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LAW AND ORDER

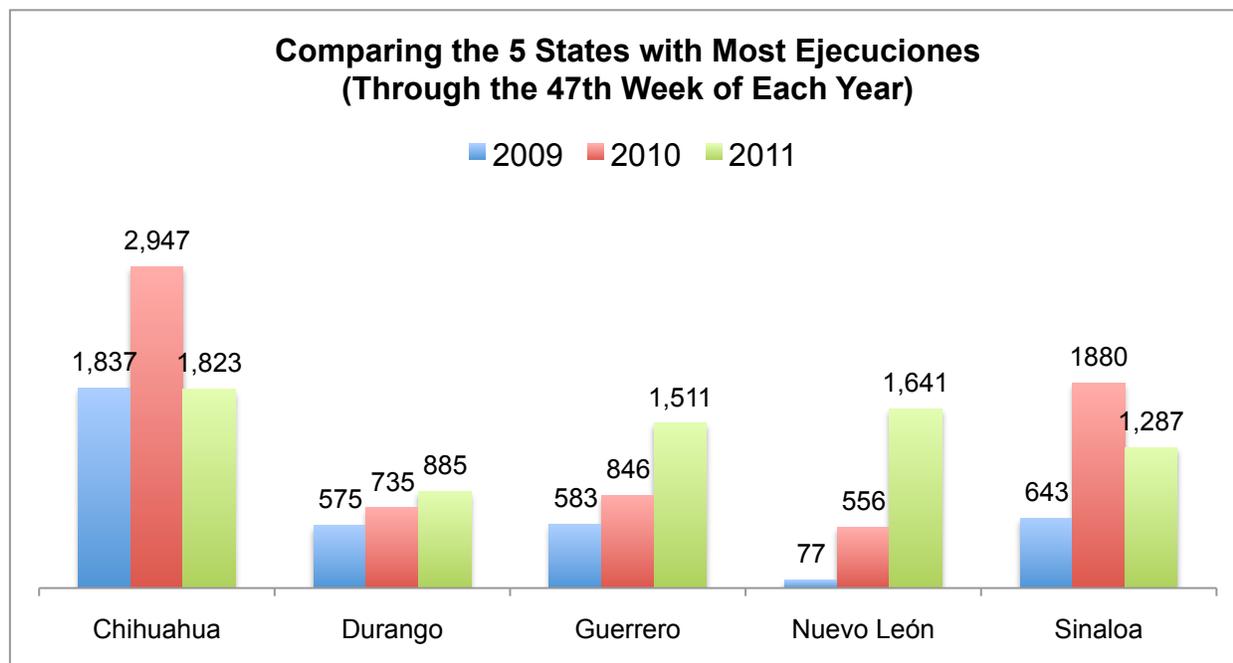
ORGANIZED CRIME

Cartel-related killings down in states with recent troop deployments, up in Pacific states

According to *Grupo Reforma*, as of November 25, Mexico's nationwide tally of *ejecuciones*, or cartel-related killings reached 11,503, just 80 shy of the total for 2010. With a weekly average of nearly 245 such killings thus far in 2011 and five weeks remaining in the year, the number appears certain to surpass last

year's mark. There was a substantial drop in weekly *ejecuciones* during the current reporting period, averaging 195 per week, which is a 20% decline. After a total of just 160 from November 12 to 18, however, the total for the following week jumped back up to 229.

There has been a marked shift in *ejecuciones* from the border-states to the central and Pacific states during 2011 as compared to last year. This year, border-states comprised 37% of nationwide *ejecuciones*, while in 2010 they accounted for 45%. The decrease is almost entirely attributable to a decline in Chihuahua's cartel-related killings, which at 1,823 represent a 38% reduction from the same point in 2010. The share of *ejecuciones* represented by border-states would be substantially lower without drastic increases in the states of Nuevo León and Coahuila. Nuevo León, with 1,641, is at nearly 300% its level at the same point last year, while Coahuila, with 500, is up 270%.



Large-scale military-led operations in various troubled states have correlated with a drop in violence, particularly during the current reporting period. The most notable of these is Guerrero, where Operation Secure Guerrero (*Operación Guerrero Seguro*) just this week completed its first phase of 51 days. Cartel-related killings there have averaged just over 23 per week since the operation began, as compared with a 2011 average of 32. Moreover, the average during the past four weeks dropped to just below 13. Precedent suggests, however, that these declines will not necessarily last; Chihuahua, Tamaulipas and Nuevo León have all experienced temporary downturns in violence shortly following troop deployments with ensuing surges as criminal groups adjusted. Indeed, Guerrero recorded 35 *ejecuciones* during the final week of this reporting period, slightly above its 2011 average.

Meanwhile, the Mexican Army (Secretaría de Defensa Nacional, Sedena) reports that crime has dropped in the region impacted by Operation Secure Laguna (*Operación Laguna Segura*), launched on October 19 along the border between Coahuila and Durango, and that several key elements of the warring Sinaloa and Zetas criminal organizations have been captured. Indeed, the weekly average of *ejecuciones* since the operation began has been just 5.4, as compared with 10.6 for 2011, and over 21 per week during the six weeks prior to *Laguna Segura*. However, Durango's weekly average, while down to 11.2 since the beginning of the operation from a 2011 average of 19, increased over its average of 6.7 during the previous six weeks. In Veracruz the weekly *ejecuciones* average has been just over 7.5 since October 4, when officials launched Operation Secure Veracruz (*Operación Veracruz Seguro*). The state had averaged nearly 26 per week during the month prior, and suffered 41 during the week before the deployment.

While cartel-related violence has generally dropped in states receiving recent troop deployments, the Pacific states – particularly Sinaloa and Jalisco – have seen an escalation. Sinaloa, with 1,287 *ejecuciones* thus far in 2011, is below only Chihuahua and Nuevo León, although well short of its 2010 total of 1,880. Nevertheless, 16 burned corpses were found in Culiacán on November 23, and state intelligence sources say that they have detected the presence of Zetas cartels, in territory that until now has been firmly in the hands of the Sinaloa cartel. The Zetas have since mid-year reportedly been working with remnants of the Beltrán Leyva cartel, former allies of the Sinaloa cartel, to make inroads into Culiacán. *Ejecuciones* have ticked upwards slightly in Sinaloa recently, at nearly 30 per week during the current reporting period, as compared with 27 for all of 2011.

Jalisco has seen a much more marked surge in violence in recent weeks, underscored by the dumping of 26 bodies in a Guadalajara thoroughfare on November 24, minutes from the historical center of the city and blocks from its celebrated exhibition center. While not new to the realities of drug trafficking, the city has until now been spared from high-profile violence now associated with Ciudad Juárez, Acapulco, and Monterrey. According to security analysts, the November 24 incident was a revenge attack by the Zetas against the Sinaloa cartel for a similar occurrence back in September, when over two dozen bodies were left on the Boca del Río-Veracruz highway in Veracruz. Guadalajara, like Culiacán, has long been firmly in the hands of the Sinaloa cartel, and residents are nervously waiting to see if this incident signifies the beginning of a turf battle in the city. Dante Haro, a researcher with the University of Guadalajara, told *BBC Mundo* that the city had “lived in a bubble where apparently there was security,” and where there were tacit agreements between criminal groups in order to maintain stability. “Their families lived here, the children of leaders went to the best universities... But those codes have now been broken.” Statewide, Jalisco has seen its *ejecuciones* jump to nearly 700 in 2011, as compared to 478 in 2010. Moreover, the weekly average over the past month has been just over 21, as compared with around 15 per week during 2011.

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Zetas and online activist group Anonymous engage in public standoff

Just days before the hacker group Anonymous was set to publicize sensitive information about the Zetas drug cartel and expose its affiliates in response to the kidnapping of one of their members in Veracruz in late October, the victim was reportedly released from captivity. “We can say that, while he is bruised, he is alive and well,” said the Anonymous website. Given that the Zetas met the demands of the group by releasing the kidnapped victim, the ‘hacktivist’ group finally called off its so-called ‘Operation Cartel’ (OpCártel), which they had been threatening to carry out since the beginning of October.



An Anonymous member delivers a message to the Zetas on October 6.
Source: La Primera Plana

In addition to the kidnapping and eventual release of the Anonymous member, the Zetas also made serious threats to deter the hacker group from publicizing information on November 5. According to reports, the Zetas claimed they would target the family of the released kidnapped victim if any Zetas members or affiliations were named. Additionally, 10 innocent people would be killed for every name exposed. In response, Anonymous cancelled the scheduled ‘operation’ and claimed via its Twitter account, “The continuation of ‘OpCártel’ would result in the death of dozens of innocent people. If that does not concern you, than you are the same as the Zetas.”

Anonymous is the most visible, if not the first, online group to openly challenge the Zetas criminal organization and has gained significant influence across wide swaths of Mexico. In a video released on YouTube on October 6 demanding the release of the above mentioned

kidnapped member, a spokesman for the organization disguised in a Guy Fawkes mask said, “We are tired of the criminal group the Zetas who have dedicated themselves to kidnapping, robbing, and extorting.” Since the release of its member, some within the Anonymous movement claimed that plans to expose Zetas collaborators – many of whom are suspected to be unwilling participants in the group’s criminal activities – had been abandoned. The movement, however, is without a central control structure, and as reported in the *New York Times*, others claiming to be part of the group vowed to one day expose corrupt officials working for Mexican drug cartels. Meanwhile, though, some skeptics question whether the group truly has the information on Zetas collaborators that it claimed to have, or even whether there was a kidnapping to begin with. The group has yet to provide proof to back up any of its claims.

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Second UNAM professor killed in past three months

Ernesto Méndez Salinas, a professor of Biotechnology at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM) was killed while driving in his truck on Tuesday, November 8, making him the second UNAM professor to be killed in the past three months. At about 8pm, Méndez was driving past a signal when he was accosted and shot multiple times. Although many believe the motive for Méndez Salinas’ particular killing could be robbery, the investigation is still underway. In recent developments, three individuals arrested for allegedly forming part of an auto theft gang are currently under investigation by the Morelos Attorney General’s Office (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado de Morelos) for possible involvement in Méndez’s murder.

In the professor’s honor, fellow scholars marched with their children through the streets of Mexico City while carrying paper doves made by university students, crosses in their hands, and some with banners with “JUSTICE” scrawled in red block letters. The demonstrators marched and stopped for moments of silence at major governmental departments, including the Attorney General’s Office, as they demanded that the government intervene to stop the violence. When the thousand strong individuals arrived at city hall, university officials and students called for Morelos



A thousand students and faculty march to demand the investigations of the deaths of two UNAM professors. Source: *El Universal*.

state governor Marco Antonio Adame Castillo to bring security for all and a quick and thorough investigation into the assassinations of Dr. Ernesto Méndez Salinas and Dr. Yadira Davila. Fellow professor and researcher Yadira Davila Martínez, also of the Institute of Biotechnology, was killed on August 10, 2011. Regardless of the University’s students and administration’s pleas for a speedy investigation, her murder also remains unsolved. On the heels of the two faculty members’ murders this year, the president of UNAM called Méndez’s death, another “victim of the climate of violence and social erosion in our country.”

El Universal quoted Professor Agustin Lopez Munguia, fellow researcher of Biotechnology and National Award of Science recipient, who worked closely with both Méndez and Martínez, as saying “this climate of insecurity affects not only scholars and students” and suggesting that the insecurity destroys the community’s trust in government. “It is absurd that we do not realize that our judicial apparatus is invaded by the power of drug trafficking and economic power. How long, how many more victims?”

Many professors have left their positions at the university citing fears of violence. “The circumstances in which our nation is sunk are derived from the prevailing corruption, violence and impunity, leaving a feeling of anger, vulnerability and powerlessness,” said UNAM in a statement released to the press. On August 8, 2011, UNAM professors released the document “Elements for the construction of a state policy for security and justice in a democracy”, with 36 policy points made by 88 experts to address the security crisis in Mexico.

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SECURITY CABINET

Mexican Secretary of the Interior Francisco Blake Mora and staff die in helicopter crash



Source: Camino a Ixtlan

Mexican Secretary of the Interior (Secretaría de Gobernación) Francisco Blake Mora (45) died in a helicopter crash that killed seven others, including the flight crew and key members of his staff. The helicopter had departed Mexico City en route for the nearby city of Cuernavaca, and crashed at approximately 11:00am after losing radio contact. Those on board the helicopter included Blake Mora (Secretary of the Interior), Felipe Zamora Castro (Undersecretary of the Interior for Juridical Affairs and Human Rights), José Alfredo Garcia Medina (Director General of Communications for the Interior Secretariat), Diana Miriam Ayton Sánchez (Technical Secretary for the Office of the Secretary of the Interior), Major René de León Sapién, Lt. Coronel Felipe Dacio

Cortés, Lt. Pedro Ramón Escobar Becerra, and Staff Sgt. Jorge Luis Juárez Gómez.

While the cause of the crash is still under investigation, in his initial remarks regarding the incident, President Felipe Calderón indicated that it appeared to be an accident and that poor visibility due to fog was a likely cause. Speculation arises, however, considering how similar the accident is to the one three years ago that killed former Secretary of Interior Juan Camilo Mouriño, who held the position for only two years. Camilo Mouriño's plane crash on November 4, 2008, that similarly killed him and seven staff on board, was also ruled an accident. Blake Mora had just attended Camilo Mouriño's three-year memorial service the week before his November 11 death and had last tweeted “Today we remember Juan Camilo Mouriño three years after his passing, a man that worked to make a better Mexico.”

