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News Report

MONTHLY SUMMARY

Cartel-related killings were nearly 20% higher in 2009, though mostly concentrated in certain states; high rates of violence continued in early 2010 • “El Teo,” the infamous drug trafficker, kidnapper, and extortionist responsible for some 300 murders, was arrested by Mexican authorities • Federal Police took control of security in Ciudad Juárez • AP found that U.S. Treasury’s interdiction program yields dismaying results • Mexican government opened federal investigation of officials and others involved in the electricity bribery scandal with ABB, a Swiss electrical engineering company • Police who deserted their jobs in Morelos after arrest of Beltrán Leyva are under investigation for possible cartel connections • President Calderón called for greater fiscal transparency in response to OECD report • Federal Institute for Access to Information resolved record number of public information requests in 2009 • Mexican army subject to 29 of 75 recommendations issued by the National Human Rights Commission regarding human rights abuses • Murder of Josefina Reyes in Chihuahua brought demands for greater protections for human rights activists • Appointment of Robledo Madrid to head Federal Ministerial Police condemned by human rights organizations • Freedom of press in jeopardy due to murder and kidnappings in Coahuila and Sinaloa.

LAW AND ORDER

CARTEL-RELATED VIOLENCE

Cartel violence up significantly in 2009, continues into 2010

Mexico suffered a significant increase in cartel-related violence in 2009 compared to 2008 at the national level, mostly due to elevated violence in a handful of states. Chihuahua, where *Reforma* reported 2,082 cartel-related killings (*ejecuciones*), saw a more than 25% increase over 2008. Particularly notable were the states of Guerrero and Durango, which with 638 and 637 *ejecuciones*, respectively, both increased by over 100% as compared to 2008. Sinaloa, which forms the troubled “Golden Triangle” region along with

Chihuahua and Durango, while down by about 25% from 2008 with 767 *ejecuciones*, experienced 100 killings in December alone. Sinaloa has also accrued 106 killings in the first half of January, led only by Chihuahua, with 127. The Pacific state of Michoacán also saw a substantial increase in 2009, with 371, as compared to 234 in 2008. Michoacán, President Calderón's home state, was the first state to receive troop deployments in December 2006, and appeared to be an early relative success story for Calderón's strategy of deploying soldiers to violence-stricken states when killings in 2007 dropped by over half in 2008 to 238, and remained relatively flat in 2008.

Troop deployments also seemed to be successful last year in Baja California, which ended the year with 316 *ejecuciones*, just over a half of its total for 2008, and was an exception to a general upward trend in violence among the northern border states. The state had nearly a hundred *narco*-killings in December, however, and accrued 44 in the first half of January 2010 despite continued military presence in the state. Mexico's Army (Sedena) announced on January 16 that it would deploy another 860 soldiers to Tijuana, two days after the U.S. Consulate General in Tijuana advised U.S. citizens to be aware of a recent rise in violent attacks in the Tijuana area, and anticipating more, following the January 12 arrest of Teodoro "El Teo" García Simental. According to Baja California's Attorney General's Office, 76 people have been murdered in the city thus far in 2010, and human rights organizations claim that 21 have disappeared.

In a recent report released by the Chilean research group *FLASCO*, titled [*Homicides and Organized Violence: A Real Increase?*](#), the organization provides a thorough analysis of homicide data from 1990 to 2007 to determine the gravity of violence in Mexico. The report concludes that, given that homicide rates from 1990 to 2007 decreased in every part of Mexico except the northwestern border region, the fears over insecurity in the country are unfounded, and moreover are exacerbated by media sensationalism. The analysis, however, does not include the years 2008 and 2009, the years that claimed the most casualties since Calderón initiated his campaign against the drug cartels in December 2006. *FLASCO*'s analysis thus also fails to take into consideration violent hotspots such as Ciudad Juárez, which according to the Citizen's Council for Public Security and Criminal Justice (*Consejo Ciudadano para la Seguridad Pública y la Justicia Penal*) had a murder rate of 191 per 100,000 citizens in 2009, the highest of any city in the world.

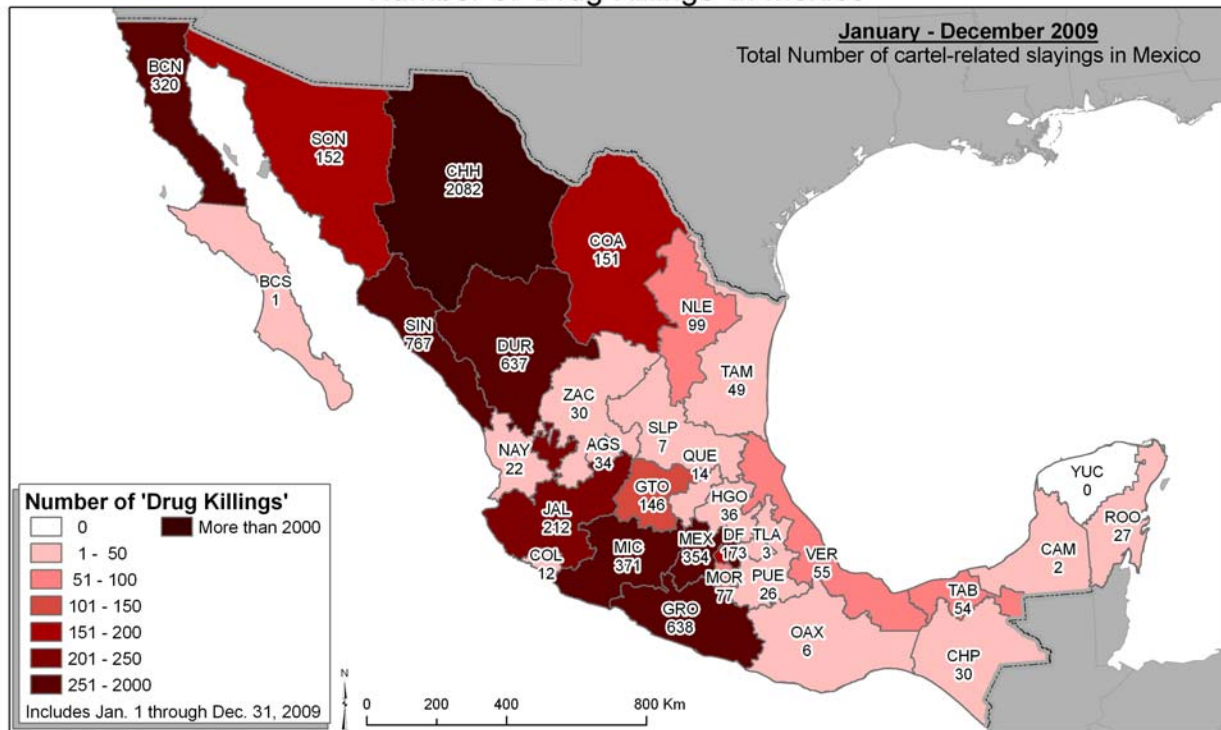
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The Justice in Mexico Project's analysis in a separate report, titled [*Drug Violence in Mexico*](#), presents more recent data. According to *Reforma*'s fairly conservative tally, there were 5,153 *ejecuciones* in 2008, compared to 2,280 in 2007, a more than 100% increase. With a total of 6,587 *ejecuciones* reported last year, the rate of cartel-related killings in Mexico surged from 2.2 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2007 to 6.1 per 100,000 by 2009. High rates of violence have continued into

January 2010.

