Divine

Based on the verbatim poem Divine by Juliana Mensah for the ‘Navigating Risk, Managing Security, and Receiving Support’ research project, University of York.

In modern times, as a society and by fatality, we end up inventing new chores, we peep almost ontologically to tasks that, theoretically, we shouldn’t even imagine. To be a human right defender is now for some almost a romantic idea, and fundamental for the less. In Mexico, one of the more difficult regions of the planet to practice this labor, has become a matter of life and death: human rights are defended with jolts, status quo is faced as well.

The ways of struggle are many and desperate; actors, those who try that defense that seems impossible today, are many. The other actors, the helpless, the ones without a promise, the insulted ones; are disappearing growingly and dying by thousands.

To disguise behind the bars that represent the statistics of a growing aggression in recent times (1) the work of someone who is devoted to the defense that touches the limits of impotence, seems like a nod to reality; seems to exemplify the veiled “game” that we witness as a society.

Divine is a kind of tacit plea that is understood only from its own overlap; is also a reflection of the offense we inflict as a society to whom, fighting everyday, doesn’t understand how we got here.
Priest Alejandro Solalinde, a well known Mexican activist, is probably the most active human rights defender in Mexico and 2017 Nobel Peace Prize nominee. He has publicly decried the abuses committed against undocumented Latin American migrants and has been threatened multiple times by criminal organizations that traffic humans, arms, and organs.

He is the coordinator of the South Pacific Human Mobility Ministry of the Mexican Bishopric and director of Hermanos en el Camino, a shelter that provides Central American migrants with humanitarian aid and education.

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(1) National Network of Human Rights Defenders in Mexico
Attacks on human rights defenders in Mexico
National diagnosis (graph)
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