

The Geneva Office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation cordially invites you to a public panel discussion on

“Border Enforcement” versus Human Rights Standards

How to protect Migrants’ Rights in Light of Security Policies? – the example of Mexico

In October 2006 the USA decided to reinforce their southern border by building a wall of 1100 km. This decision was met with strong criticism by Mexican politicians across all political parties. Background of the US’ decision is the growing perception of illegal immigration as a threat to national security. Since the early 1990s, the US is trying to tighten its southern border, channelling the stream of illegal immigration away from urban areas towards the deserts of Arizona and New Mexico. Human Rights Organizations denounce this strategy as provoking “unnecessary injury” to the migrants and thereby violating their human rights.

Yet, while the Mexico’s northern border is subject to observation and research with numerous publications, it’s southern border and the programs to fight illegal immigration from Central America at the “frontera olvidada” have hardly entered the debate on migrant’s rights.

This panel discussion wants to shed light on the range, scope and reality of human rights violations in the frame of border protection, exemplified at the Mexican case, and provide an analysis of the tensions between national sovereignty and the human rights of migrants.

Thursday, 20 September, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Palais des Nations, Room XXI

Speakers

- **MP Maria Rosa Márquez Cabrera** – *Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural y Equidad para las Comunidades / Mexico City*
- **Professor María del Carmen García Aguilar** – *University of Chiapas / Mexico*
- **Jorge Peraza** – *International Organization for Migration / Costa Rica*

Moderation

- **Felix Kirchmeier** – *Friedrich Ebert Foundation*

- Simultaneous translation is available for English and Spanish -

Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided