

Proclamation to the Peoples of Mexico Regarding the Recall of Felipe Calderón

Monday 14 December 2009, by [Collective / Multiple signers](#) (Date first published: 15 November 2009).

The following document was circulated in November by a number of Mexican labor organizations, social movements, and political organizations, sometimes in the form of a petition. Many such organizations and also individuals signed the document. - Dan La Botz.

Once again our nation is engaged in debate in the midst of a crisis that can only be compared to those that led to the Independence Revolution [1810 - 1821], the Wars of Reform [and of French Intervention, 1857 - 1867] and the Mexican Revolution [1910-1940]. Today, as yesterday, the crisis is total and of long duration, involving economics, politics and culture.

The crisis calls into question the future of the peoples and the nation of Mexico. In the scheme of the political class and the great capitalists, national and foreign, we lack hope: Mexicans have no place now in the world of neoliberal globalization except as pariahs and as a disposable labor force.

In these circumstances, in order to confront the profound crisis of our country and the problems and the people of Mexico there must be a patriotic and democratic transformation of the political system, economy and culture which removes the bourgeois oligarchy and its class from the political direction of the state and end imperialist domination over Mexico. A new majority must be constructed which includes all of the patriotic forces and which installs a new government and a new state capable of recuperating the control and the property of the productive plant of the nation, of its strategic resources and of guaranteeing sustainable development, social justice, national sovereignty, the autonomy of the Indian communities and the exercise of popular democracy.

The first step in the direction of finding a national, popular and democratic way out of the current crisis has to do with the restoration of the constitutional order; with the struggle against the usurpation of the republic by the group of politicians, businessmen, judges, and military leaders of which Felipe Calderón forms a part. In the current circumstances the recuperation of national dignity and a solution to the poverty, unemployment and insecurity will come through the struggle to revoke the presidential mandate which the puchists conferred on Felipe Calderón.

The head of the Federal executive branch is de facto the principal point of reference of a corrupt and anti-national political regime; he is the instrument of the big businessmen and of the transnational corporations to carry out the complete depredation and sacking of our productive capacity, of our public and social property, and of our natural resources. Calderón is the most visible figure of the mafia which is attempting to consummate the establishment of a state with a criminal character which would be obsequious to the United States, and of a police-military state in the Columbian style. The struggle against the usurper [Felipe Calderón] and the dominant group, which includes the defense of our social rights and political and civil liberties, paves the way to remove the government of the neoliberals which betrayed the people and the country.

Legal and human reasons for revoking the mandate of Felipe Calderón abound, the condition of the

country, or of what remains of it, could not be more grave. In less than three years the number of Mexicans in poverty has grown by 10 million; today more than 70 million of our inhabitants live in poverty; 24 or 25 million of that total lives in extreme poverty and suffer the most degrading and inhuman misery. According to the official counts, the “president of employment” has responsibility for the layoff of more than a million and a half workers.

Calderón, who supposedly head the war against insecurity and crime, has converted Mexico into the most insecure and violent country in the world during times of peace. The result of his war against drug dealers, or against one of their gangs, has been more than 15,000 murders and more than 7,000 disappeared. Nevertheless, neither the violence nor the kidnappings show any signs of diminishing much less of ending. Meanwhile between 25 and 40 billion dollars are laundered in the banks and business of respectable private companies, with the blessings of the governments of Calderón and Obama. At the same time, impunity reigns, and those responsible for the industrial crime of the Pasta de Conchos [mine accident of February 19, 2006], as well as Ulises Ruiz [governor of Oaxaca during the violent repression of a teachers strike in Oaxaca in 2006], Mario Marín [governor of Puebla accused by the press of misuse of his office in February 2006], Javier Lozano [the current Secretary of Labor], and the real culprits in the case of the ABC Daycare Center [fire of June 5, 2009] remain free, without mentioning the deaths in Juarez or the violations of human rights in San Salvador Atenco [events of May 3, 2006] where police violently abused over 200 people], Acetal [, Chiapas massacre of 45 people on December 22, 1997] and many other places. Meanwhile the Supreme Court justices continue earning more than 340,000 pesos a month [about US\$30,000 a month], while at the same time Ignacio del Valle [a leader of the social movement in Atenco sentenced to 67 years and currently held in prison] and his companions—among them many other social activists and innocent people—remain held incognito in illegal prisons of maximum or low security.

