

March 4, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave N.W.
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

The below signers, representing a broad coalition of individuals, organizations, and dignitaries living in the United States and Mexico, united in our concern with U.S. guns fueling violence in Mexico, are writing regarding the agreement you made with President Sheinbaum on tariffs and cross-border trafficking. We are glad that your conversation resulted in a month-long pause on reciprocal increased tariffs, and your commitment to [“avoid the trafficking of high-powered weapons from the United States into Mexico.”](#) Because our nations are each other’s largest trading partners, it is imperative that we create binational solutions to avoid a trade war and create policies that respect the dignity and experiences of the people of both of our nations.

As we reach the end of the month-long pause, we recommend strategies for your Administration as part of your commitment to take action on immigration. It is imperative to address all factors fueling migration, including the flow of weapons across our border into Mexico. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) reports that [70% of firearms](#) recovered at crime scenes in Mexico and submitted for tracing come from the United States. U.S. sourced firearms and gun manufacturers are empowering cartels to devastate communities, fuel the narcotics trade, and intimidate local authorities, forcing migration from Mexico to the United States.

Most trafficked firearms to Mexico are legally purchased at retail gun shops or gun shows in Texas, Arizona, and California. Nearly all of these weapons are purchased by U.S. citizens as required under law, and are then easily trafficked over the border into Mexico, falling into the hands of the cartels. Extensive evidence confirms this pattern. For example, a gun purchased in Texas is more likely to be used in a homicide in Mexico than in Texas itself.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently visited nations in South and Central America with the [goal](#) to, “stop illegal and large-scale migration, fight the scourge of transnational criminal organizations and drug traffickers, and deepen economic partnerships to enhance prosperity in our hemisphere.” Firearm trafficking from the United States extends beyond Mexico, fueling violence into the Caribbean and Central America. Gangs in Haiti dominate and terrorize broad swaths of territory with weapons trafficked from the U.S., mainly [from Florida and Georgia](#). Achieving the Secretary's goals for the region must outline steps to curb the flow of these weapons into these nations.

Given your designation of [cartels as foreign terrorist organizations](#), it is in the United States' national security interest to cut off their access to the weapons that enable terror and destabilize entire regions. Firearms enable drug trafficking, have been used to forcibly disappear over 100,000 people in Mexico, and uproot people from their homes to seek safety. The U.S. gun market is driving violence to the point that, for many people, leaving their homes is a matter of life or death.

As you continue negotiations with Mexico, we urge you to take the following actions:

- Issue an executive order to take assault rifles, .50 caliber rifles, and high-capacity magazines, used by the cartels in thousands of crimes, off the US retail market. In the absence of an executive order, support legislative proposals with the same effect. That includes legislation introduced recently, the Stop Arming Cartels Act, that bans the commercial sale in the U.S. of .50 caliber rifles, which only the cartels have an interest in buying.
 - Texas and Arizona laws allow private individuals to purchase .50 caliber sniper rifles and assault weapons without a criminal background check. This enormous market is perfect for fentanyl traffickers and violent groups. In June 2020, gunmen used a .50 caliber rifle in an assassination attempt on Mexico City's police chief that killed three people.
- Instruct the Justice Department to order the inspection of every gun dealer that has been implicated in sales of firearms trafficked to Mexico, to ensure they are not facilitating trafficking to the cartels.
- Use your executive authority in the National Firearms Act of 1968 to stop the importation into the U.S. of assault rifles, many of which are trafficked to Mexico.
- Support legislation to require background checks for all sales of firearms, including online, by mail order, and at gun shows. This is especially important in the states with the highest levels of gun trafficking to Mexico.

We will continue to engage our elected officials both in the United States and Mexico on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

National organizations

Global Exchange

March For Our Lives

Latin American Working Group

Quixote Center

Collective of Organizations and Federations of Mexican Migrants (COLEFOM)

Faith groups

Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America

Conejo Valley Worship Group

InterReligious Task Force on Central America

Latin America Caucus of the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice

Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team

Gun violence prevention

Lives Robbed

Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

Mothers Against Gun Violence

Nuns Against Gun Violence

Team ENOUGH
Texas Gun Sense

Groups in Mexico

Centro de Atención a la Familia Migrante Indígena AC
Centro de Estudios Ecuménicos
Derechos de la Infancia y la Adolescencia
Emmaus Community
Festival internacional Esaú
Mira: Feminisms and Democracies

Peace organizations

codepink
FOR Peace Presence
International Peace Research Association
FCNL - NJ Advocacy Team
Kickapoo Peace Circle
Peace Economy Project
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Burlington VT branch

Local organizations

Bernal Heights Democratic Club
Black Lives Matter South Bend
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice (Illinois)
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Students Engaged in Advancing Texas

Businesses

IMAGINArte
Jacobson Arts
Opal Group
People's Eye Photography

Other organizations

Canadian Resistance Front
Haiti Action Committee
Kino Border Initiative
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment (NACCE)
SolidarityINFOService
The Guild of Secrecy
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center

Cc: Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kristi Noem