

Country-Specific Questions: Mexico Press Restrictions

QUESTION

Is Canada concerned that Mexico is apparently clamping down on freedom of the press?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- We are concerned about news reports that the Mexican Government is imposing restrictions on foreign correspondents.
- I note that Mexico's chief immigration official, Alejandro Carrillo Castro, has responded to these reports in writing.
- We welcome Mr. Carrillo Castro's statement that no new restrictions or requirements have been established for foreign journalists. He has also stated that accredited foreign journalists are NOT required to provide advance notice of their travels to any part of Mexico, including Chiapas.
- Furthermore, Mr. Carrillo Castro has denied that requirements for foreign journalists to obtain a visa abroad have changed. He said that Mexican consulates can provide visas to foreign journalists without needing to consult with authorities in Mexico.

QUESTION

Isn't it true that Mexico has been kicking other foreigners out of Mexico in recent weeks? Isn't this just an attempt to cover up what is happening in Chiapas?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- It is true that Mexico is strictly enforcing sections of the Mexican Constitution that prohibit foreign involvement in political activities as well as migratory legislation which restricts the activities foreigners with a tourist visa can undertake.
- At the same time, I note that a large delegation of over 200 international observers were granted permission to visit and travel widely in Mexico and Chiapas in the month of February.