



## **AMERICA/MEXICO - Violence in the region of Coahuila increases, the Bishop invokes for a pact to end it and calls for the application of justice**

Coahuila (Agenzia Fides) - The Bishop of the Diocese of Saltillo, Mgr. José Raul Vera Lopez, has called for a pact to end the violence of organized crime in Coahuila and throughout Mexico, he also asked President Enrique Peña Nieto to apply more rigorous justice and to support the provisions of the Government in this crisis of insecurity that has increased with the change of government.

Only last weekend 14 murders were committed in the area, including that of a well-known mining entrepreneur who was tortured before being killed. Since 2011 the National Commission of Human Rights in Mexico (CNDH), the Federal Secretariat for Labour, with Mgr. Vera López and the last three Governors of the area, have warned that the forces of drug dealing infiltrated in the mining activities of Coahuila. According to data collected by Fides, violence is on the rise: 145 "official" deaths in the last 6 years, registered in the mines of Coahuila.

"The pact should be definitive - said Mgr. Vera Lopez talking to the local press -. I would like to ask the new regime to strengthen the administration of justice, which the old regime did not do. The cause is the fact that in the Mexican state corruption is not removed. One has to stop and put before the courts those who, from within the state, have corrupted the structures and all these acts of violence go unpunished."

The note sent to Fides Agency says: "The Mexican State must take on its responsibility. Coahuila certainly cannot solve the problem alone, it must be done with the whole federal structure, controls have to be applied, but everyone must take on their responsibilities." The Bishop also commented on the growing wave of executions in Coahuila, determined by the desire to prove who really holds the power now that there have been changes of government. "The people who are doing this, must know that there is a God who will judge everyone," concluded Mgr. Vera Lopez. (CE) (Agenzia Fides 11/12/2012)