

United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures
Questionnaire

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Questionnaire

1. Please indicate which mechanisms have been established in the concerned country to **hold accountable** persons accused of committing or bearing responsibility for gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law in colonial contexts. If such mechanisms were not adopted, please explain why. Please indicate the challenges and opportunities encountered in investigating, prosecuting and sanctioning such crimes.

On the South Texas/Mexican border there have been no mechanisms established to hold anyone accountable for abuses stemming from Spanish colonization and U.S. imperialism (Mexican American War 1846-1848). The conquest/dispossession of indigenous, mestizos and Mexican people have been mired with racism and discrimination, which continues to pervade on the U.S./Mexico border as exemplified in the continued militarization of the border.

2. Please indicate which measures have been established in the concerned country to inquire on and **establish the truth** about gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in colonial contexts. If such mechanisms were established, please indicate how was the outcome of the inquiries made public and conveyed to victims and civil society in the affected country as well as to civil society in the former colonizing power. If such mechanisms were not adopted, please explain why. Please indicate the challenges and opportunities encountered in this regard, whether victims and affected communities have been effectively consulted in the design and implementation of these measures, and whether a gender perspective was adopted.

None

3. Please indicate which measures have been established in the concerned country to **provide reparation** to victims of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in colonial contexts. If such processes were established, please indicate which type of reparation was provided to victims (for example: restitution, compensation, satisfaction, and /or rehabilitation). If such measures were not adopted, please explain why. Please indicate the challenges and opportunities encountered in this regard, whether victims and affected communities have been effectively consulted in the design and implementation of these measures, and whether a gender perspective was adopted.

None

4. Please indicate which measures have been established in the concerned country to **memorialize** the gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in colonial contexts. If yes, please indicate whether memorialization processes were

established in the affected country and /or in the former colonizing power. If such measures were not adopted, please explain why. Please indicate the challenges and opportunities encountered in this regard, whether victims and affected communities have been effectively consulted in the design and implementation of these measures, and whether a gender perspective was adopted.

Historical markers have been established by the state in order to commemorate settler colonialism and its conquest of the border, including cannons. Most recently, the state of Texas finally acknowledged the indiscriminate killing of Mexican people in 1915 and is noted in the state museum. Besides that acknowledgement, in the Rio Grande Valley, grassroots activism has led to the establishment of a historical marker noting the lynching of Mexican people.

Local museums gloss over the injustices and focus on the achievements of the settlers, even when they are primarily responsible for the land dispossession of the people. The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley also contributes to the erasure of conquest and genocide, with a statue of the Spanish colonizer, Jose Escandon, situated on its main campus.

There has been no gender perspective adopted in regards to these markers.

5. Please indicate which measures have been established in the concerned country to **guarantee non-recurrence** of the gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in colonial contexts. If such mechanisms were not adopted, please explain why. Please indicate the challenges and opportunities encountered in this regard, whether victims and affected communities have been effectively consulted in the design and implementation of these measures, and whether a gender perspective was adopted.

None. As a militarized region, settler colonialism continues, along with its racism and discrimination. Social justice activists and organizations have led the fight against the human rights violations in the community.