While official figures on homicide in 2009 are not yet available, these elevated rates suggest that drug related violence has possibly contributed to a real increase in Mexico's homicide rate. However, as *FLASCO* points out, this is due to the extremely elevated rates found in just a handful of states — Chihuahua, Durango, Guerrero, and Sinaloa— that have "epidemic" rates of homicide as classified by the World Health Organization.

Number of 'Drug Killings' in Mexico



Source: State and national totals of cartel-related slayings in Mexico ("ejecuciones" and "narcoejecuciones") obtained from data provided by *Reforma* newspaper.

Maximum and Minimum values:

Maximum value: 2,082 in Chihuahua

Minimum value: No 'ejecuciones' were recorded in the state of Yucatán according to the source for these maps, *Reforma* newspaper.

National average: The national total number of 'ejecuciones' (cartel-related slayings) Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2009 was 6,587



Maps produced by Theresa Firestone
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According to the *Houston Chronicle*, 2009 is likely to prove to have been the deadliest year for Americans in Mexico. Although the U.S. State Department has not yet released numbers on deaths of U.S. citizens in Mexico, 37 murders had been added to the department's registry as of June of last year, as compared to 50 for all of 2008. According to data compiled by *El Diario de Juárez*, the *Houston Chronicle*, and other media sources, roughly 30 American citizens were killed in Ciudad Juárez alone last year. Among the more high-profile Americans killed in Mexico last year were Benjamin LeBaron, a dual Mexican and American citizen killed after taking a public stand against cartel members operating in his community, and four residents of Chula Vista found dead in a car in the outskirts of Tijuana.

After suffering its most violent month in terms of *narco*-killings in December 2009, Mexico appeared to be on track to raise the bar again this month, with 442 *ejecuciones* as of January 15. Chihuahua had accrued the most of any state, with 127, followed by Sinaloa and Baja California, with 106 and 44, respectively. According to some counts, including *El Universal*, Mexico lived its most violent day since the inception of President Calderón's offensive against the drug cartels on January 9, when 69 were killed in cartel-related violence. *El Universal* recorded single day totals of 52 in February of 2009, 53 in July and September, and 57 in August. Of the 69 killed on January 9, 26 were in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico's most violent city, which had 2,082 *ejecuciones* last year according to *Reforma* (other sources report over 2,600 killings).

President Calderón emphasized in early January that he would continue the fight against the drug cartels, though his administration will pay more attention to other important priorities, notably poverty and the economy. For their part, members of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in the Chamber of Deputies rejected Calderón's strategy against the cartels. PRI deputy Alfonso Navarrete, formerly the attorney general of Mexico State, argued that a strategy employing only police and military responses is "totally insufficient."

SOURCES:

- “Guerra al narco cobra otras 69 vidas.” *El Universal* Jan. 10, 2010.
- Olsen, Lise. “American murder toll in Mexico continues to climb.” *Houston Chronicle* Jan. 11, 2010.
- “Cd. Juárez enfrenta violencia sin freno.” *El Universal* Jan. 12, 2010.
- Polanska, Malgorzata. *Los homicidios y la violencia organizada en México. ¿Un incremento real?* FLACSO. Jan. 2010.
- Shirk, David. *Drug Violence in Mexico*. Trans-Border Institute. Jan. 2010.

A Timeline of Major Ejecuciones in 2009

- **February 10, 2009** (Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua): 21 people die, including 14 gunmen, six civilians, and a soldier during a firefight between gunmen and soldiers.
- **March 4, 2009** (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua): 21 men die at prison massacre when one band, linked to the Carillo Fuentes’ Juárez cartel, attacked members of other bands linked to the Sinaloa Cartel.
- **April 15, 2009** (San Nicolás del Oro, Guerrero): 16 killed, including 15 hit-men and one military official in an armed confrontation.
- **April 29, 2009** (Tijuana, Baja California): In the span of one hour, 7 police officers were shot and 3 wounded.
- **June 5, 2009** (Tijuana, Baja California): Six recorded deaths over the course of nine hours; in two cases only heads were found with “narco-messages” warning rival gangs.
- **June 6, 2009** (Acapulco, Guerrero): 16 presumed drug traffickers and two Mexican soldiers killed in firefight between the two groups in response to a report of armed men in a house.
- **June 26, 2009** (Guanajuato, Guanajuato): 12 killed in shootout between security forces and Los Zetas.
- **July 5, 2009** (Guerrero): The state suffered 12 targeted killings on election day
- **July 6-7, 2009** (Tijuana, Baja California): Three municipal police officers were slain over the course of 15 hours.
- **July 11, 2009** (Michoacán, Guerrero, Guanajuato): Five police officials killed and 18 federal agents injured in attacks against cartel installations and the capture of Arnoldo Rueda Miranda, La Minsa, a head boss of the Familia Michoacana cartel.
- **July 13, 2009** (La Huacana, Michoacán): 12 federal agents found dead after being kidnapped and tortured by the Familia Michoacana cartel.
- **August 14, 2009** (Durango, Durango): Prison riot leaves 20 inmates dead due to beatings, gunshot wounds, stabbings, and some burnings.
- **August 24, 2009** (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua): 22 killed over the night of the 24th related to organized crime and supposedly Los Zetas. Ex-commander of the municipal police, Efrén Arellano, among the dead.
- **August 30, 2009** (Culiacán, Sinaloa): Hitmen open fire on youth and adults in the streets, leaving eight dead.
- **September 2, 2009** (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua): 18 killed and five in critical condition after attack on rehab center by gunmen with AK-47s in Bellevista.
- **September 14, 2009** (Tijuana, Baja California): In less than 12 hours, 10 found killed in the city, including a 1-year-old baby and six men burned to death.
- **September 14, 2009** (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua): Another attack on a rehab center leaves eight patients and two therapists dead. A total of 28 *ejecuciones* were registered in the city on this day.
- **October 2, 2009** (Guanajuato, Guanajuato): 10 murdered men found throughout the day in five different municipalities, while government officials had a meeting to analyze combating organized crime strategies in the state. The deaths were supposedly linked to various organized crime networks including Los Zetas.
- **October 12, 2009** (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua): 15 homicides occurred over a 12-hour period.
- **November 14, 2009** (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua): 15 killings, including seven-year-old boy, three women, professor, and others.
- **November 26, 2009** (Ciudad Juárez, Delicias, Meoqui, Chihuahua): 23 cartel-related killings including a child.
- **December 4, 2009** (Monterrey, Nuevo León): 14 left dead in an armed confrontation between the military and Los Zetas.
- **December 16, 2009** (Cuernavaca, Guerrero): Arturo Beltrán Leyva and six of his men killed in shootout with Mexican marines.
- **December 17, 2009** (Cuernavaca, Durango) Decapitated heads of six state police investigators discovered.

