

# THE CELAC STUDENT VOICE

## Mexico, Where the Dead Are Just a Number

by *Perla Maldonado Cortez*

2006 brought many changes to Mexico with catastrophic social repercussions. The violence is the most notorious consequence because it is a generalized phenomenon everywhere. The issue of violence in Mexico began in the North of the country, generally, for reasons of crime related to drug cartels and other criminal organizations; nevertheless, as the years passed, the violence expanded to entire Mexico for diverse causes. In recent years, also innocent people have been harmed and exposed to the violence that comes from criminal or legally constituted organizations. The innocent people murdered, kidnapped, or missing are simply called by the government “collateral damage,” and they are considered a “necessary quota” for eradicating organized crime, but a fact is that the organized crime is not disappearing, and the blood keeps running.

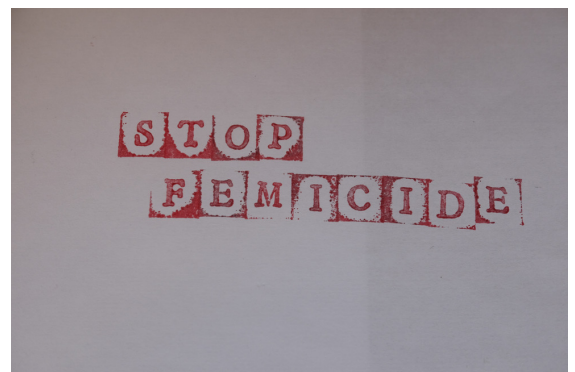
The government and institutions do not have a real cipher of murder or unaccounted persons, but even the most conservative sources estimate that about 110,000 have died during each sexennial for reasons of violence, and there are 40,000 unaccounted people until January 2019; consequently, the entire country is a clandestine grave. Although, these figures do not reflect the scabrous reality because the dead are not just a number, they are people with a name, a family, and their own story. In addition, they represent a massacred, wounded, bleeding, and ransacked nation.

The femicides are another terrible situation that afflicts Mexico. It is a crescent phenomenon that started in 1989, but it has been evident since 1993. The Mexican government defines femicide as “the violent death of women for reasons of gender, and it is the most extreme form of violence against women.” This kind of homicide is different from others due to it generally occurs because of hatred against women.

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

---

- *Mexico, Where the Dead Are Just a Number* -1
  - *Unite and Shout Gooooo!* -2
  - *Featured Essay: Unbearable Race* - 3
  - *Believe in Yourself* - 5
  - *Get to Know Keegan* - 6
  - *Battle Royale* - 6
  - *Get to Know Noe* - 7
  - *Featured Essay: The Cowherd and Weaving Maid* -8
  - *Oil Pipe Stealers in Mexico* -9
- 





## Unite and Shout: Goooooal!

by *Liliana Alva Regalado*

“Somos Unidos” declares the logo which means “We are united”. Both sayings are coming to be one unique voice this next spring in Albuquerque thanks to a new soccer team, New Mexico United. Next March, they will begin their first step in the United Soccer League (USL) for the 2019 season at Isotopes Park, just in front of the Home of Lobos Football: Dreamstyle Stadium.

If you have time and enjoy soccer, or you never have seen a soccer game live, maybe this spring can be your opportunity because New Mexico United will have 17 local games, 7 minutes away for the main campus of UNM.

New Mexico United is the new soccer team in the second division of American soccer. The team started last June 2018, and now on the roster, there are 14 soccer players from Ghana, Jamaica, Spain and the United States, besides Devon Sandoval, who graduated from UNM, according to the network of the team.

If you have paid attention on the streets, in stores, in restaurants, and bars of Central Avenue or around of the main Campus of UNM, maybe you have seen some of the publicity in yellow and black. The flag and the uniform are dressing four black lines that represent the Zia Symbol (a sun symbol, pretty popular in Albuquerque) and they have the permission of the Zia Tribe. You can find the flags or posters with these symbols and perhaps (only perhaps) you can have a good chat with the owner of the business about soccer.