Some say the possibility of these two parallel incidences being linked to criminal organizations should not be ruled out. As the *New York Times* reported, “Twitter and Facebook exploded with commentary, much of it presuming that some criminal group had brought the helicopter down.” The same report also noted the suspicion surrounding Calderón ordering the National Meteorological Agency not to discuss the weather conditions during the crash. Given both Camilo Mouriño's and Blake Mora's leading roles in crafting and supporting the militarized crackdown on drug trafficking organizations under the Calderón administration, Blake Mora's death could be seen as a message to the president if indeed it was a planned takedown. Calderón has stood by the crash being an accident, but has said the government will thoroughly investigate the matter.

A memorial service was held after to honor Blake Mora, during which Calderón recognized Mexico's strong resiliency and noted the need now more than ever to keep pushing forward in carrying out the secretary of interior's work. The president added that the best way to pay respect to those lost is by “looking towards the future and persevering.” The Calderón administration had to select yet another secretary of the interior to replace Blake Mora, which was determined to be Alejandro Poiré (see below), making Poiré the fourth person to hold the position in five years. Said Eric Olson of the Washington Office on Latin America to the

New York Times regarding the high turnover rate, "It's a tragedy. There has been a revolving door for the ministry, and its role has to do with police reform, migration, intelligence, and all key issues in the battle against organized crime. The fact that they haven't had continuity in that position is a major factor."

Blake Mora had been appointed to the cabinet of President Felipe Calderón in July 2010 after serving as secretary general of the government of Baja California. He was born and raised in Tijuana and received his law degree from the Autonomous University of Baja California (Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, UABC).

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Alejandro Poiré named new Interior Minister of Mexico



Source: *El Porvenir*

On Thursday November 17, President Calderón announced Alejandro Poiré Romero, former spokesperson to the president and then-intelligence chief, as the new Interior Minister (Secretario de Gobernación) to replace the fallen former minister, Francisco Blake Mora (see above). With the appointment of Blake Mora's replacement, Calderón said that Poiré, a former Harvard graduate, was selected specifically for his knowledge of security issues, politics, immigration, and the electoral process, the latter of which are especially important as Mexico will be holding elections in the upcoming year. Prior to being named to his new position, Poiré was the head of the Center for Investigation and National Security (Centro de Investigación y Seguridad Nacional, Cisen). He also served on Calderón's cabinet, and was the General Director of Political Analysis, the Technical Secretary of the National Security

Council, and the spokesman for the National Security Strategy, reports the Mexican federal government's homepage. According to *NPR*, in his new position, Poiré has promised to "strive to serve this administration and [his] country by working through dialogue, always recognizing and valuing different opinions, and seeking in this way to make progress on agreements and reforms, to contribute to harmony in our country."

Poiré's appointment was well received in the Mexican Senate. In an interview, National Action Party (Partido de Acción Nacional, PAN) Senator José González Morfín commended Poiré on his past work with the Mexican legislature on electoral, migration, and security issues. He also lauded his intellectual formation, pointing out his doctoral degree in political science, and characterizing him as someone who has been involved with politics all his life, from his time with the Federal Elections Institute to his work with the Calderón administration. For his part, Carlos Navarrete, coordinator of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (Partido de la Revolución Democrática, PRD) in the Senate, expressed his belief that Poiré will facilitate open dialogue between political parties and, particularly, between the executive and legislative branches. Nonetheless, opposition members of the lower chamber are less favorable in their early assessments of Poiré. The assistant coordinator of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI) in the Chamber of Deputies, José Ramón Martel, said that in order for pending legislation to move forward in the lower house during the remainder of President Calderón's term, which ends late next year, there needs to be dialogue between the legislature and the executive branch. He also criticized Poiré for not yet opening an avenue of communication with the Chamber of Deputies. PRD Coordinator Armando Ríos Piter commented that Poiré is preoccupied with post-electoral conflicts in Michoacán, and thus does not consider Congress to be a high priority.

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PUBLIC SECURITY LEGISLATION

Pending amendments would criminalize inciting crime through music, media

On Thursday, November 10, the Mexican Chamber of Deputies' Justice Commission (Comisión de la Cámara de Diputados) unanimously approved a proposal to criminalize the incitement of crime through music, banners, videos, live shows, or the media, reported *El Universal*. Such incitement would become illegal only in cases where a person or entity publicly instigates a criminal action with the intent of causing its fulfillment, according to legislative reports.

The new law could potentially punish singers of Mexico's popular drug ballads, known as 'narcocorridos,' with years in prison for promoting a criminal activity through song, even if the encouraged crime is never actually carried out. The initial proposal submitted to the Justice Commission would have provided stiffer sanctions for the use of mass media, such as television or radio, to broadcast such messages, but the Commission struck down this provision at the last minute, reported *El Universal*.

Initiatives to ban narcocorridos in recent years at the state and municipal levels have drawn significant criticism from analysts who say that such punitive measures would be counterproductive. According to reports, one academic expert who studies narcocorridos attributes their popularity to, on one hand, many Mexicans' longing to identify with an "anti-hero," given the problems many citizens face in society today, and, on the other hand, an outlet for celebration and happiness. As such, the expert predicted that a ban on the music would only strengthen the public's attachment to it. Young people interviewed by *El Universal* journalists in 2009 expressed loyalty to the music because its lyrics about driving around in luxury vehicles and attracting the attention of beautiful women made them feel "powerful" and gave them an "ego boost" while listening. For such youth, bans on this music seemed "ridiculous," and one asked if legislators didn't have something better to do with their time.

The backer of this new proposal, however, National Action Party's (Partido de Acción Nacional, PAN) Federal Deputy Oscar Arce Paniagua reports that the new law aims to address the uploading of violent videos onto websites like Youtube, messages left on cadavers, banners threatening or praising violence (narcomantas)—such as the one threatening U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency members with dismemberment in Juárez last July—and the promotion of drug cartel activity through concerts and the mass media. All of these forms of communication, Arce Paniagua notes, are increasingly used by criminal organizations to communicate amongst themselves or with society at large, and allow for the intensification of drug-related violence. Disturbingly, the criminal organizations that produce these communications have become more technologically savvy, moving from the cardboard signs to digitally printed, jumbo wall hangings. The use of the public discourse as a tool of power for criminal actors is something that Mexico's legislators now want to put a stop to, said Arce Paniagua.

