for hanging (which presupposes suicide although not conclusively), demises resulting from penetrating wounds by sharp instruments and demises resulting from cranioencephalic trauma. In spite of the institutionalization context and the control to which individuals in reclusion are subjected to, in some cases authorities have indicated not knowing the causes of death.

Relating to the foregoing and within the framework of the functions carried out by this public organism for human rights, during the period from 2012 to 2013, 50 complaints relating to failure to adopt means to guarantee or to safeguard life were collected.

In Recommendations 19/2009¹⁴, 06/2011¹⁵ and 01/2012¹⁶, the CDHDF determined violations to the right to life in detriment of individuals secluded in prisons in Mexico City. In the cited recommendations, the use of torture and the production of severe injuries inflicted by the “*Grupo Táctico Tiburón*” (reaction group operating inside reclusion centers)

¹³ Recommendation 27/2009, Human Rights Commission for Mexico City, available in: <http://bit.ly/11yWVqO>

¹⁴ Recommendation 19/2009, Human Rights Commission for Mexico City, available in: <http://bit.ly/17qvNen>

¹⁵ Recommendation 06/2011, Human Rights Commission for Mexico City, available in: <http://bit.ly/10j61LQ>

¹⁶ Recommendation 01/2012, Human Rights Commission for Mexico City, available in: <http://bit.ly/13lqEaQ>

were credited. Likewise, the discretionary use of force, the lack of regulation on the guidelines for the use of force in the event of riots, mutinies, or internal disputes; the impunity after the demises had occurred as well as the lack of professionalization of the penitentiary personnel in charge of protecting the safety of the people under their custody was proven.

Another reiterated situation in reclusion centers has been the demise as a result of suicide by secluded individuals, the foregoing as a result of incompletion with the surveillance and prevention duty by the authority. These actions have been pointed out in recommendations 10/2009¹⁷ and 28/2009¹⁸, in them, it has been determined that, at the time, the demises would have been avoided with the implementation of a suitable surveillance in the detention areas.

V. Cases credited in Mexico City on arbitrary, summary or extrajudicial executions

In the most recent case, occurring in January 2013, the CDHDF has documented that the right to life of the injured party was transgressed with the participation by an Investigations Police Officer, from a multiple arbitrary execution. In this case, the victims were detained and forced to board a patrol, hours later they were found dead, gaged, and with bullet impacts in their faces.

During one execution occurring on November 2012, it was documented that the right to life of 3 individuals was violated by police officers from the SSPDF, who in their statements indicated that they opened fire because they considered the youngsters – who from their point of view, were suspects for being in the street at night – were putting their integrity at risk. From the criminalistics evidence it was concluded that the aggressing police officer used a lethal weapon without prior warning to the victims and without reasons for the use of it. Likewise, it was corroborated that when firing the firearm, the police officer was standing in front of the victim. As a result of these actions, one person was killed and 2 were wounded.

In 2011, the CDHDF documented two extrajudicial executions with participation of members of the SSPDF. The first one occurred on October when police officers received a call originating from an argument between private individuals; when entering a private domicile, where they located the victim, they beat up and shot the victim in the foot. The victim, who was naked in the domicile, attempted to flee from the aggressors by running towards the street, however, it was at that moment when the victim received the last gunshot that ended his life.

The second case occurred on July, when the victim was executed in the context of a pursuit due to an alleged perpetration of a crime. From the investigation carried out by this Commission on Human Rights, it was determined that the police officers opened fire to prevent the individual, who did not react violently, from fleeing. For the documentation of this case – which was not investigated by ministerial authorities -, testimonials obtained by the CDHDF where it was pointed out that the authorities attempted to clean the crime scene, by removing shell casings from the zone, were relevant.

A fifth case of extrajudicial execution occurred when police officers assigned to the PGJDF took the life of an individual on board of his/her vehicle away. This event occurred on July,

¹⁷ Recommendation 10/2009, Human Rights Commission for Mexico City, available in: <http://bit.ly/ZAXTyZ>

¹⁸ Recommendation 28/2009, Human Rights Commission for Mexico City, available in: <http://bit.ly/ZAXWuE>

2010 when the executed individual was travelling accompanied by two more individuals, when intercepted by Investigations Police Officers after a pursuit. After the integration of the file, it was possible to prove that the police officers involved presented the report on the use of force in an incorrect manner, since they failed to specify the number of gunshots fired and the injuries or damages that they may have caused.

Lastly, in May, 2010, an investigations police officer was responsible of another extrajudicial execution when, accompanied by his wife, he was travelling on a motorcycle that collided with a taxi driven by the victim. After the road accident, the investigations agent and the taxi driver argued until the former draw his weapon and shot the latter, causing the demise of the victim.

VI. Protection and chain of custody of the evidence in homicide cases

In Mexico City, forensic services do not form an autonomous institution. Under the current institutional scheme, the Forensic Medical Service of Mexico City is a part of the Superior Court of Justice of Mexico City. A problem resulting from this is the deficiency in the protection and the chain of custody of the evidences related to homicides and, particularly, to potential extrajudicial executions, since the authorities in charge of collecting the bodies and securing the crime scene is carried out by experts of the PGJDF, while the Forensic Medical Service carries out the necropsies. In this sense, the deficiencies that could derive when collecting the bodies, irremediably impact the actions by the Forensic Medical Service, which only acts once the body has been delivered by law enforcement authorities.

Currently, the Forensic Manual of the Forensic Medical Service establishes the obligation to *videotape* the necropsy procedures, action which is essential when facing controversies deriving from its results. Nevertheless, in the documentation of potential cases of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the CDHDF has managed to validate that this obligation is not complied with in a systematic manner.

A situation that evidenced the inconsistencies in the procedures by the Forensic Medical Service was the finding of clandestine pits in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, Mexico. In this case, the lack of space and capacity of the forensic services located in the northern part of the country, forced the transferring of 120 bodies to Mexico City which were protected under the status of *depositories* in the Forensic Medical Service of Mexico City. The status of depository, for local authorities, meant that they shall only provide their lockers in the refrigeration area for the conservation of the bodies. Before the experts' analyses which must be performed in order to identify the victims, the means to protect the evidence and the attention to family members of the victims. The Superior Court of Justice of Mexico City only pointed out that those tasks were the sole responsibility of the personnel of the Office of the Mexican Attorney-General. For this reason, the Forensic Medical Service indicated that neither did it have records on the characteristics of the bodies, or if they corresponded to men, women, boys, girls or elders, nor did it have the photographic material of the bodies due to the decomposition state in which they were located. The only identification carried out was the assignment of a unique number per corpse.

VII. Petitions

Based on the information presented, this public organism for the protection of human rights requests that you urge the authorities to:

- Elaborate diagnosis on detention practices performed by police forces, where illicit consequences and behavioral patterns are identified, as well as improvements at organizational, procedural, methodological and disciplinary level inside law enforcement agencies, which serve as elements for the development of detention Protocols;
- Install communication and information systems inside law enforcement agencies, as well as remote localization systems and cameras in every law enforcement agencies' vehicles in order to prevent extrajudicial executions within detention contexts;
- Permanently train law enforcement forces in the use of force, so that they possess the technical knowledge on the limits and situations to use it, as well as to constantly review the regulatory frameworks and the legal instruments (such as manuals, agreements, memos, among others) which support the use of force for all the different police forces;
- Provide police forces with equipment intended for non-violent detention of individuals, in order to avoid the use of lethal weapons when an individual attempts to evade detention;
- Initiate, document and determine the correspondent criminal and administrative procedures, before cases of homicides and of disproportionate use of force perpetrated by police forces.
- Design, implement, and assess preventive public policies which objective is to preserve the lives of individuals within the context of police actions and to prevent extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions;
- To assess the possibility of creating an autonomous Institute of Forensic Sciences which coordinates with ministerial and judicial authorities to guarantee the due chain of custody of the evidence, as well as the development of experts' opinions according to the standards in the matter, placing the existing protocols in line with international practices;
- Generate regulations and behavioral protocols for penitentiary authorities, where the guidelines and procedures to follow in the event of conflicts between inmates, strikes, mutinies or confrontations, are established in order to procure control and restoration of order above repression, punishment or disproportionate use of force;
- Investigate the causes behind potential suicides occurred under the custody of the authority, to discard any reasonable doubt over the cause of demise and the probable participation by other individuals, or even by authorities;
- Fight impunity and provide incentives for the repair of the damage through the correspondent administrative and criminal investigations with regards to actions where the life of an individual is taken away as a consequence of the use of public force;
- Provide a suitable protection to the families of victims of alleged extrajudicial executions in order to prevent potential harassment, threat or intimidation during the development of the criminal procedures.