

# *Civilians to Begin Search for Missing Students in Mexico*

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Mexico City, January 7 (teleSUR-RHC) — Families of the remaining 42 forcibly disappeared Mexican students of the Ayotzinapa teacher training college announced they will begin a search for their loved ones Saturday, according to a spokesperson for the families.

Spokesperson Felipe de la Cruz also urged people to support and join the search. He added that a group of intellectuals have been called to participate in a forum February 2nd to discuss the situation in Guerrero, the state where the disappearances took place in September, following an attack by police forces suspected of having links to local drug cartels.

De la Cruz called on political parties not to exploit this case for the country's midterm elections in June, since some of them have been using the case of Ayotzinapa to make political propaganda. The students' parents have condemned the fact that their sorrow is being used by political organizations to win supporters.

Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto and his Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) may face significant challenges in the election when the entire lower house, nine governorships, and control of Mexico City's delegations are at stake.

The lack of immediate benefits from several economic reforms, combined with the social-political crisis associated with violence and corruption, make the PRI vulnerable. Meanwhile, the two main opposition

parties, the right-wing National Action Party (PAN) and left-wing Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), also seem weak due to the country's situation.

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