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## WAR(S) ON TERRORISM: How Other Nations Have Coped.

“We heard a big commotion outside, and we were very afraid. We felt very powerless. I was very afraid for my children, for my wife. We saw the news, how they had grabbed the *compañeros*. They were savage in the way they detained them, hit them, took them from their houses, destroyed their things...” – Testimonial about the violence surrounding Atenco

“When we asked to make a phone call, or that we wanted to see a lawyer, they told us that we shouldn’t watch so many gringo movies, that that only happened in the US, here you’re in Mexico, here we give you a public attorney.” -- Atenco detainee

“In the jail us detainees stood in a line and every two or three steps they beat us with their clubs. This lasted until we entered the jail and there was a wall, there against the wall they banged my head, they grabbed my hair and banged my head against the wall, every two or three steps they did this. They said to me, ‘lower your head’ and I lowered it they punched me in the nose, and we were all bleeding...” – Atenco detainee

“It was about 6:00 in the afternoon on the day of November 25, when the operation took place near Santa Domingo between Reforma and Cinco de Mayo Streets at the [inaudible]. We couldn’t do anything. About five or six of the federal preventive police attacked me and began to beat me with everything they had, kicking me and clubbing me with the police batons. Yes, here they split my head. I bled a lot. I was drenched in blood. In spite of that, they kept beating me.” - Oaxaca citizen about violence by police

### THE REVIVAL OF MEXICO’S DIRTY WAR

**SAN SALVADOR ATENCO.** In 2006, police attempted to prevent 60 flower vendors from selling in a Texcoco market. The vendors resisted, but were met with force by the police. Shots were fired by police and there were reports of many people wounded as a result. Many resisters were arbitrarily detained, some without possibility of bail, by the police and 45 of 47 women who were detained claimed they had been sexually assaulted.

“We believe that the police actions taken did not respect international standards for the protection of human rights...the police action taken was not a moderated or minimal possible use of force, but rather it was disproportionately excessive,...clearly illegitimate and illegal.” - International Civil Commission for Human Rights Observation, Preliminary report concerning the events of Atenco, Mexico

**OAXACA.** In 2006, teachers in Oaxaca began protesting a lack of funding for teachers and rural schools. This protesting quickly escalated to a call for the resignation of the governor of the Mexican State of Oaxaca, Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, after a violent, early morning June 14 attack on striking teachers. Hundreds of social groups came to sympathize with the teachers and founded an alternate governing body, the Popular Assembly of the People's of Oaxaca (APPO). The group operated on the idea that citizens should organize for common causes and adopted the claim that it was a "movement of the bases, not of leaders". Teachers and other citizens erected barricades in their neighborhoods and occupied government buildings for the five months while the conflict simmered at the local level. In late October, after a particularly deadly day, 3000 federal preventative police were deployed to the capital city in order to bring the protest to an end. Federal intervention has not resolved the issues and Governor Ruiz remains in power.

Amnesty International claims that more than 140 people, including 34 women were arbitrarily detained following a protest against Ortiz last November. Reports indicate that these detainees have been beaten, tortured, denied access to families, legal advice, and medical attention.

“But this social and teacher’s movement is pacific. The theory that the people are sovereign – he (Ulises Ruiz Ortiz) doesn’t understand that. There’s no reciprocity. The government knows only violence. He aids his capitalist friends.” – Citizen of Oaxaca