Fallout from Arturo Beltrán Leyva death: cartel restructuring and a family slain

According to a report by the Federal Police, the Beltrán Leyva cartel underwent a restructuring immediately after its leader Arturo Beltrán Leyva, “The Boss of Bosses,” was killed in a raid by the Mexican Navy on an apartment complex in Cuernavaca, Morelos on December 16. Arturo’s brother Héctor has reportedly taken the helm of the Sinaloa-based drug trafficking organization. Officials say that he left his

prior responsibilities as chief financial officer to another brother, Carlos, who was arrested by Federal Police in Culiacán, Sinaloa early this month.

The death of Arturo and the arrest of Carlos have left Héctor the only remaining brother to run the organization. In January 2008, Alfredo Beltrán Leyva was arrested in Culiacán, precipitating the split of the brothers' organization from the Sinaloa cartel, run by Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán and Ismael Zambada, and an escalation in violence throughout the year in Sinaloa, particularly Culiacán. According to the Federal Police, Héctor maintains the support of the organization's principal operators, Sergio Villarreal Barragán, "El Grande," who runs operations in Mexico City; Edgar Valdez Villarreal, "La Barbie," who operates in Guerrero, Morelos, and Mexico City; and Gerardo Álvarez Vázquez, "El Cantante," who is in charge of Mexico State and Querétaro, and is now second in charge below Héctor.



Arturo Beltrán Leyva

The death of Arturo sparked immediate reprisals. Authorities have detained six alleged members of the Zetas for the December 22 massacre of the family of a Navy officer who died in the December 16 operation, hours following his funeral. The Beltrán Leyva brothers allied themselves with the Gulf cartel and its affiliates the Zetas following their split from the Sinaloa cartel. The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) has demanded that the Mexican government explain why the identities of the slain family members were not better protected. In another apparent attempt to send a message over Arturo Beltrán Leyva's death, a human head with a red flower behind one ear was left in front of his tomb in Culiacán. The body, still unidentified, was found nearby in a plastic bag.

SOURCES:

- Ballinas, Victor. "Exige la CNDH aclarar por qué no fueron protegidos los datos de Angulo Córdova." *La Jornada* Dec. 24, 2009.
"Capturan a hermano de *El Jefe de Jefes*." *Milenio* Jan. 2, 2010.
de la Luz González, María. "Héctor Beltrán asume el mando del cártel: PF." *El Universal* Jan. 4, 2010.
López, René Alberto. "Caen otros 5 zetas ligados al caso Angulo." *La Jornada* Jan. 4, 2010.
"Dejan una cabeza frente a la tumba de *El Jefe de Jefes*." *Milenio* Jan. 17, 2010.

ARRESTS

Federal Police arrest "El Teo," presumed responsible for at least 300 murders in Baja California

Mexican authorities arrested Teodoro "El Teo" Simental on January 12 from a home in an upscale neighborhood in Baja California Sur. The alleged drug trafficker, kidnapper, and extortionist was wanted by both the Mexican and U.S. governments, and Mexican authorities are touting the capture as a major victory in its battle against the drug cartels.



Teodoro García
Simental

García Simental was known for his brutal methods of disposing of his adversaries, particularly beheadings and dissolving bodies in acid. Last year, authorities arrested "El Pozolero," an employee of El Teo's who admitted to dissolving at least 300 bodies. El Teo was once a high-ranking lieutenant of the Arellano Félix cartel before it was effectively dismantled with the arrests and killings of its principle leaders. In April 2008 he assumed control of his own organized crime group, putting himself in direct conflict with Luis Fernando Sánchez Arrellano, "El Ingeniero," who was, until then, his boss as well as the leader of the remains of the Arellano Félix cartel. He also established alliances with the Sinaloa cartel, headed by Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, and Mochoacán-based La Familia. The violence that surged in Baja California in the second half of 2008, a year in which cartel-related killings in that state quadrupled over 2007, was attributed to the turf battle between El Teo and El Ingeniero.

Families of disappeared in Tijuana are hoping that El Teo's arrest will lead to information as to their loved ones' whereabouts. Fernando Ocegueda Flores, director of the Citizens' Association against Impunity

(ACI), announced that he will travel to Mexico City later this month to demand that federal authorities interrogate El Teo about the disappeared, 9 out of 10 of which the organization attributes to his criminal organization. ACI has long criticized local, state, and federal authorities for not investigating disappearances in Baja California.

SOURCES:

¿Quién es 'El Teo'?" *El Economista* Jan. 12, 2010.
"Esperan que *El Teo* informe sobre desaparecidos." *El Universal* Jan. 12, 2010.
de la Luz González, María. "Cae 'El Teo', sin un solo disparo." *El Universal* Jan. 13, 2010.

Arrests of cartel operatives on both sides of border yield contrasting results

The arrest of an Arrellano Félix cartel operative in Tijuana and the Flores twins, allegedly operating a distribution hub for the Sinaloa and Beltrán Leyva cartels in Chicago, revealed the challenges Mexican authorities face in coordinating investigations into organized crime and the reach and sophistication that Mexican drug trafficking organizations extend into the United States.

Baja California police officials thought that they had followed procedure in their arrest of Omar Fernando Vásquez Hidalgo, "La Barby" (not to be confused with "La Barbie," lieutenant for the Beltrán Leyva cartel), and were dismayed when the Federal Attorney General's Office (PGR) released him. According to investigations carried out by the State Preventive Police (PEP), Vásquez Hidalgo belongs to the Arrellano Félix cartel, and is responsible for a number of kidnappings and killings. While the SSPE claims that there were open investigations into Vásquez Hidalgo's activities, the PGR focused only on his possession of a small quantity of crystal methamphetamine, and released him after he paid a fine, letting go a man whose arrest state police say was a result of intelligence work by an elite group of the PEP.

Meanwhile, U.S. authorities have said that the arrest of twin brothers allegedly in charge of the Chicago-based cocaine distribution hub for both the Sinaloa and Beltrán Leyva cartels has provided insight into the links between Mexican drug cartels and their associates in the United States, according to a December 30 story in the *Washington Post*. Margarito and Pedro Flores are 28-year-old twins from a Mexican-American neighborhood in Chicago who authorities say had found themselves caught in the middle of the battle between Mexican cartel bosses Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán and Arturo Beltrán Leyva, who split last year after the brother of the latter was arrested. The brothers had reportedly received threats from both cartels prior to their capture last month.

