



Statement
January 11, 2021

THE ASSAULT AGAINST AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS (IFT, CRE, COFECE AND INAI) BY PRESIDENT LÓPEZ OBRADOR, IS A THREAT TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND MEXICO'S DEMOCRACY

Mexico's federal government has announced a historic counter-reform to disappear the Federal Institute of Telecommunications (IFT), the Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE), the Federal Commission for Economic Competition (COFECE), and the National Institute of Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (INAI). *Causa en Común* considers important to remember and underscore the following:

Thanks to the IFT, there is competition by tenders on radio and television licenses. Thanks to IFT, the sectors fares have been reduced, allowing important savings for the Mexican people, but which seem to be irrelevant for the present government. Disappearing the IFT would also go against the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which is essential to alleviate the worst economic crisis in the region in decades and, for the umpteenth time, it would also send to national and foreign investors the message that economic decisions are made according to presidential whims and not according to the law.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) has essential functions such as promoting competition in the sector, protecting the interests of users, and assuring security in supplies. Its elimination will facilitate government attacks against private energy investments, and especially against firms that generate clean energies. The recent blackouts are a clear warning of the consequences of declining investments in the private and public energy sectors.

It is because there is an autonomous Federal Commission for Economic Competition (COFECE) that the power of economic groups can be checked, mission which is essential in a society that is deeply unequal and unfair. Only an anti-popular government would undertake the dismantling of an institution with this responsibility.

Especially alarming has been the government's contempt towards journalistic work, and its assaults on information sources. There is a constant harassment against the free press, without any qualms about the murder of 17 journalists in the last two years. Journalistic and social organizations' investigations, some of them carried out by *Causa en Común*, show that the current federal administration has elevated manipulation, falsehood and concealment to the level of systematic government practices. Furthermore, as in the case of other autonomous bodies, disappearing the INAI would go against international commitments and standards regarding the right to information.

Mutilating rights and freedoms is the nature of an authoritarian character and violates the essence of Mexico's Constitution. We call upon political parties, social organizations, universities, the media and citizens to defend together what, with so much effort, generations of Mexicans have built.

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