The legislator sees the communications covered under this legislation as falling outside of Mexican constitutional protections, given that Article 7 limits freedom of the press protections to those communications that do not disturb the public peace. Likewise, the infringement of free speech rights appears not to worry Mexican lawmakers, given that Article 6 of the Mexican Constitution only protects freedom of expression in as far as it does not induce crime or cause a breach of the peace.

The proposal would amend Article 208 of the Federal Penal Code and Article 194 of the Federal Code of Criminal Procedure.

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TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

TRANSPARENCY

Former Coahuila officials under investigation for financial irregularities during "Moreirazo"

Several former Coahuila administrators are under investigation for mishandling of public funds during the administration of Humberto Moreira, who is currently the president of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI). At issue are debts of more than 33 billion pesos accrued during Moreira's term, much of which was allegedly financed through the use of falsified documents. The Calderón administration called for an investigation into the debts in August after the allegations of financial impropriety surfaced. Moreira served as governor of Coahuila from late 2005 through early 2011 in what has been dubbed in the press as the "Moreirazo". According to data from the Mexican Finance Ministry, the state's debt officially grew from 323 million pesos to 8.5 billion pesos, but the Mexican daily *Reforma* and political opponents seized on recent statements from a senior PRI official in Coahuila that the debt had reached almost 34 billion pesos. Humberto Moreira was replaced by his older brother Rubén this past January.

The head of the Coahuila tax authority (Administración Tributaria de Coahuila) during Moreira's term, Héctor Javier Villarreal, has defended the debts amassed under his watch, despite being indicted for financial fraud on November 1. In late September, the state of Coahuila refinanced the nearly 34 billion-peso debt with the help of unnamed banks. The debt had become a political liability for the PRI, which has gained popularity in national opinion polls against President Felipe Calderón's National Action Party (Partido de Acción Nacional, PAN), and which has won several key state-level elections in recent years. Standard and Poor's credit rating agency had lowered the state's rating to BBB- from A+ in the previous month, and put it on credit watch.

While former administrators who served during Moreira's tenure continue to be indicted, PAN members in the Chamber of Deputies are pushing for a congressional investigation into Moreira himself. There is also pressure within his own party for him to step down as PRI leader. Moreira has resisted calls for his resignation, though, characterizing them as part of a political campaign strategy. He also has continued to deny having had any knowledge of irregularities committed by Villarreal's office, and has called for a thorough investigation into his former finance head, and for stiff sanctions if he is found guilty of the financial irregularities. Moreira has also gone on the offensive as pressure for him to resign as PRI president has increased. He has leveled accusations at Ernesto Cordero, a presidential aspirant for President Calderón's National Action Party (PAN), and head of the Secretaría de Hacienda during his term. Moreira has alleged that there were irregularities in that federal office, which he says approved debts with falsified documents. Moreira has called for an investigation into the agency, pointing out that federal officials have thus far escaped investigation. Cordero for his part has



PRI president and former Coahuila governor Humberto Moreira
Source: [Noticieros Televisa](#).

characterized Moreira's accusations as an attempt to "distract attention to his errors, his lack of transparency."

Regardless of whether Moreira was complicit in improperly financing loans during his tenure as Coahuila governor, it is clear that the state tax authority (Secretaría de Finanzas) under Javier Villarreal operated in obscurity, not complying with the state's own transparency laws. The Secretaría de Finanzas has not made public its activities since September 30, 2008, while Coahuila's transparency law requires that government agencies make annual reports presented in an electronic database available to the public. Since 2008, the documents uploaded by the Secretaría de Finanzas have not complied with disclosure and accessibility norms established in the transparency law. In 2008, the agency released a report that did not properly present financial records for the year, and the file's size was an impediment to accessibility. There were also irregularities reported in 2009, and in 2010 the Secretaría de Finanzas did not release its own report to the public, instead deferring to the report made by the state assessor's office. Moreover, Transparencia Mexicana reported that corruption levels rose 88.63% between 2003 and 2010, and fell from 7th to 18th in the organization's "Good Government" index.

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CNDH points to official corruption and negligence as contributing to 2010 Tabasco flooding

Mexico's Human Rights Commission (Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos, CNDH) has issued a recommendation detailing incomplete public works, likely acts of corruption, and a failure to adhere to safety norms as contributing to the damages suffered in Tabasco in 2010 from flooding that directly impacted nearly 6,000 people. It also found that there was insufficient attention to flood victims after the fact. As a result of its findings, the CNDH has presented a criminal complaint to the Federal Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR), and has called for an internal investigation into the National Water Commission (Comisión Nacional de Agua, Conagua) as well as investigations into officials of eight municipalities. Furthermore, the recommendation documents hundreds of Tabasco residents having been forced from their homes without authorization, prior notice, or expropriation orders, in the name of public works projects, particularly for the construction of overflow canals. Residents claim to have been relocated to inadequate housing without access to health services, potable water, and pest control.

The recommendation and calls for investigations by the CNDH came as a result of complaints that 56 Tabasco communities filed with the agency that although authorities since 2003 have allocated funds for developing a plan for addressing the problems with drainage in the state, they have not come to fruition. They also came as a group of 200 people representing over 3,500 affected members of rural communities of the Centro municipality completed a more than 24-hour demonstration in front of the local Conagua offices, which also included an intermittent blockade of the Paseo Tabasco thoroughfare, on which the offices are located. The protestors were demanding compensation for damages to lands and crops caused by Conagua public works that they say have forced them to live in lands now permanently flooded. The protestors have demanded payment of 184 million pesos for damage caused to more than 5,000 hectares of land. Some representatives claim that the damage was intentional. Javier Torres Sánchez, the coordinator of the Ecologist Movement of Tabasco (Movimiento Ecologista de Tabasco, Metab), claims that the works that comprise Tabasco's integral hydrological plan were designed to preserve the city of Villahermosa, at the expense of permanently flooding surrounding suburban and rural areas. Torres clarified that the 184 million peso compensation being sought does not include damages from the recent flooding in the area, which still have not subsided.

The CNDH has determined that there was a series of irregularities that “have caused the works to remain unfinished, and that the benefits that could come of their completion, such as the decrease of risks to the population resulting from flooding, have not become a reality.” The agency has recommended that the authorities responsible for shortcomings in public works projects make reparations to all those affected, and develop a contingency plan to avoid such damages in the future. It also called for completion of unfinished hydro projects, as well as adequate training of Tabasco public servants responsible for responding to emergencies and disasters to ensure that they adhere to applicable human rights norms.

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CORRUPTION

Allegations surface of corruption within the Federal Electric Commission

On November 23, Mexican prosecutors revealed that they were investigating an alleged \$93 million corruption scandal involving the Federal Electric Commission (Comisión Federal de Electricidad, CFE). Mexico’s Attorney General’s Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR) announced in a statement that it had brought criminal charges against a judge, a CFE lawyer, and CFE assessor. All three have been detained and are awaiting trial.

