

## Father of Ayotzinapa Victim Asks UN Rapporteur to Visit Mexico



Antonio Tizapa (L), father of one of the 43 forcibly disappeared Mexican students, waits to address the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. | Photo: Facebook / Tupak Huehuecoyotl

Published 16 May 2016

### **Antonio Tizapa made a highly emotional plea during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that will conclude May 20.**

Antonio Tizapa, father of one of the 43 forcibly disappeared Mexican students, made an impassioned plea Monday during the U.N. Indigenous Forum asking the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Indigenous People Victoria Tauli Corpuz to visit his country and for the Mexican government to facilitate her visit.

“We hope for her to assess the repression the Mexican government makes towards students and Indigenous people, and that the international community be made aware of the true nature of the Mexican government towards us as Indigenous people,” said Tizapa after the rapporteur addressed the attendees of the event that began May 9 and will conclude May 20.

Tizapa, the father of Jorge Antonio Tizapa Legideño, fought to contain his emotions as he delivered his comments at the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York.

“Nineteen months have passed without us knowing our children’s whereabouts, 19 months searching for them, 19 months of us demanding justice,” said Tizapa as he choked back tears.

Tizapa pinned the blame for the forced disappearance of the 43 students from the Ayotzinapa teachers’ college squarely on the Mexican government and added the families were requesting “international assistance and monitoring” due to their mistrust of the government.

The Interdisciplinary Group of Experts, known as the GIEI, which had been investigating the disappearance of the 43 students, was recently forced to end its work on the case due to the government’s refusal to extend its mandate.

“We await the visit of ... Vicky Tauli Corpus to Mexico in order to resolve this conflict of 43 families and to find peace,” said Tizapa, drawing on this year’s theme at the forum of conflict, peace and resolution.

“Although we know there are not only 43, there thousands like the 43,” concluded Tizapa.