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Mexico: Application by the Federal District and by the states, particularly Nuevo León, Veracruz and Jalisco, of the measures to combat domestic violence set out in the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

The General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence (*Ley General de Acceso de las Mujeres a una Vida Libre de Violencia*) was published in Mexico's official gazette on 1 February 2007 (Mexico 1 Feb. 2007).

Article 49 of the Law lists the responsibilities of the states and the Federal District regarding violence against women; article 50 lists the responsibilities of the municipalities (*ibid.*).

The Office of the President's first government report (*Informe de Gobierno*) under President Felipe Calderón's administration indicates that, in July 2007, the draft of the General Law's regulations was being reviewed by the Federal Commission for Regulatory Improvement (Comisión Federal de Mejora Regulatoria) (Mexico Sept. 2007). According to an *EFE* article dated 26 November 2007, the regulations [translation] "are ready." In a 26 October 2007 press release, the National Institute for Women (Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, INMUJERES) urged the governments of the 31 states and the Federal District to adopt laws that meet the criteria set out in the federal government's General Law (Mexico 26 Oct. 2007).

On 3 April 2007, an agreement to implement a network to prevent, respond to, penalize and eradicate violence against women (Sistema Nacional para Prevenir, Atender, Sancionar y Eradicar la Violencia Contra las Mujeres), set out in the General Law, determined that INMUJERES would assume the position of executive secretary of the network, whose first meeting was held on 24 April 2007 (Mexico Sept. 2007). The institutes for women of the 31 states and the Federal District belong to the network (*ibid.*). The subject of harmonizing state and Federal District laws with the federal government's law was raised during the meeting between the institutes for women and the gender equality commissions (Mexico 18 July 2007; *ibid.* Sept. 2007).

In addition, a national forum for consultation was organized by INMUJERES in September 2007 in order to develop the content of the national program to prevent, respond to, penalize and eradicate violence against women (Programa Nacional para Prevenir, Atender, Sancionar y Eradicar la Violencia Contra las Mujeres) (Mexico 12 Sept. 2007).

Additional general information on the implementation of the General Law could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

Implementation of the Act at the state level

In November 2007, President Felipe Calderón expressed his disappointment that only 9 out of 32 states had applied the measures required under the General Law (*EFE* 26 Nov. 2007).

Moreover, the president of the Federal District Human Rights Commission (Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal, CDHDF) noted in an interview, a summary of which is accessible on the CDHDF website, that regarding women's rights, the Federal District had not yet passed any act or law giving women access to a life free of violence (Distrito Federal 26 Nov. 2007).

In correspondence sent to the Research Directorate, the assistant director of the INMUJERES unit responsible for monitoring public policies on security and justice stated that, by 21 November 2007, the states of Chihuahua, Campeche, Tamaulipas, Sinaloa, San Luis Potosí, Nuevo León, Chiapas, Sonora, Aguascalientes, Puebla and Quintana Roo had passed laws to implement the General Law (Mexico 12 Dec. 2007). By 12 December 2007, the Aguascalientes state law had not yet been published in the official gazette (*ibid.*).

According to the same source, the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence was adopted in the state of Nuevo León on 21 August 2007 and published in the official gazette on 20 September 2007 (*ibid.*).

Further information on the implementation of the measures set out in the General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence in the Federal District or the states of Nuevo León, Veracruz or Jalisco could not be found within the time constraints for this Response.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Distrito Federal, Mexico. 26 November 2007. Comisión de Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal (CDHDF). "Entrevista al maestro Emilio Álvarez Icaza Longoria, presidente de la CDHDF, en la conmemoración del Día Internacional por la Eliminación de la Violencia contra las Mujeres y la entrega del reconocimiento Hermila Galindo 2007." <http://www.cd hdf.org.mx/index.php?id=trans_261107> [Accessed 7 Dec. 2007]

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Additional Sources Consulted

Oral sources: The Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH), Fiscalía Especial para la Atención de Delitos Relacionados con Actos de Violencia contra las Mujeres (FEVIM), and Centro de Atención a la Violencia Intrafamiliar (CAVI) did not respond to requests for information within the time constraints of this Response.

Internet sites, including: Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos, Factiva, Procuraduría General de la República, Sistema Integral para el Desarrollo de la Familia.

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