Salvador Vega Casillas, the head of the government’s oversight body (Secretaría de Función Pública, SFP), said that the three public servants colluded to defraud the CFE of more than 1.3 billion pesos through 232 judicial processes. Vega added that his agency believes that there are at least 18 more judges involved in the corruption network. The judge implicated in the scandal, Raymundo Soto, was arrested after he made an unauthorized ruling sanctioning the CFE. Francisco Rodríguez, the CFE attorney, is accused of deliberately not presenting evidence in favor of the agency, and not employing other legal resources in representing the commission. Rodríguez is alleged to have intentionally lost over 100 legal proceedings before judge Soto, amounting to losses of more than 200 million pesos. Vega added that the CFE lost an additional 700 million pesos from cases argued by five other attorneys in front of the same judge. For his part, Martín López, the CFE assessor, is accused of over-assessing CFE expenses. One example cited was a case in which he valued a right of way at 2.5 million pesos, when its true value was only 100,000 pesos.



Source: [Solución Política](#)

Vega Casillas said that the CFE employees implicated in the scandal approached landowners dealing with the agency to gain their complicity in the overvaluation of lands and subsequent misappropriation of over 1.3 billion pesos. Vega added that his agency is currently investigating a total of 60 public employees in the state of Sinaloa in an investigation that dates back two years, although arrests have only been made of the three aforementioned individuals. He said that his agency is also looking for ways to repair the damages to the CFE caused by the fraud. The investigation began when the SFP became aware of a spike in the complaints made by landowners of the CFE that the institution was not making the required payments for the passage of high-tension wires through their properties, principally in the northwestern region of the country and particularly in the state of Sinaloa. The agency noted that the CFE was losing a disproportionate number of the claims, in some cases because no CFE representative was present at the hearings. In addition, the majority of the cases lost were heard in Sinaloa by judges who were not authorized to rule on federal matters, as are claims made against the CFE, which is a federal institution.

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Purges of police officers continue at federal, municipal levels

Mexican Attorney General Marisela Morales announced in mid-November that 1,500 federal public security elements will be dismissed by December as part of the continuing push to cleanse security forces at the federal, state, and municipal levels. Morales said that 300 officers had already been released, while 600 are under the process of removal, and an additional 600 resigned in order to avoid processing. She added that all 20,000 employees of the Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR) would be vetted through drug tests, lie detectors, and psychological examinations. Shortly after her appointment to head the Attorney General's Office this spring, Morales, formerly head of the organized crime division at the agency, initiated the first major purge of the PGR, culminating in the resignations of 21 of Mexico's 32 federal prosecutors, responding that "purging is fundamental within the PGR to give the results that citizens are legitimately demanding." In that initial purge, Morales oversaw the removal of 462 officials, and the filing of criminal charges against 111.

Meanwhile, several municipalities have reported firings and arrests of police officers in several states around the country. In Reynosa, Tamaulipas, the secretary of the municipal police department announced in mid-November that 55 officers have been released this year and 10 have been temporarily suspended due to suspected abuses of authority, unwarranted detentions, and extortion. She added that municipal police officers fired for such reasons are entered into a national registry in order to keep them from entering into police ranks of other municipalities or states. Similarly, the director of public security in Soledad de Graciano Sánchez, San Luis Potosí, announced that of 421 municipal police officers serving the city, 154 have been fired in 2011 for various reasons, including alleged robberies, extortions, and poor job performance in general. In mid-November in Sinaloa, state and federal police officers arrested 32 police officers from the Ahome municipality suspected of criminal ties, among them two ranking officers.

Meanwhile, Juárez, Chihuahua Public Security Secretary Julián Leyzaola revealed that of 1,585 applicants to join the Juárez municipal police department, only 51 passed the six filters required for admittance into the department's ranks, which include a height minimum, professional experience requisites, and a lack of past involvement in organized crime. The U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) have collaborated with Ciudad Juárez to develop the criteria that have disqualified 96% of all applicants. Those approved will study for six months in the police academy, and include law school graduates, engineers, and professors. Leyzaola was brought to troubled Ciudad Juárez in March of this year from Tijuana, where he has been credited with reducing the influence of organized crime in that city, amidst widespread allegations of human rights abuses.

In Huejutla, Hidalgo, 112 municipal police officers have been fired from the department, which only carries 180 officers total, not for abuse of authority or involvement in organized crime, but for protesting what they say are unacceptable working conditions and salaries. The disgruntled officers occupied the municipal police department building where they demanded that Mayor Alejandro Nava Soto provide a "peso by peso" accounting of the resources allocated to the town via the Subsidy for Public Security in the Municipalities fund (Subsidio para la Seguridad Pública de los Municipios, Subsemun), federal assistance given to municipalities that comply with specific requirements, one of which is to standardize police salaries. They also demanded a salary raise for 2012, and an increase in life insurance protections in case of being killed in the line of duty. Huejutla municipal police officers currently receive a salary of 2,150 pesos (about \$151 U.S.) every two months. In response to the protest, the municipal government fired the 112 officers, claiming abandonment of professional duties. State police officers have joined the remaining 70 municipal police officers to assist in public security functions.

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Study by Transparencia Mexicana finds corruption among 10% of public servants



Source: gobierno.com.mx

Salvador Vega Casillas, head of Mexico's government oversight body (Secretaría de la Función Pública, SFP), has touted a Transparencia Mexicana report that shows that corruption is limited to just 10% of public servants in Mexico. The findings were based on surveys carried out by the nongovernmental organization of citizens' dealings with public officials. Vega Casillas spoke at a conference addressing corruption and professional formation presented by the Mexican Senate, at which he applauded recent efforts by the government to reduce official corruption, which he estimates have saved Mexican citizens 66 billion pesos. Last year, 2,000 people were sanctioned for

corrupt practices – 1,500 of them were public officials, and the rest businessmen. Of the public officials accused of corruption, Vega said that 90% have been sanctioned, although he did not specify the outcomes for the remaining 10%. He also mentioned that 2,300 bureaucratic processes have been eliminated with the intent of facilitating citizens' dealings with government offices.

Vega Casillas also spoke of the successes and promises of the public servants professionalization program (Servicio Público de Carrera, SPC), created in 2003, which he said emphasizes merit over favoritism with strong criteria of transparency and inclusion. It also includes incentives that reward performance, professional development, and experience, and seeks to offer equal opportunities. He said that a cohesive system of professional development for public servants will help to create a competitive public sector with competition based on merit that will contribute to the prevention of corruption.

