

OUR VOICE

The history of all peoples is marked by sudden events whose cruelty shakes the collective consciousness, and, unfortunately, Mexico is no exception. With great sorrow, we are obligated to refer to the forced disappearance of 43 young students from the rural community of Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, in late September 2014, since solidarity with them and their families is an ethical duty. We must recognize that poverty and violence feed each other in this country and that our circumstances cannot be changed by decree. While the current government has been betting on centering its media strategy on the positive aspects of a structural reforms agenda, distancing itself from the previous Felipe Calderón administration's emphasis on the fight against organized crime, the consequences of what happened in Guerrero, the state nationwide with the second largest number of people living in poverty, have been to discredit the regime as a whole. The lack of an immediate, effective response by federal authorities to deal with this ominous case has reinforced the Mexican population's distrust and indignation. Organized and with the support of different groups in other countries, that population continues to demonstrate to demand justice, raising the demand "You took them alive; we want them back alive." Other particularly keenly felt causes have been added to this one, summarizing our demand for an end to corruption and impunity.

Although this issue of *Voices of Mexico* does not specifically analyze the case of Ayotzinapa, Enrique Pino's article does testify to how violence permeates Mexico's most vulnerable communities, with a particular impact among young people. Carlos Casillas shows us the reasons the constitutional reforms were postponed so long in Mexico, with a public debate that lasted for more than a decade, reforms that the Peña Nieto administration is now taking credit for. He also notes that their effectiveness will depend on the regulations for implementing them, together with the consensus required from different political forces, something that is always unpredictable.

Covering the impacts of globalization in our country and their characteristics, researcher Luis Díaz Müller enumerates key national, inter-American, and world events to underline the challenges that cannot be postponed: the eradication of poverty and hunger, access to quality education, among the most important, framed by his proposal to inextricably link human rights to development.

Mexico's foreign policy made an outstanding adjustment with the presidential announcement a few months ago that the country would actively participate in UN peacekeeping operations. The issue had been under discussion for some time, airing opposing views. We are now fortunate enough to have two authorities on security and international relations, Raúl Benítez Manaut and María Cristina Rosas, share their thoughts with us. While the Mexican government bases its position about the need for our foreign policy to mod-

ernize and adapt to the world's new circumstances, "the risks and opportunities that this implies will have to be analyzed case by case," as Dr. Rosas so correctly points out.

Now for the playful part of this issue: our "Art and Culture" section is dedicated to women's art, starting with Fanny Rabel's feminist denunciation; the sculpture of Alejandra Zermeño, who explores the human body and a reflection about our natural state; and the work of Helen Escobedo, undoubtedly an homage to nature. Lorena Wolffer includes performance in her aesthetic production; and to this we can add the clear photographic social denunciation by Maya Goded. Together, these artists close a virtuous circle of contributions to make this issue something special, since we can say that these Mexican women artists marshal both talent and a commitment to change.

What can be said about the meaning for our culture of the colossal stone Olmec heads? These figures depicting different helmeted faces have become icons of the Olmec identity, transmitting to those of us who have had the good fortune to see them the power, strength, and creative capacity of the first great civilization of Mesoamerica.

As a contrast, we include two articles, one about famed director Luis Buñuel's cinematic expression in Mexico City, and a second one that deals with the Jumex Contemporary Art Museum, our megalopolis's newest.

The CISAN shows its commitment to deepening our new lines of research by including a special section in each issue. On this occasion, it is coordinated by Dr. Valeria Marina Valle and analyzes the characteristics and challenges in the field of health faced by Mexico and the United States along our common border. Stretching over 3 000 kilometers and inhabited by more than 14.6 million people, the border area, taking into consideration exclusively municipalities on the border itself, has been profoundly examined from the standpoint of security and migration. For that reason, *Voices of Mexico* is proud to be the platform for 10 voices of experts from both countries to help us understand different aspects of the issue in a context in which asymmetrical interdependence is undisputed. The authors deal with institutions, actors, strategies, public policies, and figures that, taken together, allow us to recognize that disease prevention based on access to health care and the containment of sanitary risks must be strengthened as a priority for guaranteeing the quality of life that both Mexicans and U.S. Americans deserve.

To close this editorial, allow me to share with you our satisfaction at *Voices of Mexico*'s having been awarded for the third time the National Prize for Editorial Art in the category of "Political, Economic, and Financial Information Magazines," by the National Chamber of the Mexican Publishing Industry.

I want to congratulate and thank the entire team that makes this valuable publishing effort possible; it is their constant effort that has once again been validated by this acknowledgement. Our thanks also to the UNAM for having honored the CISAN with the responsibility for publishing this magazine. And, our gratitude always for the authors who collaborate with us, together with the dedicated eyes that peruse each issue.

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Director of CISAN