While authorities refused to say whether the arrest of the Flores brothers led to the operation shortly after that resulted in the death of Arturo Beltrán Leyva, interviews and federal indictments suggest that the investigation exposed one of the most sophisticated trafficking operations seen in the United States, which involved cocaine and heroin being moved through a warehouse in Los Angeles and on to Chicago via consumer goods shipments. Authorities attribute pressure by both the Mexican and U.S. governments on drug trafficking organizations to the cartels' resorting to relatively young and inexperienced people like the Flores brothers to head their U.S. operations, as well as to a more than 50% increase in the wholesale price of cocaine in Chicago over the last 18 months.

SOURCES:

Martínez, Julieta. "Liberan a *La Barby*, ligado a los Arrellano Félix." *El Universal* Dec. 28, 2009.
Martínez, Julieta. "Policía de BC se deslinda de liberación de *La Barby*." *El Universal* Dec. 29, 2009.
Fainaru, Steve and William Booth. "Flores drug indictment gives clues to Mexican cartels' networks in the U.S." *Washington Post* Dec. 31, 2009.

DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

Federal Police takes control of operations in Ciudad Juárez

Federal Police commissioner Facundo Rosas announced in early January that the agency would take over control of security operations in Ciudad Juárez from the Mexican Army. The move comes at a time when the joint military-Federal Police operation in Ciudad Juárez is coming under increasing fire from critics for failing to curtail the violence in the city, and for the mounting claims of human rights abuses by the military

against citizens. Two thousand additional Federal Police officers will be sent to the border city to assist in the transfer of operations. The state of Chihuahua, and Ciudad Juárez in particular, has been the site of the largest deployments of soldiers and federal police, with more than 10,000 currently present. As a result, a widely perceived failure in meeting the objectives of the operation in Ciudad Juárez of restoring order to the city would be a major blow to President Calderón's larger security efforts.

The decision to transfer operations in Juárez to the Federal Police followed a multi-agency review in December that concluded that the military campaign in the border city has failed to curb violence and crime in the city. The move has raised questions in Mexico and the United States over the effectiveness of Calderón's organized crime strategy as a whole. President of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), Jesús Ortega Martínez, said that the Army is effectively leaving the city defeated, and called on Calderón to elaborate a more effective and comprehensive strategy. For his part, PRD senator Carlos Navarrete applauded the decision to transfer operations to the Federal Police in Ciudad Juárez, and proposed discussion of the possibility of emulating the move in other parts of the country.

While the move has at times been described in the Mexican press as an "exit" of the military from Ciudad Juárez, Facundo Rosas insisted that the Army would continue patrolling the streets. He also suggested that the Mexican Navy will be involved in intelligence operations.

Following a bi-national meeting in which he met with the federal security cabinet and U.S. ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual, Juárez mayor José Reyes Ferriz said that he has requested US\$19 million of Merida Initiative funds for social programs related to citizen insecurity in the city. Specifically, he referred to a need for drug prevention programs and support for low-income sectors of the population susceptible to being lured into criminal organizations.

SOURCES:

Booth, William and Steve Fainaru. "Mexico weighs options as lawlessness continues to grip Ciudad Juarez." *Washington Post* Dec. 27, 2009.

Arvizu, Juan and Andrea Merlos. "Ejército sale derrotado de Juárez: PRD." *El Universal* Jan. 13, 2010.

Gómez, Ricardo and Elena Michel. "Navarrete ve positivo que el Ejército salga de Juárez" *El Universal* Jan. 13, 2010.

Rodríguez Nieto, Sandra. "Dan a la Federal el mando del Operativo." *El Diario* Jan. 15, 2010.

Militarization of local police continues in Coahuila and Cancún

Despite the Federal Police taking control over of operations in Ciudad Juárez from the Mexican Army, in nearby Coahuila retired military officers were named to head police departments in five municipalities, including Torreón. 200 retired military personnel were named to positions of authority in police corporations in Coahuila in 2009. In Cancún, Quintana Roo, four high-ranking military officers were placed in key positions within the local police force, including director of the preventive police and director of the municipal police academy. The four were appointed immediately following the detention of two municipal police officers who admitted to belonging to the Zetas criminal organization.

Active and retired military officers have been recruited to serve as police officials throughout Mexico, presumably in part due to the general perception that the Mexican military is less corruptible than its police forces, particularly at the local level. Many have expressed concern though, that they do not have sufficient background or training in the preventive functions that are the municipal police forces' primary task.

SOURCES:

"Llegan más militares a la policía de Cancún." *El Diario de Yucatán* Dec. 15, 2009.

"Border Militarization Continues in 2010." *FNS News* Jan. 4, 2010.

AP reports that U.S. Treasury interdiction program largely ineffective

The Associated Press reported last month that a U.S. Treasury program aimed at cutting off funding to drug trafficking organizations by freezing assets and seizing cash headed south across the border is only stopping about a quarter of one percent of illicit cash flow. According to the report, released on December 17, the program is currently blocking just US\$3 million, and has blocked a total of only \$16 million since the enactment ten years ago of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. The number suggests that,

along with \$58 million seized under a new initiative along the U.S.-Mexico border, roughly \$99.75 of every \$100 is finding its way back into the hands of Mexican criminal organizations.

A Treasury official speaking to the AP downplayed the low numbers, saying that the kingpin act is meant to be a deterrent to discourage criminal organizations from dealing in the American financial system. Nonetheless, though accounts vary, many agree that southbound flows of drug money are in excess of \$25 billion per year, as compared to \$61 million seized in 2008. Money is often taped to the bodies of "mules," or hidden inside vehicle compartments. In many cases, though, it is simply wired electronically back to Mexico. In all of these methods, money is broken into smaller increments of less than \$10,000, both to avoid detection and to mitigate losses should one shipment be discovered.

SOURCE:

Mendoza, Martha and Jacques Billeaud. "AP Impact: US drug war crackdown misses the money." *Associated Press* Dec. 17, 2009.

TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

CORRUPTION

Mexico opens federal investigation into electricity bribery scandal

Mexico has opened a federal investigation into the use of bribes by a Swiss company to obtain contracts with Mexico's electricity commission. *Proceso* magazine reported an unidentified Mexican official as saying that the investigation will be exhaustive and that it aims at identifying which Mexican functionaries were involved in the case south of the border.

ABB, a Swiss electrical engineering company with a branch in Texas, is suspected of receiving \$81 million worth of lucrative contracts in Mexico in exchange for doling out bribes to Mexican officials with the Federal Commission of Electricity (*Comisión Federal de Electricidad*, or CFE), according to U.S. prosecutors. U.S. officials have arrested and charged two suspects in the case.