While it is true that Transparencia Mexicana's National Index of Corruption and Good Governance (Índice Nacional de Corrupción y Buen Gobierno) reported a 10.3% rate of corruption for 2010, Vega Casillas failed to mention that this represented a .3% increase over 2007. Moreover, while 16 states reduced their instances of corruption from 2007 to 2010, the remaining 16 either remained unchanged or increased in their rates of corruption. In 2010, the average bribe (*mordida*) paid by Mexicans was 165 pesos, up from 138 in 2007. Moreover, bribes cost Mexicans a total of 32 billion pesos in accessing the 35 public services measured by Transparencia Mexicana in 2010, up from 27 billion in 2007. Such acts of corruption cost the average Mexican household 14% of its annual income.

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ACCOUNTABILITY

Petition filed at International Criminal Court against Calderón and administration

On Friday, November 25, Mexican human rights lawyer Netzai Sandoval and other human rights activists filed a petition with the International Criminal Court (ICC), the world's war crimes tribunal, to open an investigation into the actions of the Mexican government and top cartel leaders during the so-called "war on drugs" that has played out over the past four years. The petition calls for an investigation into the hundreds of civilian deaths at the hands of the military, which has seen over 50,000 troops deployed to the streets since 2006 as part of Calderón's security strategy, and thousands of civilian deaths by drug traffickers, and looks to classify these killings as crimes against humanity or war crimes. "The violence in Mexico is bigger than Afghanistan, the violence in Mexico is bigger than Columbia", Sandoval stated when explaining his reasoning for taking his complaints to the highest authority.

Sandoval and other activists claim that Mexican President Felipe Calderón's offensive against drug cartels has resulted in 470 cases of human rights violations by the army and police through systematic torturing, kidnapping, and killing of citizens. Support for this claim led to the petition's submission to the ICC, which had nearly 23,000 signatures. It specifically requests investigations into President Calderón, Calderón's top security chiefs, and drug kingpin Joaquín 'El Chapo' Guzmán, the leader of the notoriously violent and

powerful Sinaloa cartel.

The ICC can open and prosecute cases that countries or governments refuse to prosecute, and the Court will have to decide what, if any, crimes qualify as war crimes or crimes against humanity. This is a lengthy process that can take years, but the political meaning behind Sandoval's petition has made international headlines. Mexico is a signatory to the Rome Statute that established the International Criminal Court, making this petition, at the very least, a powerful political statement.

President Calderón's administration has condemned the claims and the petition as both "absurd" and "slander," and is seeking legal action against the activists. He argued that the 'war on drugs' and security policies are incomparable to war crimes committed by authoritarian states, and that the Mexican government is protecting citizens as it cracks down on cartels. Mexico's Interior Ministry (Secretaría de Gobernación, Segob) issued a statement saying, "The public safety policy that has been implemented by no means constitutes an international crime... The Mexican government is not at war, and there is no generalized or systematic attack against civilians, nor any government policy in that direction".

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Protests for peace in Juárez stifled by security forces; MPJD activist killed

Recent protests held in Ciudad Juárez against the continually escalating violence in Mexico were stifled by security forces in early November. During what they called the "march of the indignant," protestors took to placing signs of crosses on buildings, traffic signs, and in other public spaces that are meant to symbolize the deaths that have taken place in Mexico due to cartel-related violence in recent years. With more than 40,000 killings nationwide in Mexico since President Felipe Calderón took office in 2006 and began his militarized strategy to combat drug trafficking and to quell narco-related violence, Ciudad Juárez has gained notoriety in the international press as the 'murder capital of the world' as violence has escalated in that city and the surrounding areas, particularly since 2008. In addition to working toward their goal of hanging 9,000 crosses to represent the number of people who have died in the city as a result of cartel violence, protestors took to chanting, "Grief is not enough, time for courage and resistance" during their demonstrations.

Since the start of the protests, 28 people belonging to the movement Indignant of Juárez (Indignados de Juárez) have been arrested in two separate occasions, 14 of which were detained in front of the Scotia bank, and the rest in front of College Station in Aldama. They were released on November 11 after posting bail, many showing signs of physical trauma. Protestors were reportedly painting crosses on the bank, which led to bank officers calling the police requesting that they be removed from the property. Around 100 officers arrived at the scene to control the crowd of demonstrators, estimated at around 30. After the initial 14 arrests, a group of protestors marched to the police headquarters to demand their release. One protestor claimed to have been attacked there by preventive police, and sustained injuries. Another protestor, Gero Fong, also reported having been abused by Juárez police officers after being incarcerated. He rejected the claims made by arresting officers that he had attempted to disarm one of them, and that he was in possession of marijuana. He cited videos of the incident that he says show him and other protestors peacefully demonstrating when they were confronted by police officers.

Another of those complaining of police mistreatment is a photojournalist from *El Diario de Juárez*, who was at the protest when police arrived, and also showed signs of physical trauma. He suffered blows to the

face when police responded to the demonstration outside the police station demanding the release of protestors. He said that he had clearly identified himself as a member of the press. In an interview from the hospital where he was taken after sustaining his injuries, he said that the authorities “did not know how to manage things,” principally the ones with their faces covered, whom he said acted more violently toward protestors, taking advantage of their anonymity.

More than three weeks after the initial confrontation between protestors and Juárez police, more than a hundred members of the protest group again marched, this time to demand that Public Security Secretary Julián Leyzaola be prosecuted and jailed. In their second demonstration, protestors did not hang crosses, saying that they did not want to offer police any grounds for detaining them.

Unrelated to the Juárez protests, a human rights activist, protestor, and member of Javier Sicilia’s Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity (MPJD) was killed on Monday November 28, allegedly by members of organized crime. Nepomuceno Moreno had been an advocate for peace since his son’s kidnapping in July 2010, whose whereabouts is still unknown. Given Moreno’s close work with poet and activist Sicilia, Moreno’s death has fueled a response from the MPJD leader. Moreno, who had recently received death threats for his activism and petitioning of the government to stop the violence, had requested protection from both the federal government and the Sonora state government, neither of which met his request. Following his murder on Monday, Sicilia pointed to the lack of government response in protecting Moreno and called for Sonora state Attorney General Abel Murrieta’s resignation. “The worst thing about the incident,” said Sicilia, was that it was “the chronicle of a murder foretold,” quotes the *Latin American Herald Tribune*. The same news report also acknowledged that Moreno’s murder was the second MPJD activist to be killed, the other occurring last month on October 7 in Michoacán.

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Fourth homicide linked to posting of information through social networks

With the escalation of violence against citizens in general and journalists in particular, the state of Tamaulipas has experienced drastic changes in regards to the way in which news about drug trafficking and related violence is distributed to the people. This has been the case in the past few years as violence has increased and journalists have begun self-censoring to protect themselves and their colleagues. This phenomenon, while not unique to Tamaulipas, has been widely reported in that state, where the Gulf cartel continues to carry out a bloody and quite public turf battle with its former armed wing, the Zetas. The fear among many Tamaulipas news outlets over reporting on local cartel-related violence has resulted in a rise in the use of social media networks to distribute the information that a number of news sources now refuse to cover. However, from September 2011 to the present, there have been four cases of homicide in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas alone that have been linked to the distribution of information through alternative methods, suggesting that not only have drug cartels and gangs managed to silence many traditional news outlets, but perhaps they are attempting to do the same to social media users, as well.