The de facto president [Felipe Calderón] has dispatched the armed forces throughout the national territory on missions of public security in violation of 129 of the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico, and, consequently, has degraded the military service, transforming the soldiers into an army of occupation and counter-insurgency at the service of the oligarchs. In his role as commander-in-chief he has subordinated the armed forces to the military and political strategies of the government of the United States through the North American Security and Prosperity Partnership and the Merida Initiative, among other agreements and actions decided upon behind the back of the Mexican people which gravely affect national sovereignty and which, in their essence, constitute acts of treason to the Nation.

Making decisions beyond his competency, he has brought the national economy to the point of collapse, to recession, to the contraction of the internal market, to the astronomical growth of illegal internal and external debt, to the destruction of the productive plant, to a greater technical and scientific dependence, to the devastation of the countryside and to the end of food self-sufficiency, provoking greater migration of workers and affecting the standard of living of the whole population. In addition, he has illegally turned over the country to mining, oil, agricultural, and hotel companies, encouraging environmental damage and criminal behaviors against entire peoples and communities, acts which are now irreparable in human, environmental and economic terms.

Violating Article 123 of the Constitution [which protects labor rights] and following the anti-labor policies of his predecessors, [Calderón’s government] has recently violating the autonomy of the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME), with the sole goal of moving one step further in carrying out the destruction of our energy sovereignty and the privatization of electric energy and of the services derived from fiber optic cable. He has thrown out on the street more than 44,000 workers because of their opposition to the government’s plans.

Given this dark development project, the central questions are: Are we the citizens who didn't vote for Calderón, or those of us who abstained—or even those who voted for the Nacional Action Party [PAN] and have subsequently regretted it—are we prepared to support another three years of poverty, authoritarianism, privatization and selling out of the country? Will the Mexican nation survive as a sovereign entity in the face of the systematic privatizing assault of the unpatriotic leaders who govern for the exclusive benefit of capitalist corporations? Is it necessary to pay such a high price in human life environmental damage, suffering and fruitless efforts while putting up with a government which has now become intolerable to millions of Mexicans? Does any reasonable doubt exist about the reactionary and regressive character of the current governing group which could lead us to hope for a correction of course by the usurper [Calderón] and his people?

On the even of the commemoration of the Bicentenary of Independence and the Centenary of the Mexican Revolution, and facing the extraordinary worsening of the national social crisis which presents us not only with repression but also with the worst economic catastrophe and socio-environmental damage in the history of the country, it is necessary to step up and to summon up our courage as in the time of Hidalgo, Morelos, Juárez, Magón, Villa, Zapata and [Lázaro] Cárdenas, and to struggle over the future of the nation, and to fight for the revocation of the presidential mandate of the de facto president Felipe de Jesús Calderón Hinojosa.

To discuss the way and means of doing this, we are organizing a first meeting for December 5 (in a place still to be confirmed) to which all Mexicans who are ready to take on this battle are invited to attend as organizers. In particular, we call the Movement in Defense of the Popular Economy, Petroleum and Sovereignty, the Movement for Food and Energy Sovereignty, the Rights of Workers and the Democratic Liberties, the Nacional Assembly of Popular Resistance, the Other Campaign, and the National Unity Conference of the Lefts to participate in the discussions and agreements so that once and for all Calderón and his government will go.

Sincerely,

[The proclamation, circulated electronically as a petition, has been signed by scores of labor unions and social movements as well as by hundreds and perhaps thousands of Mexican citizens.]

P.S.

* Translation by Dan La Botz.