## "Mexico," cont.

Ciudad Juárez, a city in the North border of Mexico, saw the birth of the painful serial femicides. In Juárez dozens of women, generally from families with a low socioeconomic status, have been murdered and their bodies have been found massacred with evidence of torture and sexual violence. In 1993, when the situation could not be hidden anymore, the press and TV. began to call them “Las muertas de Juárez” (the dead women of Juárez), and they are still named by this iniquitous title. Iniquitous because they did not decide their fortune-less destiny; they are not just victims of the generalized violence, and they are not just dead women. They were killed for being women, and they are murdered not dead women.

The database of the College of the Northern Border of Mexico has a record of 499 femicides in Juárez from 1993 to 2007, while from 2008 to 2017, about 1,720 cases were documented in this place; however, now it is not just in Ciudad Juárez. The femicides were also spread throughout Mexico, where being a woman is literally a risk that can cost you your life. In the next edition, you can read more information about femicides and the reaction of the Mexicans to this dreadful situation.

## Featured Essay: Unbearable Race

by Weijie Zhao (*Academic Bridge*)

Everyone would think that jogging is a comfortable sport, during which people can breathe free air and improve the health. However, there is another kind of jogging that is a big challenge for people, which is called a Marathon. Because it is such a long-distance race of 26.219 miles, participants need to have a big courage to finish it. Fortunately, with my confidence and perseverance, I finished the whole race in 5 hours, even if I was suffering the unbearable pain in my feet and knees during the last half mile.

The first time I ran in a Marathon was in Xiamen, which is a beautiful coastal city in the south east of China, when I was a junior student in Xiamen University. I still remembered the date, January 2, 2014, the next day of New Year, on which I took the most unforgettable competition in my college life.

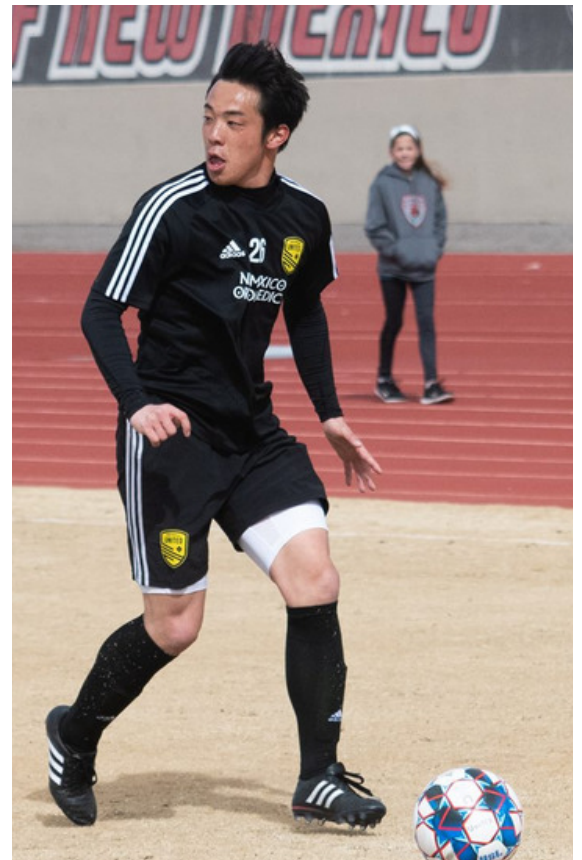
In that morning, I got up very early, waiting for shuttle buses to take our students to the starting point. Before we left the dormitory, every student received an intimate breakfast with a sandwich, a bottle of milk, and two boiled eggs. Although the sky was dark, my heart had been warmed with bright light. As the bus arrived, I got on it with a little excitement because I never knew how this race would be. I sat on the bus laughing and chatting with my classmates about a new comedy movie without any tensions.

