



Our Voice

October 2

On the night of October 1, the esplanade in front of University City's Central Administration Building was dressed in mourning, and the iconic structure revealed its grandeur with a moving, impressive light show: a peace dove, stabbed, injured, and bleeding was pictured together with the Olympic Games logo and the forceful phrase, "Never Again."

October 2, 2018 was an autumn morning on which, as only infrequently is the case nowadays, Mexico City was still the most transparent region. At a solemn session of the Chamber of Deputies, the gold-letter inscription on the Wall of Honor of the Legislative Palace was unveiled, with the National University of Mexico (UNAM) and National Polytechnic Institute (IPN) communities as witnesses. It reads, "To the 1968 Student Movement." The ceremony, an act of commemoration and vindication, takes place in a university and polytechnic atmosphere: you could hear the traditional cries of "Goya!" (UNAM) and "Huelum!" (IPN). But, from 1 to 43, other students are remembered as the crowd shouts out the numbers of the missing Ayotzinapa students, thus joining the past to the present.

Joining the past to the present. The first to speak, 68 Committee representative Félix Hernández Gamundi says that some demands continue to be current. In a single voice, like a chorus, the young people shout, "For a Mexico of equals in democracy. October 2 shall not be forgotten." In his address, Dr. Enrique Graue Wiechers says that their voices continue to be heard in Mexican society, which the movement provided with greater awareness, and that its cry of rebellion against state authoritarianism is reflected today in society's freedom of expression and transformation.

In "Tlatelolco," a poem Hernández Gamundi mentions in his speech, Jaime Sabines begins mournfully: "No one knows the exact number of dead, / not even their murderers, / not even the criminal, . . . / they were women and children, / students, / youngsters of 15, / a girl on her way to the movies, / an infant in its mother's belly, / all wiped out, unerringly riddled with bullets / by the machine gun of Order and Social Justice." The poem, biting and painful, criticizes the silence of the media, the distortion of the truth to consolidate the idea of a progressive country developing in an acceptable way, a hypocritical society willing to forget in order to have a false, but effective peace. "The women, in pink, / the men, in sky blue, / the Mexicans parade in the glorious unity/ that constitutes the homeland of our dreams."

In the diversity of its essays and creative texts, this issue of *Voices of Mexico* asks both about that machine gun and that dream homeland the students demanded. Their content is precisely that linkage of the past to the present, in which, by reflecting on the former, the latter is explained. The voices of members of the university community, headed by the rector, who kindly gave us an interview; the voices of social actors; the voices and hands of artists who, in this issue, give us original material for the magazine in the form of an illustrated chronology. With this volume, the voice of the CISAN, through *Voices*, contributes to the impetus of a full year of commemorations organized by the university a half century after the events, in the hope that they never happen again.

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