Quoting indictment documents, Mexican media sources reported that a total of approximately \$1 million in bribes were paid to four high-ranking functionaries from the CFE.

The unidentified Mexican official provided *Proceso* with a list of names of government officials who are part of the investigation being conducted by the Mexican Attorney General's office as they attempt to pinpoint how the scheme was conducted. The names include the current and ex-director of the Federal Commission of Electricity. The investigation also involves the Secretary of Energy, the current sub-secretary of the organization, the director of International Issues and Judicial Issues, as well as the regional administrators of the Swiss company in Mexico.

In the United States, John O'Shea, a former general manager of the Texas unit of ABB, is charged with conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and has reportedly been released on bond. Fernando Basurto, a Mexican citizen who was aligned with a Mexican company that worked with ABB on CFE contracts, was arrested earlier this year by U.S. officials. Basurto plead guilty in November to conspiring to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

SOURCES:

"Investigan por corrupcion a Elias Ayub, director de la CFE." *Proceso*. Retrieved from [Dossierpolitico.com](http://www.dossierpolitico.com), <http://www.dossierpolitico.com/vernoticias.php?artid=71429&relacion=dossierpolitico&mas=2> January 10, 2010.

PEMEX recognized for efforts to combat corruption by United Nations group

A United Nations report recognizes Mexico's PEMEX for its efforts to establish measures to prevent corruption through sanctions and improved internal oversight. The report also notes that PEMEX has become more transparent with public information in regards to its financial state and its subsidiary operations, including creating a project in which contract bids are presented through the Internet in actual time.

The report, *Políticas y medidas anticorrupción de las empresas Fortune Global 500*, was conducted by the Office of the United Nations Against Drugs and Crime in collaboration with Price Waterhouse Coopers. The report acknowledges that PEMEX's public perception is associated more with corruption and underhand deals, but blames this in part on how the company must follow numerous regulations that make its procedures more complicated, leading to corruption and other irregularities. The report concludes that PEMEX needs assistance from the judicial and federal branches of the government to further reduce the corruption that does occur.

In September of 2009, Jesús Reyes Heróles, who served as director of PEMEX for three years, stepped down from his post following a corruption probe into PEMEX. The federal government was investigating the possible involvement of PEMEX officials in the stealing of petroleum products through clandestine pipelines and the illicit sale of the petroleum-derived products. Between \$700 million-\$900 million worth of petroleum or petroleum products have been stolen annually in recent years from PEMEX according to various press reports.

The United Nations report also ranked Wal-Mart, Exxon Mobil, and Royal Dutch Shell as being the top three businesses in Mexico - out of 500 evaluated - that have a plan to combat corruption. The report notes that businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including bribery and extortion.

SOURCES:

"Reconoce organismo de la ONU lucha de Pemex contra la corrupcion." *El Financiero*. January 3, 2010.
"Enlista ONU 500 empresas mexicanas con plan anticorrupcion." *El Financiero*. January 5, 2009.

Police desertions in Morelos being investigated

Morelos authorities are questioning the desertion of more than 30 city police officers in Cuernavaca shortly after the December killing of suspected drug trafficker Arturo Beltrán Leyva. Beltrán Leyva was gunned down on December 16 in Cuernavaca following a gun battle with the Mexican military. Since then, as many as 35 police officers in Cuernavaca have been suspected of deserting the police force.

A list of police officers allegedly linked to Leyva was reported to have been found shortly after Beltrán Leyva's death. The Morelos governor told Mexican media that he had requested federal authorities to identify any police who are suspected of ties to organized crime. Meanwhile, the Federal Attorney's office is looking into whether two members of the security team protecting Morelos Governor Marco Antonio Adame were working for organized crime. The two body guards are under suspicion due to their ties to the ex-director of the Morelos Secretary of Public Security, Luis Angel Cabeza de Vaca, who has been detained for his alleged ties to the Beltrán Leyva drug group, according to *El Universal*.

SOURCES:

Gomez, Francisco and Miranda, Justino. "SIEDO indaga a dos escoltas de Adame." *El Universal*. January 11, 2009.
"Investigan desercion de policies de ciudad donde cayo capo mexicano." *Univision*. December 22, 2009.

TRANSPARENCY

Mexico's president cites international report in calling for greater fiscal transparency

Citing the findings of an international report on Mexico's fiscal transparency, Mexico's President, Felipe Calderon, said that states and local governments need to take additional measures to become more accountable over how they use public funds. The report, *Estudio de la OCDE sobre el proceso presupuestal en Mexico*, was compiled by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), which encourages sustainable economic growth through democratic principles. It was formally presented in Mexico this month.

The study's main recommendation for Mexico's budget was to develop a more thorough review process that is undertaken every three to five years. This process would include estimates that are based on the country's projected long-term needs, as well as financial trends. The study also recommended an incentive structure in order to motivate institutions and government agencies to meet goals and results. The report

noted that the recommendations build on efforts already made by Mexico to improve its methods of managing public funds in the interest of transparency and accountability.

Calderon was quoted in Mexican media as saying that efforts on the national level will continue to build on the recommendations from the OCDE. He also called on state and local governments to conform to similar types of reforms and expectations as those being discussed on the national level. Calderon noted that Mexico's Secretary of Hacienda - or its Ministry of Finance - is promoting a comprehensive fiscal reform in 2010, and is making efforts to make its information more user-friendly to the general public.

In January, The Secretary of Hacienda released a document aimed at the general public titled "Citizen 2010. How does the Federal Government Spend Your Money?" that is intended to make the budget more accessible and understandable. The attention on greater accountability and transparency in regards to government funds stems from concerns among legislators that the country's financing needs to shift from its dependence on petroleum and other sources of revenue towards a more systemic tax base. This has led to a greater focus on ensuring that the country's limited resources are used more efficiently.

The country's top auditor, Juan Manuel Portal, noted that the country's fiscal auditing branch —*Auditoria Superior de la Federación*— only reviews about 5% of the 2,500 municipalities that exist in the country. Portal urged the states to provide greater autonomy in regards to fiscal oversight. Fiscal oversight of budgets are too often dependent on the same government agencies that dole out the money, which prevents an objective and independent analysis of how the money is being used, according to Portal.

PAN Congressman, Carlos Alberto Perez Cuevas, supported the president's statements while noting that the Organization for the Cooperation and Economic Development had recognized the federal government as providing the highest standards of transparency and accountability in their budget. Perez stated that because the states are not obligated to explain how their federal funds are used, millions of pesos are being unaccounted for. Perez introduced a proposal in December to encourage the Mexican government to exercise more restraint in its spending and accountability, and he said that states and local governments should be held to those same standards.

Perez highlighted the case of the state of Mexico, which is governed by the competing Institutional Revolutionary Party, and which was listed as the state with the highest level of corruption according to a report by Transparency International. Perez noted that the state is not required to provide information about the 23,000,000,000 pesos - or \$1.8 billion - that comes from the federal government.

