

**Lucha Castro, Attorney and Social Activist, Women's Rights Center of Chihuahua**

Lucha Castro is a leading human rights lawyer and social activist working on the frontlines in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, which is experiencing a crisis of drug-related violence and disappearances of young women. Lucha directs the Chihuahua Women's Rights Center, which provides survivors of violence with legal, psychological and medical support and presses for government policies that protect women's rights. She has brought cases that have set important legal precedents in applying international human rights law to gender-based violence cases in Mexico. In the current context of violence and militarization, Lucha has taken on cases of forced disappearances and helped families seek justice at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. She is a recent recipient of the Spanish Human Rights Association's prestigious International Award.