**Torture against women in Mexico: Facts and Figures**

**Women in prison**

Women make up nearly 7% of the population in federal prisons (Comisión Nacional de Seguridad, 2016)

The vast majority of women detained in federal prisons are first time offenders, mostly imprisoned for drug-related crimes.

There is evidence to suggest that torture and other ill-treatment is used frequently against people accused of high-profile crimes that fall within the public security strategy of the so-called “war on drugs.” Of the 100 women interviewed by Amnesty International, 33% had been accused of being part of organized crime groups, 23% had been accused of narcotics crimes, 22% had been accused of kidnapping and 14% with illegal possession of firearms.

The federal prison population is largely made up by people from low income backgrounds. Data on the federal prison system shows that 60% of women in prison did not complete high school. (CIDE, 2012)

Of the cases Amnesty International documented for this report, most women earned between 1,000 and 5,000 pesos a month (approximately US$70 to US$300) with some earning much less.

**Torture against women**

Amnesty International interviewed 100 women held in federal prison about the torture and other ill-treatment they were subjected to during their arrest and interrogation by police or armed forces.

100 said they suffered sexual harassment or psychological abuse during their arrest or in the hours that followed.

97 said they suffered physical violence during their arrest or in the hours that followed.

79 said they were hit to the head, 62 in the stomach or torax, 61 on the legs and 28 on the ears (the face was deliberately excluded to avoid obvious injuries).

33 reported being raped by municipal, state or federal police officers or members of the Army and Navy. In arrests carried out by municipal and state police and the armed forces, rape was reported in at least half of the arrests carried out. In the 10 arrests carried out by the Navy documented in this report, 8 arrests included rape reported by the women.

66 of the women said they had reported the abuse to the authorities but investigations were opened in only 22 cases. Amnesty International is not aware of any criminal charges arising from these investigations.

**Torture and other ill-treatment in Mexico**

2,403 – number of criminal complaints for torture received by the Federal Attorney General´s Office in 2014.

0 – number of criminal charges Mexico’s Federal Attorney General´s Office was able to confirm to Amnesty International for 2014 and 2015.

0 – number of soldiers from the Army suspended during investigation from service for “rape” or “sexual abuse” from 2010 to 2015.

12,110 – number of reports of torture and other ill-treatment filed before Mexico´s local and national human rights ombudsman bodies in just one year, 2013.

15 – number of torture convictions at the federal level since 1991 (IACHR, 2015)