The most notorious such case was the murder of Maria Elizabeth Macias, also known as “La Nena de Laredo,” who was a journalist and the moderator of “Nuevo Laredo en Vivo.” Her decapitated body was found in September next to a monument commemorating Christopher Columbus in a local park in Nuevo Laredo. The Zetas, who allegedly committed the murder, left a message referencing her relationship to the “Nuevo Laredo en Vivo” website, a site devoted to releasing information about cartel-related crimes. According to *Univision Noticias*, “Nuevo Laredo en Vivo” has more than 400,000 visits and allows users to chat about narco-related events. It also controls a Twitter account where users can draw attention to

members of drug cartels, gangs, security forces, and military members, whether for violent acts or abuse, through the hashtag '@nuevolaredo.'

Also in September, two bodies were hung from a bridge in Nuevo Laredo with a similar message that kicked off this recent upswing in violence towards social media users, threatening, "This is going to happen to all of those related to the Internet." This message, too, was signed by the Zetas.

More recently, another user of the "Nuevo Laredo en Vivo" site was killed on November 9. He was known as "El Rascatripas," and was one of the moderators of the website. Social media users reporting on narco-violence try to maintain anonymity, though recent incidents such as this reveal that criminal groups have means of uncovering users' identities. His headless, handcuffed body was found in the same place as the body of Macias and showed signs of torture. Next to his body, a message read, "This happened to me for not understanding that I should not report in social networks."

The organization Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has denounced the killings of the four social media users, lamenting that reporting crimes in Mexico has become something "almost suicidal." RSF pointed out that organizations like Nuevo Laredo en Vivo and Blog del Narco are carrying out the important function of reporting on and discussing cartel activity in areas where traditional press outlets have been stifled. It also called for a thorough investigation into the murders. Authorities, however, have not yet reported on any advancement in investigating the crimes.

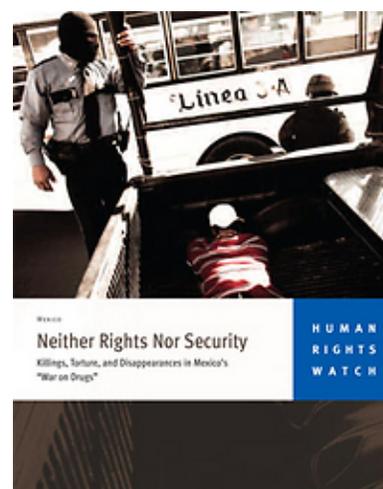
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HUMAN RIGHTS

HRW condemns war on drugs; Segob rejects term 'war'

This month, Human Rights Watch (HRW), an international organization based in New York, published another work (see right) in a series of reports criticizing President Felipe Calderón's military-led campaign to combat the drug trade in Mexico, characterizing it as a failed strategy. According to the official report, "Neither Rights nor Security: Killing, Torture, and Disappearances in Mexico's War on Drugs," human rights violations allegedly committed by members of the military continue to be on the rise in Mexico over the past five years since President Felipe Calderón took office in late 2006, upon which he quickly employed the tactic of large-scale troop deployments to cartel hotspots to fight narco-trafficking. According to the report, in addition to the more than 40,000 deaths since 2006, the war on Mexico's drug cartels has led to 170 reports of torture, 39 disappearances, and 24 extrajudicial killings, all alleged at the hands of members of the military and security forces. Five states that have seen particularly high levels of drug-related violence – Baja California, Chihuahua, Guerrero, Nuevo León, and Tabasco– became the focus of the report as HRW investigators interviewed, surveyed, and researched the growing number of claims of human rights violations in those specific states.



Source: Human Rights Watch

HRW concluded that Calderón has developed "a public security policy that is badly failing on two fronts. It has not succeeded in reducing violence. Instead, it has resulted in a dramatic increase in grave human rights violations, virtually none of which appear to be adequately investigated. In sum, rather than

strengthening public security in Mexico, Calderón's "war" has exacerbated a climate of violence, lawlessness, and fear in many parts of the country."

In response to the accusations, René Zenteno of the Interior Ministry (Secretaría de Gobernación, SEGOB) rejected the term "War on Drugs" and claimed that any infringement of fundamental rights are and will be fully punished. Calderón added in a public statement from Los Pinos that the criminals represent the principle threat to violations of human rights in Mexico and not the authorities in place to safeguard those rights. For its part, the Mexican Congress reacted predictably to the report, with members of President Calderón's National Action Party (Partido de Acción Nacional, PAN) rallying behind him, while the ruling party's main rival in upcoming elections, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI), has called for further investigations into alleged human rights abuses. The PRI has stepped up criticism of Calderón's anti-cartel strategy, with party leaders calling for deployed troops to be returned to their barracks.

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MIGRANT RIGHTS

Mothers of Central American migrants search Mexico for loved ones

Thirty-three mothers from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua arrived in Mexico City on Tuesday, November 8, on a mission to find their children and denounce the Mexican



Source: Vanguardia

government's inaction towards resolving the disappearances of Central American migrants in Mexico. The giant pictures of their lost sons or daughters hanging from their necks made the women easily recognizable during their protests. They also carried a giant banner that read "Mothers Caravan: Finding Your Child Missing in Transit" and hoisted the flags of their Central American countries on their backs as they searched for their missing loved ones. They asked locals, police, and press about their children and posted information as to their whereabouts. In Tenosique, Tabasco, a red banner was hung over the overpass of Miguel Hidalgo Street, with faces and names of the missing sons and daughters, their height and age, and the location they were last reported seen. The mothers refer to their sons and daughters as "Our Missing."

The group searching for their children have been caravanning through Mexico since 2000, but have taken on greater urgency with the recent escalation in cartel-related violence and the increased danger that migrants face of kidnapping and subsequent extortion. The *Washington Post* reports that the women have found at least 57 of their relatives. This time around, the mothers toured nine Mexican states before returning to Central America on November 13, searching the most dangerous areas for U.S.-bound migrants in northern Mexico. The women also visited San Fernando, where the Zetas cartel have dumped Central American migrants in mass graves, with some accounts as high as 183 killed. Martha Sánchez, from the Mesoamerican Migrant Movement, called for the creation of a database of remains found in mass graves in order to facilitate the search for the disappeared. Migrants who travel through Mexico are at constant risk as easy targets for kidnappings and extortions by cartels that exploit the travelers' legal and financial precariousness with widespread impunity.