After taking bus around 20 minutes, we arrived at the starting point. I had never seen so many people to take a competition before. There were at least 2,000 people standing on the ground and waiting for the race; I could not see anything. only the competitors in front of me and two helicopters spiraling in the sky. Gradually, the day broke as the sun was rising. I heard the sound of starting gun firing but no one moved around me. Until I waited around 10 minutes, I ran over to the starting point to start my first international Marathon.

## "Unite," cont.

For this reason, you need some information! First, New Mexico United is ready with a whole team. Their coach is Troy Lesesne, who used to be a coach with USL's Charlotte Independence and Vancouver Whitecaps, among other teams. The season will have 34 games, and they will start March 9 when New Mexico United will play Fresno Football Club. They will be finished on October 19, but only 17 games will happen in Albuquerque while the others will be played in the cities of the competitors. Last, some of the opponents will be Colorado Springs, El Paso Locomotiv, Los Angeles Galaxy, Phoenix Rising, Tulsa Roughnecks, among others. Now you know!

The games will be in Isotopes Park, and the cost of the singles tickets are between 13 and 42 dollars, depending on the section of the Park and to buy early or the same day of the game. For more information, look at the team on social media with this #NMUnited.



## "Unbearable Race," cont.

At the first 500 meters, I almost walked with my roommates because there were too many people on the track wearing the blue uniform. As a student of Xiamen University, I particularly wore a label of my college on my chest. I enjoyed running under sun shine and breathing fresh air, sometimes with the smell of fresh sea water. I could not imagine that the race was so very relaxed and free, and I did not feel nervous and uncomfortable, I even jumped and danced during the first half of the race.

While I ran close to the half point, one of my classmates was going to stop his half Marathon there. "How do you feel, Weijie? Do you want to enjoy a lunch tea with me?" he said. "Thank you, buddy! I feel so good, and I think I can easily run to the finish line!" I responded with a scorn smile.

I never thought I could finish the half Marathon in such a relaxed and delightful way, and I realized I can finish the whole race in 5 hours. I decided to keep running in a casual way, but the storm came with silence. I felt exhausted and hungry after 20 miles. The only break time was when I drank water or an energy beverage, stopping at the supply point. Every time I ran close to the supply point, there was always someone's voice "Stop to take a rest!" coming to my mind. I indeed expected to walk to each supply point, where I could take a short rest to reduce the pain of my feet and shanks. However, my classmate, who was the only one running with me, told me that I could not run again once I stopped running. At the same time, I also told myself that I should not give up running, no matter how I expected to take a rest, even if my feet and shanks were almost out of control. With the encouragement of my classmate and my perseverance, I ran again.

It seemed that the sun had shot all sunlight on my head so that I felt a little dizzy. When I saw the last half mile label, I knew I would almost finish the race, but I could not be excited because of unbearable pain in my feet and knees. I gritted my teeth with only one thing in my mind that I was almost successful to finish the Marathon and I could not give up at this time. With my confidence and perseverance, I ran ahead to the finish line alone, and then I had forgotten the pain and fear. Finally, I ran through the finish line with my raising hands and relax smiling.

As a result, I finished the whole Marathon of 4 hours 45 minutes and 54 seconds. When I lay on the ground, taking off shoes and looking at the sky, I was reminded that Napoleon Bonaparte said, "Victory belongs to the most persevering." I realized I was successful in this Marathon with perseverance, and victory might belong to me when I overcame fear and lack of confidence.

Nowadays, whatever difficulties I need to overcome, I would not give them up in the middle. This is because every success will become a failure when you give up in the middle, even if you only have 1% left.





## Believe in Yourself

by Mona Al-Dweik

Sometimes words are easier than actions, but for a person who wants to be something, who wants to leave a print on the world, to be a name that everyone knows, should work hard and never stop, and if we look at all the successful people that became a bright name, we will see how much they failed and struggled to be what they are now. All of them believed that there is nothing called impossible in the life. And from this point, my essay will discuss how to achieve your goals.

