

Ayotzinapa Marathon

Cover page

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Photo: Ximena Natera

Aranzazú Ayala Martínez

Antonio Tizapa Legideño has the same name as his father, Don Antonio Tizapa, amateur runner and resident of New York, founder of “Running for Ayotzinapa 43.”

Although Don Antonio has been running since 2010, in 2014 he started running with a shirt that said “Ayotzinapa 43,” after his son Antonio Tizapa Legideño was disappeared on September 26 of that year along with 42 other classmates from the Normal Rural Ayotzinapa, Guerrero.

At first, he says, “I didn’t want them to find out because I wanted our children to appear as soon as possible, but the news invaded all the networks and they realized that I was a dad (of the 43).” Then people asked him how they could help, and that’s how they started printing t-shirts and giving them away, later thinking that the team of amateur runners could be dedicated to raising awareness of the disappearance of the 43 students.

As they were not officially registered with the club that organizes the marathon of New

York, the largest in the world, they were in need of formal registration to have more visibility and thus created the team “Running for Ayotzinapa 43.”

This year the “Running for Ayotzinapa 43” team participated in the New York Marathon again, wearing green shirts with the legend and also carrying a Mexican flag. In an interview at the end of the race, Don Antonio explained that the color green is for the hope they have, in addition to being a flag color, and for the green of the turtles that represent the Normal Rural Ayotzinapa.

The team that already brings together about 50 people from Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador, among others, seeks not only to raise awareness of the disappearance of the 43 but also of Central American migrants in Mexican territory and all the tens of thousands of disappearances in Mexico, which continue with impunity.

On December 15 of 2019, “Running for Ayotzinapa 43” will present its first official race in the New York circuit, continuing with its struggle, through sport, to raise awareness of the problems confronting Mexico.



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