

# Zedillo: Mexico will not allow segregation

by Carlos Méndez

On Jan. 23, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo delivered an emphatic “No!” to blackmail by the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), that the government establish autonomous indigenous territories, or face renewed fighting by the narco-terrorists. In a speech before a group of Mexican Pame, Tenek, and Nahuatl Indians, President Zedillo said: “We will not permit segregation or exclusion; we will reject special enclaves, which would mean a return to the marginalization we already overcame.” The Mexican government’s decision is of strategic importance for the entirety of Ibero-America, and, if adhered to, constitutes a setback for the British Empire’s drive to shatter the nation-state around the world. If a state such as Mexico were to accept the division of its territory and government, the door would be flung wide for the balkanization of all of Ibero-America through ethnic separatism.

President Zedillo’s rejection of the Zapatistas’ separatist bid also shows how resistance to the global assault on the nation-state can suddenly emerge, when a country is pushed to the point that its very existence is at stake. This same phenomenon is seen in Peru, where President Alberto Fujimori bowed to foreign financial dictates, but has fought fiercely, when faced with the possible loss of all sovereignty which would result from yielding to the Zapatistas’ Peruvian partners, the Túpac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

The EZLN demanded passage of a bill called the “Indian Culture and Rights Act,” drawn up by the Peace and Concord Commission (Cocopa), a group of Congressmen from leading parties, which has been mediating between the government and the EZLN. The bill mandates changes in the Constitution, to grant “Indian peoples . . . the rights of self-determination, and . . . autonomy,” and specifies that autonomy must include exclusive rights over much of Mexico’s natural resources. The Cocopa-EZLN proposal would also force those Mexicans categorized as Indians, to be the sole property of the narco-terrorists, and the host of anthropologists, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN bodies, etc., which “advise” them.

The bill was officially rejected on Jan. 12, via a Government Ministry statement that “the government cannot renounce its highest responsibilities: to guard national unity, territorial integrity, and full respect for the principles upon which the organization and functioning of the state are based. All Mexicans are equal before the law, including members of

the Indian communities.”

President Zedillo’s stance against the EZLN on this issue, is backed by the Mexican Army, and other national forces. The head of the Mexican Labor Federation (CTM), Fidel Velázquez, noted that the EZLN has survived for so long, only because of government “tolerance,” calling it “an urgent necessity to resolve the problem of insecurity in the country.” The bishop emeritus of Papantla, Veracruz, Msgr. Genaro Alamilla, charged that the Zapatistas’ aggressive demands are “the fruits of the excessive tolerance which the government has shown to this group. A complacency which has harmed the country.” The EZLN, he added, “is in no way an army, because they are only rebels who intend to segregate the Indian from the nation. . . . It is time that the Mexican authorities act with more energy and force.”

The mobilization against separatism also provoked renewed charges that the EZLN is a foreign force. It is time to end EZLN Commander Marcos’s “dream of an autonomous territory—not for the Indians, but for himself and for his foreign, mostly European, financiers,” wrote Mexican columnist Francisco Cárdenas Cruz in *El Universal* on Jan. 14. Two days later, former Chiapas Gov. Elmar Setzer stepped forward to blast former President Carlos Salinas, who, he charged, had been informed of the EZLN’s existence in 1988 in that state, but permitted them to continue to build up forces, in order to pass the North American Free Trade Accord without problems. The EZLN “has nothing to do with Chiapas; neither its principal actors, nor its students, nor its negotiators, nor its supporters . . . nor its pacifists, nor its ecologists, nor its drug-traffickers,” Setzer told Mexico’s *Excélsior*.

## OAS vs. the Mexican Army

Only days after the government rejected the Zapatista’s demands, their international supporters counterattacked on another flank: The Inter-American Human Rights Commission of the Organization of American States (OAS) launched a legal offensive against the Mexican Army, using the pretext of the case of Brig. Gen. José Francisco Gallardo Rodríguez, imprisoned by the military for such crimes as embezzlement. On Jan. 23, the commission, which refused to look into George Bush’s imprisoning of Lyndon LaRouche and his associates, declared Gallardo a “prisoner of conscience,” and ordered Mexico to free him immediately, and to pay him monetary damages.

Gallardo’s case had been brought before the commission by the Zapatista apparatus: the Washington-based Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), and MariClaire Acosta, director of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights. Acosta is a member of the EZLN’s political arm, the Zapatista National Liberation Front (FZLN), and of the Inter-American Dialogue, the leading lobby in Washington for the British drive to impose drug legalization, indigenous autonomy, demilitarization, and narco-terrorism on Ibero-America.