“Believe in yourself”. It is a very deep, strong, and cheerful sentence. A lot of people just say or write this sentence without doing it. You will see them giving up from the first problem. On the other hand, a lot of people consider this sentence as a motivational sentence that makes them start their passion in this life. Also, they fight with all their power and energy to reach what they have planned because they believe in their abilities; they believe that nothing can stop someone from making a dream come true. They believe in God and how He can help us to follow our goals.

In my opinion, one of the most important things to do is never listen to anyone who will put your dream and ability down. You will see how people can be a big reason for frustration; for this reason, you should always stay away from those who will put you down. Never say never; always say that there is nothing called “Impossible”. When you start believing in this, you will see how much you can do and how motivated you will be.

Finding your idol can help you with that, by this I mean, find a story that matches your character and personality, but you shouldn't copy it because you need to make your own story and success, so people can know you and learn from your story. Always look for challenging goals that you find it difficult and hard to reach because there is a proverb, “Easy come easy go,” and when you feel how hard it is, you will know how beautiful it is when you get it.

Sometimes life challenges us with stuff that can be hurtful and hard, but trust me, if God knew that you can pass it, He won't let it be put in your path. So, stay strong and as I said before, “Never say never.”

live  
your  
dream.



## Get to Know a GEO Staff Member: Keegan Sutanto

*Interview by Catalina Cardenas*

### Can you tell me little about yourself?

Hi. My name is Keegan. I am from Indonesia. I am 24 years old. I am studying my MBA at UNM.

### How do you like Albuquerque?

So, coming from a big city Jakarta--coming here it seems like it is a huge space. In Albuquerque, people here complain about the traffic, but I don't see it at all. So, I like that Albuquerque is slower, but sometimes it is hard to find things to do.

### Why did you decide to study at UNM?

I didn't expect to go to UNM but before I was applying at the university of Texas, but they didn't give me a scholarship, so my adviser from my previous college told me that he went to UNM, and there is scholarship in UNM. He helped me to apply to UNM and everything else.

### How was your process learning English? How long did that take you?

So, in Indonesia we don't speak much English--like, we try to learn at school, but it is really basic, and we don't have much practice. So, my parents sent me to extra classes after school. In the extra courses, they have people from America, Australia, people from the UK, and they come to Indonesia to learn English, so that is how I learn English. Learning English took me 7 years at least.

### What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest professional achievement was to be able to find a mentor, my boss at GEO, and she helped get my assistantship right now.

### Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Where? I am not sure, but I know but I'm sure that I am going to do something that I love.

### What is your dream job?

My dream job will be doing something that helps a lot of people, for example maybe in the government. Maybe I will become the first Chinese president in Indonesia, I don't know. We will see.

### Do you have any advice for the CELAC students?

I think what people forget often when they learn is that they have to make mistakes. So, mistakes are good and don't be shy to talk with people and do those mistakes.

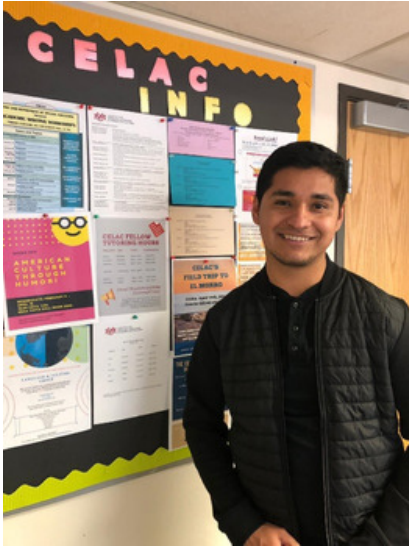
## Battle Royale Is the Most Popular Mode in Video Games

*by Abdul Bahri*

Battle royale games have been the most ubiquitous phenomenon with game developers. Basically, battle royale is a mode where the players compete against each other in a battlefield and try to survive in order to get the victory. To do so, the players skydive from a flying vehicle into the battlefield and try to look for weapons and shields in order to protect themselves and to win.

