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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality
Subcommittee on Human Rights

Joint event on Femicide (murder of women) in Mexico and Central America

4th October 2011

9.30 - 10.45

**Room: Altiero Spinelli Building, Room A3 E-2
European Parliament, Brussels**

Draft Programme

The EP adopted a resolution on the murder of women (femicide) in Mexico and Central America and the role of the European Union in fighting the phenomenon on 11 October 2007.

Since then, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly adopted in 2008 a resolution calling upon the governments of the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean to firmly condemn femicide as an extreme expression of discrimination and violence against women. In December 2008, the EU adopted guidelines on violence against women and girls stating a clear political will to treat the subject of gender-based violence as a priority in its internal and external actions. The VI European Union and Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) Summit declaration of 2010 strongly condemned all kind of gender-based violence, and recognised the need to take every necessary measure to prevent and eradicate it. The same year, HR/VP Ashton issued a declaration on behalf of the EU on Femicide, where it strongly condemns femicide and the prevailing culture of impunity. The EU praised the work carried out by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in this issues, offered to actively support the sharing of best practices within Latin America, and to cooperate in the elimination of violence against women.

The run-up to the next EU-LAC Summit that will take place in Santiago de Chile in May 2012 is the right moment to assess the implementation of these commitments and press for further progress to be included in the Summit Declaration and Action Plan.

The hearing will have as aims:

(1) to assess the implementation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' sentences on this issue (2) to evaluate what the EU, in particular the European External Action Service (EEAS), has done to implement the aforementioned political commitments within the scope of bi-regional relations.

Speakers:

Mr Jan Jarab, Regional Representative, Regional Office for Europe of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr Oswaldo Ruiz, Utrecht University, former senior lawyer at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Ms Andrea Medina Rosas, Red Mesa de Mujeres de Ciudad Juárez, Mexico

Ms Maria Gotsi, Desk Mexico, European External Action Service.

The exchange of views / hearing / public hearing can be followed online:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=DRO>

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