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Diagnosis of women journalists in a situation of Forced Internal Displacement (FID) in Mexico and State's obligations in matters of attention, prevention, and protection.

Introduction

This diagnosis is part of an investigation whose main purpose is to give an account and deepen the effects of Forced Internal Displacement (FID) in women journalists' lives with the finality of proposing institutional actions for their integral protection to build plans for their return, resettlement and/or reintegration from a feminist perspective and women's human rights paradigm.

The diagnosis proposes a reflexive, political, and normative process around the importance of recognizing FID as a severe violation of human rights, starting from the life stories of 11 journalists living in FID conditions from Oaxaca, Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Guanajuato, and Quintana Roo.

During this research, interinstitutional efforts focused on prevention, attention, and integral protection of journalists victims of FID were analyzed and recognized, as Mexico's National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, state mechanisms, state and federal prosecutor's office, executive commissions to attend victims, and the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH).

The experience of civil society organizations that accompany journalists in FID conditions was also taken into consideration.

From the review of major obstacles to access, guarantee, restitution, and reparation of the violated right¹ the diagnosis retrieves the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GPID)² that state some of the reasons that cause FID, intertwining the normative framework of enforceability of the right to a life free of violence and freedom of expression, which made it possible to identify the differentiated protection needs of women journalists at risk and that of their families before, during and after the FID.

Women journalists during Forced Internal Displacement

During the development of the research, FID is identified as a multiple and continuous violation of human rights that impacts journalists' lives, who see the violence they suffer in the different spheres of their existence and in their journalistic projects that are paused or permanently suspended.

An element that transcends in a multidimensional way is that the violence that structures the causes, effects, and consequences of FID is different for women and men journalists. These conditions are established because women communicators have a particular way to face violence and discrimination based on their gender during different stages of FID (exit/evacuation, temporary relocation, and return/resettlement), the type of displacement (individual or familiar), temporality, types, and modalities of violence established in General Law of Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence; the impact and affectation to their human rights as other aspects of their lives (individual, familial, community, social).

Testimonials show the institutional route to attend, protect and guarantee journalists' human rights during FID, but they also show the increasing amount of violence, physical and

¹ Interamerican Court of Human Rights (CIDH), 2019. "CIDH y Relatora Especial de la ONU sobre los derechos humanos de los desplazados internos saludan sentencia para la protección de las personas desplazadas internas en México", Washington, D. C. Press Release dated 17 de abril de 2019. Disponible en <https://www.oas.org/es/cidh/prensa/comunicados/2019/100.asp>.

² Comisión de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, 1998. Principios Rectores de los Desplazamientos Internos. Documento E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2. 11 de febrero de 1998. Disponible en https://www.acnur.org/prot/prot_despl/5bff2c864/principios-rectores-de-los-desplazamientos-internos.html.

emotional health affectations, and affectations on life projects during and after FDI from all the personnel responsible for its attention.

Based on the *Guiding Principles* approach, an exhausting revision related to the regulatory framework to attend to this problem, such as the General Law of Victims and the Law to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, is made by intersecting the importance of protecting multiple human rights before, during and after FID. Some analyzed rights were the right to life, physical integrity, freedom, security, right to justice, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to housing, the right to health, the right to education, the right to work, and freedom of expression.

System for prevention, attention, and integral protection for women journalists living in Forced Internal Displacement in Mexico

Part of the findings of this diagnosis is the response of the Mexican government to the FDI phenomenon related to journalists. This response has been inserted in the absence of a law related to FDI and non-actions taken by different protection mechanisms and institutions in charge of keeping women, who are also victims and have this profession, safe. Until this day, there is no solid and consistent system that attends FDI as a severe human rights violation.

Based on the analysis of the actions taken by the Federal Protection Mechanism, the Special Prosecutor Office to Attend Felonies committed against Freedom Expression (FEDELE), the Executive Commission to Attend Victims (CEAV), the Fifth Inspectorate of the National Human Rights Commission (CDNH) and other governmental dependencies responsible in FID matter or interinstitutional linkage, it's purposed that the GPID establish integral protection politics for local, federal and state governments join actions to prevent displacement, protect people during FID and give humanitarian assistance to guarantee structural conditions for their return, reassessment, and relocation.

At the same time, the diagnosis invites governments to strategize together to protect, prevent, investigate, judge, and legally sanction violence against journalists, because the

fight against impunity is a cornerstone to preventing future displacements. The current policy is insufficient to prevent and address FID since its designed and implemented in a fragmented manner, without interinstitutional coordination, and without capacities in the matter.

Finally, this diagnosis aims to incorporate a feminist and gender perspective in the prevention, attention, and integral protection, not only to understand violence against women journalists based on gender but to attend to and guarantee their rights during FID and that implementation of care measures as currently applied are no longer synonymous of isolation and on the contrary, are autonomous with total control and decision of their work, personal and life projects.

Check the full diagnosis here: (link)

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