## Get to Know a CELAC Student: Noe Alfaro Casas

Interview by Andre Massuda



*Sometimes, we attend the same class, hall of the CELAC, or even parties, but we are done losing the opportunity of exchanging experience or making friendships with our classmates. Have you ever felt like that? Maybe, the idiom, culture, or shame can be trouble. Thinking about that, in my first CELAC Student Voice I invited to interview Noe Alfaro Casas from Mexico. And you? Do you want to meet Noe, too?*

### Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Noe Alfaro Casas and I am 28 years old. I'm from Mexico and currently I am a student at CELAC English Intermediate.

### Why did you decide to do an exchange student?

I've decided this challenge, because I really want to learn English, and I would like to learn another language as a student in the future.

### Why did you choose to come to CELAC?

I've chosen this program because I want to improve my skills in English, and in the future can get a good job.

## "Battle Royale," cont.

Furthermore, every developer tries to induce the best battle royal mode in their games in order to grab the players' focus. There are two widespread battle royale games that are most-played by gamers, Fortnite and Player Unknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG).

Fortnite is an online game developed by Epic Games, released in 2017. Fortnite is well-known amongst gamers because it attracts them with its own unique playing style. Fortnite allows the gamers to compete in fights where the players can build different structures to prevent the other players from getting to their goal and therefore losing. In addition, every version of the game improves due to the feedback from the gamers in each version. The game has more than 100 million players in all the platforms, PlayStation, Xbox, personal computer.

Moreover, Player Unknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) is also an online multiplayer battle royale game developed and published by PUBG Corporation. PUBG is wonderful because of the game's realism. For instance, up to one hundred players skydive from an airplane and scavenge for weapons and equipment to kill others while avoiding death, themselves. Another realistic aspect in the game is that when the player drives a car and runs out of fuel, the car basically stops, and the player has to look for fuel in order to drive the car again. PUBG is one of the most played-game of all time, with over 400 million players in total when including its free-to-play mobile version. Unfortunately, PUBG costs 30\$ to play on the console version, Xbox and PS4.

All in all, there are lots of battle royale games, but the most famous are Fortnite and PUBG. These games are fun to play and amazing because so many people play them. Will you give these a try?



## Featured Essay: The Cowherd and Weaving Maid: A Chinese Love Story

by Ashley Chen (*High Intermediate*)

This is a traditional Chinese folk story, in which the main characters of the story are Cowherd and Weaving Maid. Legend has it that in ancient China, the emperor in heaven had six daughters. They studied spinning and weaving with the heavenly queen. Five of them had grown up and were not in the mood to learn weaving. Only the youngest sister wove best. She could weave all kinds of cloth, so she was named Vega. She was also the most beautiful of the six sisters.

On the other side of the Milky Way, was the world. There was a boy who kept sheep every day, so people called him a cowherd. Cowherd lived with his brother and sister - in - law. His sister-in-law always told him to do the most tiring work, but gave him very little food. Cowherds are always hungry! Later, he separated from his brother, and his sister-in-law who only gave him an old cow. One day, the old cow suddenly spoke and he told the cowherd: "There are six fairies in the sky who will bathe on earth. You go and take the clothes of the youngest fairy, so that she cannot return to the sky. Weaving Maid cannot return to heaven without clothes."

Weaving Maid married the cowherd. After they got married, the man plowed and the woman wove. They loved each other and had a very happy life. Soon, they gave birth to a son and a daughter, very cute. The Cowherd and Weaving Maid thought they could stay together for life and grow old together. The heavenly queen was very angry when she learned about this. The queen mother sent people to the world to catch the Weaving Maid. After the Weaving Maid was captured by the Queen Mother, she separated from the Cowherd.