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AROUND THE STATES

QUINTANA ROO

Quintana Roo municipal police complete more training and professionalization courses



Hundreds of agents in a number of Quintana Roo municipal police forces have recently completed training courses as part of the state's ongoing efforts to professionalize the institution. In the past month, 101 members of the municipal police from Solidaridad, one of ten municipalities in the state, have taken courses related to the implementation of the new criminal justice system, technical and tactical policies, basic police operations, use of weapons, and protection of distinguished persons and government officials. An unreported number of other Solidaridad Municipal Police also completed a special training

that began on November 11, called "The Chain of Custody Protocol" ("El Protocolo de Cadena de Custodia"), referring to the documentation of gathering, examining, and using evidence in a case, whether physical or electronic. Agents from the Federal Public Ministry (Ministerio Público Federal) instructed the course, which focused on the preservation of crime scenes and evidence, and what the expectations and boundaries are for agents in these situations. In all, more than 500 Solidaridad security force members have completed trainings since April 2011. Said Commander Rodolfo de Ángel Campos, general director of Public and Transit Security (Seguridad Pública y Tránsito) regarding these professionalization efforts, "Security will be better if we build it comprehensively... These programs go a long way in the construction of the security that we want in our municipality."

In addition to trainings, Solidaridad security forces who completed professionalization courses also received new equipment, weapons, and uniforms this month, funded by the federal government's Subsidy for Public Security in the Municipalities office (Subsidio para la Seguridad Pública de los Municipios, Subsemun). Not only did police officers receive these new items, but also members of public transit security and firefighters as part of the General Direction for Public Security, Transit, and Firefighters of Solidaridad (Dirección General de Seguridad Pública, Tránsito y Bomberos de Solidaridad). A Quintana Roo-based media outlet noted the importance of new uniforms and equipment to complement the professionalization courses: "A better prepared and equipped police force guarantees the protection of life and properties of the citizens of Solidaridad. Additionally, with the new uniforms, equipment, and certainly the trainings, [the agents] will be able to pay particular attention to protecting the citizens and tourists."

In the municipality of Tulum, Quintana Roo, similar efforts continue to strengthen and better prepare local police forces to combat crime and protect the public. Of the nearly 400 municipal agents comprising the Tulum force, the *Diario de Quintana Roo* reports that as of mid-November, 292 members have completed professionalization courses. This puts Tulum second only to Solidaridad in having trained the most municipal police agents in the state.

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YUCATÁN

Yucatán adopts a new penal system and electronic storage system



The governor of Yucatán, Ivonne Ortega Pacheco, has approved the implementation of the new penal system in the state as part of the 2008 national judicial reforms. Yucatán's transition began on November 15 in 35 different cities throughout the state. Perhaps two of the biggest features of the system are the creation of oral judges and trials, and the commitment to uphold the principle of innocent until proven guilty, which are both similar to the U.S. penal system. The new system is a direct result of amendments made to the Yucatán constitution in May 2010. Yucatán must have the new system in place statewide by 2016, which is the national deadline for implementation.

Governor Ortega Pacheco participated in the 305th Congress of the National Commission of Superior Tribunals of Justice (Congreso de la Comisión Nacional de Tribunales Superiores de Justicia del país, Conatrib) this month in which she discussed how this new system would promote justice. She claimed, "Yucatán is one of the safest states so we have an obligation to promote justice by allowing judges and public defenders to do their job in a new reconciled environment." Ortega Pacheco explained that safety-related reform would occur on three levels—transforming politics in an operative manner instead of a structural manner, implementing an oral judicial system to prevent and combat current crime, and focusing on conflict resolution.

In addition to the new penal system, Yucatán is currently transitioning into an electronic, paperless system to store information related to current investigations, which reflects an additional effort to increase transparency and efficiency throughout the judicial process. This new storing method relates to files pertaining to evidence, dates, persons involved in crimes, and testimony. The system will also allow for a lawyer to automatically be assigned to a person when requested. Additionally, it will create transparency by giving the public access to the processes that certain departments engage in and by ensuring that all operations and coordination efforts are automatically done in the same way. The departments that will be affected by this new system include the Attorney General's Office (Procuraduría General de Justicia del Estado), Judicial Power (Poder Judicial), the Institute of Public Defense (Instituto de Defensoría Pública) and the Secretariat of Public Security of the State (Secretaría de Seguridad Pública del Estado).

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TAMAULIPAS

Tamaulipas state police undergo new training methods



On October 5, the government of Tamaulipas put into motion a training course designed to create a new police state model. Not just in Tamaulipas, but Mexican police forces in general have often been criticized for being corrupt and ill equipped to face the insecurity and crime plaguing Mexico today. This program in particular hopes to regain the trust of the people in the police institution as well as to provide quality security to citizens. The incoming police forces will now be trained at the Institute of Training and Police Formation (Instituto de Reclutamiento y Formación Policial), which focuses on public security. There are currently 340 members undergoing such preparation to become police officers in the state of Tamaulipas.

Tamaulipas governor Egidio Torre Cantú said that the new cadets in training "will be capable of tactical analysis, investigations, and operating functions." He also noted how they would be in charge of restoring security to the 43 municipalities in the state of Tamaulipas, pointing out that it is important that they work

for peace. In terms of regaining the society's trust, he believes that the police now have the ability to show citizens that they are a professional corporation whose highest responsibility is to respond to the public's demands. Juan Manuel Rodríguez Nieto, president of the Commission of Public Security (Comisión de Seguridad Pública) in the local Congress, added that while the "recruitment and formation of a new police force will enable the police to regain the trust of society," the state must also focus on the factors that lead to crime, saying that it should invest money into education, employment, and promoting sports.

While many have applauded the Tamaulipas police force for its strides in professionalizing its agents and working within the community, others are more skeptical. Secretary of Public Security (Secretario de Seguridad Pública) Rafael Lomelí Martínez remarked that because the police force is damaged it has kept the organization from performing its job the way it was meant to, noting that the number of active police officers is currently lower than in years prior. While he said that the new training has been institutionalized in many parts of the state, there are still some areas that have yet to begin the process, showing the disunity within the new model.

The government of Tamaulipas has pegged 2013 as the year to have all forces compliant with the new police training model, although this may be tentative as authorities have acknowledged the realities of implementing and enforcing this new system.

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About the Project: *The Justice in Mexico Project studies rule of law developments in Mexico, and is coordinated through the Trans-Border Institute (TBI) at Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego. The Justice in Mexico Project conducts and disseminates research on three broad categories related to the rule of law: law and order, transparency and accountability, and access to justice. The project receives generous financial support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Tinker Foundation. To make a financial contribution to our organization, please visit: <http://www.sandiego.edu/tbi/support>.*

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