SOURCES:

- Arvizu, Juan and Andrea Merlos. "Diputado exige que gobernadores rindan cuentas." *El Universal*. January 8, 2010. Press Release. "Mexico debe continuar comprometido con la reforma a sus finanzas publicas, dice el OCDE." Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development. January 7, 2009. http://www.oecd.org/document/50/0,3343,en_2649_34487_44355570_1_1_1_1,00&en-USS_01DBC.html
- Ramos, Jorge and Andrea Merlos. "FCH and OCDE exigent fin a opacidad en estados." *El Universal*. January 8, 2009. "Mexico necesita reformar sus finanzas publicas: OCDE." *Milenio*. January 7, 2010. "SHCP pide consolidar transparencia en estados." *Notimex* published in *El Universal*. January 10, 2010

The IFAI resolves more than 6,000 claims in 2009

More Mexicans filed requests for public information than ever before in 2009, according to the Federal Institute for Access to Information (IFAI). A total of 114,695 requests for information were filed with federal agencies around the country, and from that number 5.1% met the criteria for a formal review process by the IFAI.

The IFAI resolved, on average, 100 of these requests per week, adding up to a total of 6,330 reviews in 2009. The majority of the requests were filed for information from: the Mexican Institute of Social Security, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Hacienda and Public Credit. The IFAI attributes part of the increase from their efforts to educate the public on the process of filing a public information request.

In sharing the annual figures, the IFAI noted that 2009 was a significant year with the inclusion of several new commission members and other structural changes. Jacqueline Peschard joined IFAI as its new

president and three of the five commissioners were replaced. The new commissioners are: Angel Trinidad Zaldiva, Maria Elena Perez-Jaen Zermeno, and Sigrid Arzt Colunga.

SOURCES:

"Resolvio IFAI este ano cifra historica de 6 mil 330 recursos de revision." *Notimex in La Jornada*. December 29, 2009

Educators will help decide which textbooks are chosen for Mexican students

The general director of a government commission that distributes school textbooks said that this year the textbook selection process for middle school grades will include the input of teachers from ten states. Miguel Agustin Limon Macias, the director general of the National Commission of Free Textbooks (CONALITEG), stated that this is part of a series of reforms intended to create greater transparency in the education system.

Rather than receive books that are selected by the government without any formal input, the teachers will be able to choose their preferred textbooks from a list of 315 books. The teachers will choose the books in February and March of this year through a selection process on the Internet. Afterwards, orders will be sent to the printers for national distribution in the 2010-2011 school year. In past years, CONALITEG has faced allegations of conflict of interest in regards to book contracts and orders for books that economically benefited certain public functionaries and their families. In 2007, the Federal Attorney General's office investigated 13 ex-functionaries of the CONALITEG in regards to allegations of abuse of authority during the book contract process.

Every year, the government distributes 187 million free books for students. The Secretary of Education and Culture in Sonora, Oscar Ochoa Patron, told the media that the teacher input will improve the choices that determine education quality. Sonora is one of the ten states that will participate in the voting process.

SOURCES:

"Sonora se incluyo en el proceso y seleccion de libros de textos de secundaria." *Termometro En Linea*. January 16, 2010. Barajas, Abel. "Va PGR por funcionarios de la Comision de Libros." *El Mañana*. December 4, 2007.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Proposal to create IFAI review process faces criticism

Several public information advocacy groups are criticizing a proposal to create a federal judicial branch to review resolutions made by the Federal Institute of Transparency and Access to Public Information (IFAI). Representatives from the group Comaip, which comprises all the commissions and institutions that advocate guarantees to public information in Mexico, called the government proposal "unconstitutional" and a step backward for the country.

Oscar Guerra Ford, the president of the Institute of Access to Public Information in the Federal District, claimed that the federal government was acting in a contradictory manner in taking steps to reduce the independence of the Federal Institute while at the same time calling for greater transparency in regards to how government funds are being used. "To allow for government groups to turn to another authority in regards to the IFAI resolutions is worrisome," he told *El Universal*.

Haydee Perez, a specialist with the group Fundar, said that creating such a special tribunal will lead to a longer and more bureaucratic process for public information requests. Perez said this contradicts the government's intended purpose of creating an affordable and expedited way for the public to obtain access to information.

SOURCES:

Morales, Alberto. "Organismos se preocupan por intentos de limitar a IFAI." *El Universal*. January 8, 2010.

Federal Electoral Institute criticized in case of former Sonora Governor Eduardo Bours

A federal tribunal has found "serious omissions" after reviewing a determination by the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) that absolved an ex-Sonoran governor accused of improper electoral activities.

The Electoral Tribunal of the *Poder Judicial de la Federacion* ordered the IFE to reopen the case file regarding an accusation against the former Sonoran governor, Eduardo Bours of the Institutional Revolutionary Party. Bours allegedly allowed for government planes to be used by PRI political candidates during the previous election season. The complaint was filed by the National Action Party.

The IFE had previously determined that nothing improper was done regarding the use of public funds and properties to assist the PRI federal candidates during the previous July elections. The Tribunal is requesting that the IFE pursue additional information regarding the dates that the planes were used, and the reason for why they were used during the time frame raised in the complaint.

The Tribunal also revoked sanctions leveled by the Institute against a number of electoral observer groups. In one case, the IFE had sanctioned a group that had not even participated during last year's elections.

SOURCES:

Martinez, Fabiola. "Magistrados del TEPJF ordenad al IFE reabrir expediente contra Bours. *La Jornada*. December 24, 2009

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

HUMAN RIGHTS

National Human Rights Commission reports on 2009 activity

The National Human Rights Commission reported at the end of 2009 that it had responded to 1,156 human rights violations over the course of the year. The improper fulfillment of public services and arbitrary detentions were the most common complaints. Of the 75 recommendations emitted by the Commission, the Mexican Army was the subject of 29. The military has come under increasing criticism for alleged human rights abuses against Mexican citizens, including arbitrary detentions, illegal home searches, and even forced disappearances. In Guerrero alone, the state human rights commission documented 143 complaints against the military in 2009, alleging illegal home searches, arbitrary detentions, abuse of authority, robbery, property damage, intimidations, and physical injury. In addition, six complaints involved allegations of torture and one involved homicide.

In its report, the CNDH did not clarify how many of the 1,156 complaints with which it actually followed through. The organization has been widely criticized in recent years as overly bureaucratic and ineffective in performing its duties involving holding the government accountable for domestic human rights abuses. Critics hold out little hope that things will improve much under Raúl Plascencia, who served as the primary investigator under his predecessor, José Luis Soberanes.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.



Jose Luis Soberanes

Raúl Plascencia

SOURCE:

"Ombudsman apreció más de 1.150 violaciones a los DD.HH. en México este año." *EFE* Dec. 27, 2009.