## "Noe Alfaro Casas," cont.

**What do you think about the weather of Albuquerque? And How was your adaptation?**

I prefer when it rains or a tropic weather. The weather of Albuquerque does not like me because it is dry, and very warm. I've been living in Albuquerque for a few months and now I try to enjoy it.

**What do you think about the cost of living in Albuquerque?**

The life in Albuquerque can be normal. Usually students find places where they can get food, clothes, etc. not expensive.

**What did you usually do in your free time?**

For example, I really like to do exercise, watch a movie, take a walk, spend time with my friends, and go out of Albuquerque.

**How do you evaluate your learning during this period of course?**

This point is interesting, because one manner to evaluate my English is if I can communicate with the others in English. Moreover, it is important my scores in my evaluation in all my classes.

**During this time period, how do you rate CELAC?**

After the first month, I thought that CELAC was an opportunity to improve my language skills as a grammar, reading, writing, and conversation, because CELAC has an intensive program that really helps me. CELAC in my opinion has been a good option for me. It has excellent professors who are capacitated to work efficiently.

**Gracias por la entrevista Noe!**  
de nada!

*And you? Did you like the interview? In the next CELAC Student Voice I will interview Aziz from Saudi Arabia. See you!!*



## OIL PIPE STEALERS IN MEXICO

by Miguel Emiliano Rivera Sandoval

The new Mexican president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has started a fight against the oil pipe stealers in Mexico. These persons are called “Huachicoleros” and their principal economic activity is stealing oil from PEMEX (Or Petroleos Mexicanos) pipes, but they can commit another crimes such as kidnaping, burglary, robbery with violence and human trafficking. Before Obrador took office in December 1st of 2018, the oil stealers were almost unknown among the Mexican public. These criminal organizations are often in alliance or a squad of the Drug Traffic Cartels and urban gangs that operate in Mexico.

As Pablo Gonzalez Cordoba, president of the association of Mexican gas businessman’s (Amegas) said in an interview he gave to the Mexican magazine ‘Proceso:’ “It’s all a net that grew in the last three years with help of the three government levels. And when someone denounced the stealing to Petroleos Mexicanos no one took it seriously” (Reza M. Gloria, Proceso 2022) doing a reference to the corruption inside the Mexican government that allowed to criminal organizations to take control over the pipes. And he made this denouncement: “And even worse when some gas station rejected to sell the huachicol (stole oil), someone of your family disappeared or the gas truck driver was chopped in pieces” (Reza M. Gloria, Proceso 2022, referencing the repercussions.

But the Mexican president Lopez Obrador hasn’t given up in his self-proclaimed fight against this crime. Some specialists have proposed him to install a modern microphone net along the pipelines of oil to detect changes in the ground composition and movements (Juan Carlos Cruz Vargas, January 29th 2019). The specialists say that the high tech system could save millions of Mexican pesos in leaks and prevent disasters as the explosion of a pipeline in Tlahuelilpan, Hidalgo.

## "The Cowherd and Weaving Maid," cont.

From then on, the Cowherd and his children lived in the land, separated by a milky way, facing the Weaving Maid from afar. Among the stars in the autumn sky, we can still see two larger stars on both sides of the Milky Way, glittering and translucent, namely Vega and Altair. There are also two small stars with Altair, namely, a son and a daughter of Cowherd and Weaving Maid. Legend has it that on the 7th of July every year, if people listen quietly in the grapevine under the grape trellis, they can faintly hear the singing of fairy music. Vega and Altair are talking affectionately: "Really, time was long before I met her, but is longer since we parted!" They are looking forward to meeting again on July 7 of the following year

The seventh day of the seventh month of the seventh lunar month is the seventh day of the seventh lunar month, which has a history of thousands of years in China. Because of the integration of this sad and beautiful folk love story - Cowherd and Weaving Maid, many young men and women now regard Tanabata Festival as Chinese Valentine’s Day. So, do you hear them talking on this day?.



