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THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO SUBMITS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN THE HAGUE THE CASES OF 54 MEXICANS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES

- **This is based on the violation of their right to information regarding consular assistance.**

The Secretariat of Foreign Relations informs that, today, the Government of Mexico brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, The Netherlands, a case concerning the violations of the right to information regarding consular assistance of 54 Mexican nationals sentenced to death in the United States.

The right to information regarding consular assistance is covered under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963 (VCCR), to which both Mexico and the United States are Parties. Said provision establishes that, in the case of arrest of foreigners, local authorities are obliged to inform the detainees, without delay, of their right to contact the consular representation of their country of origin.

The main goal of the lodging of this complaint is for the ICJ to issue a ruling, as it has done so in other international precedents, regarding the non-compliance by different U.S. state and municipal authorities of their international legal obligation covered by the VCCR. Specifically, the complaint deals with the 54 cases of Mexicans sentenced to death who, as a consequence of said violation, did not receive the due assistance by Mexican consular officials who may have been able to prevent the application of the death sentence.

In this manner, the Government of Mexico requests, in light of said violations, the ICJ to ensure that the United States complies with the granting of an appropriate repair of the

damage, by means of the review and effective reconsideration of the sentences of the Mexicans whose rights were not respected.

Additionally, the complaint also includes a request for the ICJ to order precautionary measures for the United States to take the necessary actions and to prevent that none of the 54 Mexicans sentenced to death be executed or their execution date be scheduled until the matter is definitely resolved.

Prior to the decision to lodge this complaint, the Government of Mexico exhausted all of its options before the U.S. courts and administrative authorities and it resorted to bilateral and international authorities. In said procedures, it asserted the OC/16 consultative opinion of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, requested by Mexico, in order to ensure the respect to the right of information concerning consular assistance.

It must be pointed out that the bringing of this case before the ICJ, the United Nation's main conflict resolution body, does not constitute an international confrontation affecting bilateral relations but, on the contrary, it is an action to reaffirm Mexico's trust and commitment with the principle of peaceful conflict resolution stated in Article 89, paragraph X of the Constitution of the United Mexican States and in the U.N. Charter.

With the decision to bring the cases of the 54 Mexicans sentenced to death before the highest international court, the Government of Mexico reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protect the rights of all Mexicans abroad.