Drug Violence & Displacement
Impacts on Outbound Migration & Asylum
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Mexico’s Security Situation
High Profile Violence and Organized Crime
Official Data vs. Media Reporting

Official tally: 15,273 organized crime killings

Both official and media figures ignore disappearances & hidden gravesites
MEXICO'S MURDER RATE IS COMPARATIVELY LOW

Data Show Homicides Per 100,000 Inhabitants Circa 2007-2008
Geographic Distribution of Violence

32% of killings in top 5 most violent cities (Juárez, Chihuahua, Culiacan, Tijuana, Acapulco)

2010 Organized crime killings (SNSP Data)

70% of violence concentrated in just 80 municipalities
Significant Variation: CJ vs. TJ

In Tijuana, DTO killings increased over 270% in 2008 before decreasing in 2009. In Cd. Juárez, violence increased more than tenfold that year.

Organized crime killings (SNSP Data)

Shifting patterns of violence due to clashes among organized crime groups
Sudden Spikes in New Areas

New clashes due to splinter groups
zetas and beltran leyva Organizations battle gulf and sinaloa cartels
Continuous upward trend till 2010

Minor cyclical trends observable in early summer, mid-fall, and end of year

Reforma tally by month, 2007-2011*
Conflicts Between Zetas and Gulf Cartel Obscure Drop in Violence in Ciudad Juárez

Documented Drug-Related Killings in Chihuahua and Nuevo León (by week)
Growing Threat to Government Officials

rural mayors targeted in conflicts among competing organizations
Growing Threat to Journalists in Mexico

Mexico has become one of the most dangerous countries for journalists.
Military and Federal Police Deployments

**Total Known Deployments:** 45,450

**Urban Deployments (2009):** 18,000
Moloeznik (2009), "Principales efectos de la militarización del combate al narcotráfico en México"
Internal Displacement, Migration, & Asylum Requests
High Profile Violence and Organized Crime
In March 2011, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre issued a report stating that there are an estimated 230,000 people internally displaced as a result of the violence from drug violence and other factors (e.g., Chiapas).
Little Refuge for Asylum Seekers

- Asylum application data, interviews and anecdotal evidence present mixed findings on the trends in asylum.
- Despite high profile cases, asylum data suggest little increase in asylum applications or acceptances from Mexico since the violence started.

Marisol Valles Garcia, Police Chief for Praxedis de Guerrero

Mexican journalist Emilio Gutierrez
Asylum Applications: Mexico vs. Colombia

Compiled by Jamie Lenio for a graduate capstone research project of the Trans-Border Institute, the USD Department of Political Science, and the Congressional Research Service.
Asylum Granted: Mexico vs. Colombia

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Why Is Asylum So Scarce?

- **Legal parameters for asylum are very narrow** (race, religion, nationality, political opinion, social group)
- **Significantly varied rulings** by U.S. judges on asylum cases
- **Immigration hearing claims** based on “reasonable fear” in contesting deportation not registered as asylum
Thank You

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