Groups demand protection for human rights activists in Chihuahua

Amnesty International joined a chorus of domestic human rights groups in demanding that the Mexican government provide more protection to defenders of human rights, after the assassination of a prominent human rights activist in Ciudad Juárez. The group also demanded a thorough investigation into the January 3 murder of Josefina Reyes Salazar, and that those responsible for the killing be brought to justice. Reyes was shot in the head after resisting a group of armed men who tried to abduct her. She had been an outspoken critic of military operations in Juárez, and some suspect military involvement in her killing.

Family members of Josefina Reyes have criticized the offices of the Attorneys General of Chihuahua and Mexico (PGJE and PGR, respectively) for ignoring Reyes' reports of multiple death threats against her. Amnesty International stated that other Juárez activists and community organizers have also been threatened, particularly Cipriana Jurado, who has worked with the organization in cases of alleged military abuses. Just a week before Reyes' death, she and Jurado had approached a military official regarding a death and two forced disappearances documented by Amnesty International, in which the military has been implicated.

The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) has requested that the Mexican government specifically provide protection to Cipriana Jurado, who has expressed fear for her life since Reyes' assassination. With Reyes' death, six activists and their family members have been assassinated in Chihuahua over the past two years.

SOURCES:

Villalpando, R. et. al. "Exige Amnistía Internacional proteger a activistas en Juárez." *La Jornada* Jan. 6, 2010.
"Piden protección para activista en Chihuahua." *El Universal* Jan. 8, 2010.

Human rights groups deplore appointment of Robledo Madrid to head Federal Ministerial Police

Human rights defenders have been vociferous in their objections to the appointment of Navy Vice Admiral Wilfrido Robledo Madrid to head the Federal Ministerial Police (PM). Robledo Madrid was reportedly responsible for designing and executing the 2006 operation in San Salvador Atenco that resulted in widespread accusations of police brutality, particularly against women in the community.

The decision to appoint Robledo Madrid to head the PM, formerly the Federal Agency of Investigations (AFI) and under the command and supervision of the Federal Attorney General's Office (PGR) was due to his command experience, and a decision that the PGR would take on a more determining role in combating organized crime, according to Attorney General Arturo Chávez. Aside from being implicated in the Atenco operation during his tenure as head of security for Mexico State, he was also investigated for the unauthorized acquisition of an airplane for nearly a million dollars. He was ultimately exonerated by the PGR.

Human rights groups, particularly the Centro de Derechos Humanos Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez have said that the appointment of Robledo Madrid is another example of the Mexican government's disdain for human rights. The group was also an outspoken critic in 2008 of the appointment of Arturo Chávez to replace Eduardo Medina Mora as federal attorney general. Chávez has been widely criticized for his failure to investigate and punish hundreds of unsolved femicides in Ciudad Juárez as attorney general of Chihuahua.

SOURCES:

Blancas Madrigal, Daniel. "Dirigirá el almirante Wilfrido Robledo la Policía Federal Ministerial." *La Crónica de Hoy* Dec. 18, 2009.
"Lamentan ratificación de Wilfrido Robledo como responsable de la Policía Federal Ministerial." *SDP Noticias* Dec. 21, 2009.

PRESS FREEDOM

Crime reporter assassinated in Coahuila; another disappeared in Sinaloa

The body of a Coahuila crime reporter for the *Zócalo Saltillo* newspaper was found a day after he and a colleague were kidnapped in the northern border state. Valentín Valdés Espinosa, 29, and his coworker were kidnapped by some ten gunmen as they were driving in the capital city of Saltillo. A third journalist who was driving the car was left behind unharmed. Espinosa's body was found outside a Saltillo hotel bound and gagged, showing signs of torture. The second reporter, whose name has been withheld, was reportedly released unharmed. Found on Valdés Espinosa's body was a note reading "This will happen to those who don't understand that the message is for everybody."

The National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), which has opened an investigation into the murder, reports 59 journalists killed since 2000 and nine disappeared – representing the tenures of PAN

Presidents Vicente Fox and Felipe Calderón. Twelve were killed in 2009. Valdés Espinosa's killing was preceded in Coahuila by the 2006 murder of Rafael Ortiz Martínez, a reporter for *Zocalo de Monclova*, and the assassination of Eliseo Barrón Hernández of *La Opinión Milenio de Torreón* in May of last year. Neither case has resulted in a conviction. The CNDH in a press release sharply criticized the Federal Attorney General's Office for failing to resolve any of the murders of journalists registered since 2000, and demanded that the agency fulfill its functions in properly investigating the cases.

In Sinaloa, a radio reporter in the Los Mochis municipality was kidnapped along with an ex-soldier as they were eating lunch in a local marketplace. José Luis Romero, who reports on public security for the *Línea Directa* radio station, was found dead on January 16 on the side of a Sinaloa highway, and had apparently been dead for around two weeks. Investigators suggested a possible link between Romero's kidnapping and the killing the same night of the chief of investigations of the state's ministerial police, also in Los Mochis. The radio station for which Romero reported has expressed its belief that his killing was linked to his work. Two state public prosecutors have been assigned to investigate the kidnapping and murder. The Federal Attorney General's Office (PGR) has also reportedly opened an investigation, although the agency has not reported on any progress made.

The two most recent journalist killings have renewed calls for the Mexican Senate to usher through pending legislation that would federalize crimes against journalists, which stalled after passing through the Chamber of Deputies last year. Crimes against journalists reached their highest level in 2009, with 12 killed. The bulk of journalist deaths occurred in states most affected by cartel violence: three were killed in each of the states of Chihuahua, Durango, and Guerrero. The states of Coahuila, Michoacán and Veracruz each suffered one journalist assassination.

SOURCES:

- Valdez Cárdenas, Javier. "Levantán a reportero de noticiario radiofónico en Los Mochis, Sinaloa." *La Jornada* Jan. 2, 2010.
Ramos, Leopoldo. "Levantán y ejecutan a reportero del diario *Zócalo*, en Coahuila." *La Jornada* Jan. 9, 2010.
Ferreyra, Carlos. "Periodistas: ¿a quién le importan?" *La Crónica de Hoy* Jan. 10, 2010.
Cabrera, Javier. "Abren pesquisas dos MP por reportero levantado." *El Universal* Jan. 12, 2010.
García, Dennis A. "CNDH ha registrado en 10 años 58 asesinatos de periodistas." *La Crónica de Hoy* Jan. 12, 2010.
"Aparece el cadáver del periodista secuestrado en Sinaloa." *El Diario de Yucatán* Jan. 16, 2009.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

U.S. issues humanitarian visa to a Juárez radio journalist and his family

U.S. immigration authorities issued a six-month humanitarian parole to a Ciudad Juárez journalist and his wife and children, who fled to El Paso after he received death threats following the murders of two of his nephews, 15 and 19 years old. Ricardo Chávez Aldana and his family crossed the border from Ciudad Juárez into neighboring El Paso last month, where he asked U.S. immigration authorities for protection. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), "humanitarian parole is used sparingly to bring someone who is otherwise inadmissible into the United States for a temporary period of time due to a compelling emergency."

