

**MEXICO:
VOICES OF RESISTANCE
FROM BELOW**

Images of women, men, children who refuse to be ignored or annihilated and say "Enough!" to devastating industrial megaprojects and twisted laws that pave the way for the dispossession and destruction of their communities.

Everything in the name of progress and development.



Voices who say "enough!" to increasing violence that has led to thousands of missing persons and femicides and that have the population in a constant state of terror.



People who fight and, at the same time, build an alternative world where respect for human life, other species and Mother Earth prevails over economic interests.



EZLN AUTONOMOUS PEOPLES

The Zapatista Mayan communities of Chiapas became known on January 1, 1994, for the armed uprising that took over several cities and declared war on the Mexican state. Over time they have demonstrated that weapons were a necessary instrument at that time, but that their struggle is and has been for the construction of a very different world.

More than 30 years later, the Zapatistas have built hundreds of autonomous communities with their own justice, healthcare, education, and economic systems.

The Zapatista movement is considered a milestone in the history of the Indigenous rights movement in Mexico due to its national and international impact and achievement of public recognition for marginalized Indigenous people in Mexico. They are a reference for other autonomous struggles around the world.

The generations born after the uprising already have the awareness of freedom, self-determination, and autonomy.

Zapatista women have blazed a trail for women around the world. Months before the Zapatista uprising they released the Zapatista Women's Revolutionary Law, drafted by themselves through community councils. The 10-point document demands rights for women regarding marriage, children, work, health, education, political and military participation.





MISSING PERSONS: WHERE ARE THEY?

In Mexico, there are reports of more than 124,000 missing persons.

Since the war on drug trafficking in 2007, groups of searching mothers have found more than 5,000 clandestine graves containing human remains or evidence of cremation. Governments have changed color depending on their political parties in power, but the disappearances and apathy toward the pain of their families have not.

MADRES BUSCADORAS

The "search profession" has become normalized. Currently, there are thousands of searchers organized into more than 200 collectives.

They are mostly women who, using their own resources, their bare hands, and without government support, set out to search for their loved ones.

¿DÓNDE ESTÁN?

El 26 de junio de 2009 en Nuevo
Laredo, Tamaulipas









MEGAPROJECTS: PROGRESS FOR WHOM?

There are approximately 1,600 megaprojects in Mexico, including mining, energy, highways, and urban development projects. The vast majority belong to foreign companies with concessions of 30 to 100 years. They enjoy legislative flexibility and the support of local, state, and even federal authorities, with the goal of attracting investment.

They are presented as essential for the progress of territories.

However, they have a significant negative impact on communities, bringing with them extractivism, environmental damage, deforestation, pollution and/or dispossession of water and land, damage to health, displacement, the breakdown of the social fabric, and the criminalization of land, water, and human rights defenders.

The impact is mostly on indigenous communities.











WOMEN'S STRUGGLE

For several years now, as in many other parts of the world, thousands of women in Mexico take to the streets every March 8th to demand their rights. In Mexico, the most important right to claim is the right to life.

Everyday, nine women are victims of femicide, a violent death due to gender reasons.

This is the most extreme form of violence against women and one of the most serious manifestations of discrimination against them. Added to this is discrimination based simply on being a woman in families, at work, at school, and sexual harassment, which often occurs within the family itself.

Indigenous women are doubly discriminated against for being women and for being indigenous.











DIVERSE FORMS OF PEOPLES' RESISTANCE

There is a motto that says, "We exist because we resist, we resist because we exist."

For the people, women, dissidents, the marginalized, the "disposable" of the system, existence alone is a form of resistance.

These rebels who refuse to accept the state's word know what they don't want: destruction, dispossession, contempt, exploitation. Most importantly, they also know what they want: a dignified life, and respect for their rights to live, for their territories, their people, their culture, their dreams, their free time, their memory, their fiestas, their spirituality, their happiness.

Defending all those every day is already a form of constant resistance.

















Free Palestine

Viva el EZLN





**Mexico:
Voices of Resistance from Below
Social Justice and Education
Conference
Photography Exhibition
by Rosa María Barajas**

March 25 - April 11, 2025

San Diego City College Library