## "Oil Pipe Stealers," cont.

The past January 18th of 2019, a Pemex pipeline near the town of Tlahuelilpan in Hidalgo State leaked an oil geyser. The people of Tlahuelilpan gathered around the leak, and with rejoicing started to collect the valuable liquid in buckets. Around 18:56 afternoon, the joy turned into fear and desperation because the oil pipe started to burn, and the people started to run in flames and roll in the ground trying to put out the flames (Trejo Amparo and Mathieu Tourliere, Proceso 2203). At the end, the total number of victims ascended to 126 and attracted the government's attention to the issue that was ignored for years.

The Mexican president commented on the tragedy, "This is a very painful tragedy but it is a call of attention" and added, "We have to put end to the causes of the oil stealing act, and this is a consequence of the abandonment of the people. We are going to persuade because we have the conviction that Mexican people is good" (Redaction, ADN 40, Saturday January 19th, 2019). He expressed his trust in the civic consciousness of the Mexican population whom he trusts to help fight the oil stealing.

As President Obrador will continue with his fight against oil stealing, and this problem continues to have deep roots in the Mexican political system, it seems that a solution still is far away. In the other side, the new Mandatory has been in power for two months, and we will have to wait to corroborate if his new policies have effect on Mexico's deepest systemic social issues. To end, and as a Mexican citizen, I hope tragedies like the one in Tlahuelilpan and oil stealing can stop by improving the wages and living conditions of all Mexican citizens.

### Quotes:

1. - M., Gloria Reza. "Denunciábamos El Huachicol y Ni La PGR Ni El Ejército Nos Hacía Caso: Líder De Gasolineros ." Proceso, 13 Jan. 2019.

### Paraphrase:

1. - Vargas, Juan Carlos Cruz. "Especialistas Proponen a AMLO Frenar Huachicol Con Un Sistema Acustico." Www.proceso.com, 29 Jan. 2019, [www.proceso.com.mx/569595/especialistas-proponen-a-amlo-frenar-huachicol-con-un-sistema-acustico](http://www.proceso.com.mx/569595/especialistas-proponen-a-amlo-frenar-huachicol-con-un-sistema-acustico).
2. Amparo Trejo, and Mathieu Tourliere. "Tlahuelilpan." Proceso, 19 Jan. 2019.
3. Redaction ADN40. "La Tragedia En Hidalgo Es Dolorosa Pero Aleccionadora ." ADN 40, ADN 40 Mexico, 19 Jan. 2019, [www.adn40.mx](http://www.adn40.mx).



## The Staff of the CELAC Student Voice



Mona Al-Dweik

*Mona is from Jordan and enjoys sports and reading in her free time.*



Catalina Cardenas

*My name is Maria Catalina Cardenas Garcia. I am from Colombia. I was born in Bogota. I studied Finance and Business Administration at the Sergio Arboleda University. I am so happy living in Albuquerque and enjoying this new experience in my life. I prefer outdoors activities, so that I like hiking and playing volleyball.*



Andre Massuda

*André Massuda is from Brazil, CELAC's student, Alice's father, and Priscila's Husband. Makes your own beer and Corinthians FC fan.*



Liliana Alva Regalado

*I'm from Morelia, Michoacán, México. My interest are dogs, movies, cooking and traveling. I was a journalist and teacher in Mexico, and now I'm a lobo.*



Perla Maldonado Cortez

*I am Perla Maldonado from Mexico. I like to read, run, and spend time on the internet.*



Miguel Emiliano Rivera Sandoval

*Emiliano Rivera, is originally from Mexico City. He is 21 years old and his hobbies are writing and cycling.*



Abdul Bahri

*I am Abdulrhman Bahri. I am from Saudi Arabia. I am a video gamer. I also like soccer. Thank you and have a nice week!*