Chávez's sister, the mother of the two slain youths, remains in a detention center. Chávez, a radio journalist, says that his family was targeted because of his criticisms of the government's failure to control the violence that has escalated in Ciudad Juárez. He says that he first received a threat about three months ago, 15 minutes after a report he made criticizing the state attorney general. Several weeks before his nephews were killed someone tried to set his car on fire.

Also in December, the Obama administration announced that it would stop detaining asylum seekers requesting refuge in the United States if they can show a credible threat of persecution in their country. To be released into the United States pending a hearing in front of an immigration judge, asylum seekers will also have to show a proof of identity, and show that they are not dangerous or a flight risk, according to a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement press release. Asylum seekers will still spend some time in detention while undergoing interviews and review, although officials hope that the new policy will reduce the time that many asylum seekers must spend. The new policy, which took effect on January 4, requires

that all asylum seekers be considered for parole, in contrast to the previous policy, which required that asylum seekers request parole in writing.

SOURCES:

"ICE issues new procedures for asylum seekers as part of ongoing detention reform initiatives." *Immigration and Customs Enforcement* press release Dec. 16, 2009.
"Otorga EU visa humanitaria a periodista juarenses." *El Diario de Juarez* Dec. 19, 2009.
Borunda, Daniel. "Journalist, family seek political asylum." *El Paso Times* Jan. 8, 2010.

AROUND THE STATES

PAN and PRD opposes current trajectory of justice reform in Mexico State



Representatives of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) and the National Action Party (PAN) view the approval of justice reforms in the state as unacceptable. The reforms would allow Governor Enrique Peña Nieto to designate the state's Supreme Court justices, as well as seven members of the Judicial Council. Luis Sánchez Jiménez, leader of the PRD in the state, accused PRI lawmakers and their allies of pushing the reform through without giving the rest of the legislature a chance to read it. Referring to Peña Nieto as a "little dictator," he said that the change gives way to a "manipulation of a power [the judiciary] that should be autonomous."

Lawmakers have scrambled to find a way to revisit the legislation. The day it was passed, Mexico State's Supreme Court president José Castillo Ambriz presented his resignation, but it was rejected. Other judges demanded that Peña Nieto veto the legislation, but the governor has defended it, arguing that other states have applied similar frameworks.

SOURCE:

Dávila, Israel and Javier Salinas. "Se oponen PAN y PRD en Edomex a reforma judicial." *La Jornada* Dec. 20, 2009.

Hundreds of Veracruz prisoners transferred for Mel Gibson shoot



Mexican authorities ordered the transfer of more than 300 prisoners from a prison in the state of Veracruz to at least four other prisons in the same state. Several Mexican newspapers have reported that the move was made to accommodate the filming of several scenes for a movie directed by Mel Gibson. Roughly 1,200 prisoners will remain in the 100 year-old Ignacio Allende prison while Gibson films. The construction of another prison that will replace Ignacio Allende is reportedly underway.

Families of prisoners have protested the move, concerned for their safety, and complaining that it will be make visits more difficult for them. The prisoners have all been convicted of serious crimes, including robbery, homicide, kidnapping, and drug trafficking. In 2006, Gibson filmed the movie *Apocalypto* in the state of Veracruz, and in 2005 he gave the state US\$1 million for hurricane relief.

SOURCES:

"Transfieren a reos por cinta de Gibson." *Milenio* Jan. 10, 2010.
Child, Ben. "Mel Gibson shoot displaces Mexican prisoners." *The Guardian* Jan. 12, 2010.

Morelos' Congress requests information about military operations and investigations into organized crime in state



In an extraordinary session, Morelos legislators voted unanimously to request information from the Federal Attorney General's Office (PGR) regarding investigations and operations against organized crime that took place last year in Tepoztlán and Cuernavaca between December 11 and 16. In those operations, which resulted in the death of cartel boss Arturo Beltrán Leyva, two civilians were killed and a woman was injured. Morelos deputies

also agreed that Governor Marco Antonio Adame Castillo should step down from his position until it has been determined whether he has ties to the now-embattled Beltrán Leyva cartel.

Morelos legislators hope that information from the PGR will help them to determine what actions, if any, should be taken against Governor Adame Castillo and other state officials accused of involvement in organized crime.

SOURCES:

- Vega Giles, René. "Congreso de Morelos pedirá información sobre operativos en la entidad a la PGR." *La Crónica de Hoy* Jan. 14, 2010.
Morelos Cruz, Rubicela. "En Morelos piden informes a la PGR sobre operativos antinarco." *La Jornada* Jan. 16, 2009.

Morelos attorneys want a comprehensive review of oral trials

Citing concern that the general public is not aware of the results thus far in the application of oral trials in Morelos, the president of the state's attorney association, Cipriano Sotelo Salgado, stressed the need for the state government to publicize the results of justice reforms in the state, enacted over a year ago. Such an evaluation, he says, could help to inform the public, and ensure that justice reform efforts in the state do not break down.

Morelos joined Chihuahua, Nuevo León, and Oaxaca in late 2008 as one of the first states to enact justice reforms passed by Mexico's Congress earlier in the year. Under the constitutional reforms, states have eight years to adopt the changes, which involve the inception of oral trials, along with deepening the investigative powers of local, state and federal police forces. Coahuila and the Federal District both hope to enact oral trials by the end of 2010.

SOURCES:

- Martínez, Fernando. "Prevén oralidad de juicios en un año." *El Universal* Dec. 26, 2009.
"Juicios orales a partir de 2010." *Milenio* Dec. 28, 2009.
Cuevas Villalobos, Elizabeth. "Penalistas demandan evaluar juicios orales." *La Jornada Morelos* Dec. 28, 2009.

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>.*

About the Report: *The Justice in Mexico Project produces monthly news reports based on regular monitoring of international, national, and sub-national developments affecting the rule of law Mexico. The project also provides periodic updates to its news blog at <http://justiceinmexico.wordpress.com/>, and stores archives of past reports at <http://www.justiceinmexico.org>. This report was compiled by TBI Research Associates Cory Molzahn and Anna Cearley, with editing and research assistance from ElisseLarouche, Theresa Firestine, and Nicole Ramos. All maps and tables generated by TBI; all photos obtained from Wikicommons. Any opinions expressed in attributions for this summary are those manifested in the media reports and op-ed pieces compiled herein, and not those of the University of San Diego, the Trans-Border Institute, or its sponsors. Please report any questions, corrections, or concerns to transborder@sandiego.edu.*

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