

Country-Specific Questions: Mexico, Chiapas

QUESTION

In light of the observers' findings that the crisis in Chiapas is deepening, is Canada finally going to put some real pressure on the Mexican government to respect human rights?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- The massacre in Acteal dismayed all Canadians, and we have condemned it in the strongest terms.
- The day after the Acteal massacre, the Minister of Foreign Affairs discussed Chiapas with the Mexican foreign minister.
- During Team Canada, Chiapas was discussed directly with President Zedillo in a meeting with Minister Marchi and the Premiers.
- The President strongly condemned the violence in Acteal immediately after it occurred.
- He has put in place specific measures to investigate the violence, and to provide humanitarian assistance and improved security. Over 50 arrests, including the local Mayor and police officials, have been made.
- We are confident that the \$60,000 provided to the Chiapas Regional Office of the Red Cross has been well used. The Red Cross is doing a good job meeting the needs of refugees on all sides of the conflict. Embassy representatives were personally able to verify this two weeks ago in various refugee camps where the Red Cross is active.