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2021 – Between Peril and Potential: Human Rights Advocacy in the Wake of a Global Pandemic

Dec 3rd, 8:30 AM - Dec 2nd, 10:00 AM

Documenting Human Rights Violations: An Analysis of Press Reporting on the Mexican Disappearance Crisis

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Human rights research done remotely using open press sources: Mexican disappearances case study

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The global pandemic has transformed many structures, including the way in which human rights academics and practitioners carry out their work.. This project is an example of human rights research using methods that can be applied remotely from any part of the world, and even replicated in other contexts or experiences.

The initiative is one of the projects from the Observatory on Disappearances and Impunity in Mexico led by Barbara Frey (University of Minnesota), Leigh Payne (Oxford University) and Karina Ansolabehere (UNAM-México), focused on the enforced disappearances crisis occurring in Mexico. The work included an extensive database created by coding open sourced Mexican press articles from 2009 to mid-2018 from four Mexican states: Coahuila, Guerrero, Jalisco, and Nuevo León.

We would like to propose a roundtable about human rights research done remotely using open press sources, and focusing on Mexico's disappearances as a case study. First, we would include an explanation of the methodology process we used to find and code press articles about disappearances, which was a process done remotely by our research assistants working from different countries. Secondly, we will present the main findings of our research focusing on a quantitative descriptive analysis and qualitative content analysis, based on the cases included in our database. Finally, we would like to provide insight on how this database could be used for other academic or educational purposes, and how it could be also replicated in other contexts and/or experiences of human rights violations across the world.