

March 18, 2015

Peter Julian  
MP for Burnaby/New Westminster  
7615 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M6

***Ref: Meeting Request with 3 member group from Mexico April 13-17***

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Dear Mr. Julian,

On September 26, 2014, security forces stopped two busloads of student-teachers from the Ayotzinapa Rural Normal School in Iguala in the Mexican state of Guerrero. In the hours that followed, three bystanders and three student-teachers were killed, and 43 of their school-mates were abducted. To date, despite several claims put forward by the Mexican government that the students were murdered by criminal gangs, convincing evidence of the fate of the disappeared students has yet to be produced. The *disappearance* of the student teachers has galvanized a population infuriated by the ongoing violence throughout Mexico that has produced some 100,000 deaths and 23,000 forced disappearances since 2006.

In support of those affected by this incident in Iguala and to raise awareness about the situation in Mexico, several Vancouver-based organizations have come together to organize a 3 person "caravan" from Iguala to travel from Vancouver to Quebec and Ontario in April. The caravan includes a student teacher spokesperson who is a classmate of the disappeared students, the mother of one of the abducted student teachers and a human rights lawyer for the families. The tour is organized by CIPO-Vancouver, with support from CoDevelopment Canada and Amnesty International in Vancouver.

**While this caravan is in Vancouver from April 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> they would like the opportunity to meet with you so that they are able to share with you information about the disappearance of the 43 students and the on-going human rights crisis in Mexico.** We would also like to invite you to participate in a press conference that we will be holding on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am outside of the Mexican Consulate.

We thank you in advance for finding time in your schedule to meet with us and the 3-member caravan. Wendy Santizo will follow up with you about this meeting or please feel free to contact her at [codev@codev.org](mailto:codev@codev.org) or at 604-708-1495.

Sincerely,

Gil Aguilar  
Member  
CIPO-VAN

Don Wright  
Regional Activism Coordinator  
Amnesty International

Kathryn Janzen  
Executive Director  
CoDevelopment Canada

