



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Mexico - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 23 June 2015**

### **Information on corruption of police~military and collusion with drug cartels;**

*BBC News* in January 2015 notes:

“...collusion between local authorities, police and criminal gangs” (*BBC News* (27 January 2015) *Mexico missing: Thousands march to demand full investigation*).

In February 2015 a report released commenting on 2014 by *Amnesty International* notes that:

“In September, municipal police in the town of Iguala in collusion with organized criminals were responsible for the enforced disappearance of 43 students from a teacher training college in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero state” (*Amnesty International* (25 February 2015) *Amnesty International Report 2014/15 – Mexico*).

*Amnesty International* in March 2015 points out that:

“Abductions and killings are routinely attributed to criminal gangs and not fully investigated to establish the circumstances of the crimes or whether police and security forces are implicated in abuses, such as excessive use of force or summary executions” (*Amnesty International* (19 March 2015) *Tamaulipas state: Dafne Alejandra de la Cruz at risk of reprisals from the army after filing a complaint related to the death of her husband*).

In February 2015 a publication issued by *Freedom House* commenting on events of the preceding points out that:

“Members of organized crime have persisted in their attempts to infiltrate local governments in order to ensure their own impunity” (*Freedom House* (27 February 2015) *Freedom in the World 2015 – Mexico*).

This document also notes that:

“According to a government survey released in September 2014, nearly 94 percent of crimes committed in 2013 went unreported because the underpaid police are viewed as either inept or in league with criminals. Even when investigations are conducted, only a handful of crimes end in convictions” (*ibid*).

*CBC News* in April 2015 comments on the drug war stating that:

“...police and local administrations were too often bought out by the drug cartels” (*CBC News* (15 April 2015) *Mexico's changing drug war: Can activism succeed where the army can't?*).

In May 2015 a report issued by *Business Anti-Corruption* states, citing other sources, that:

“Mexico's police are perceived to be highly corrupt, incompetent and unreliable due to infiltration by organised crime groups and the influence of corrupt politicians...Mexican police are frequently reported to be involved in extortion, kidnappings and providing protection for organised crime in exchange for bribes...In September 2014, dozens of Mexican police officers were accused of kidnapping 43 students in the town of Iguala and handing them over to a local drug gang to later be killed under the order of a high-level politician; the case is indicative of the high-level of corruption and impunity within Mexico's law enforcement authorities...” (Business Anti-Corruption (May 2015) *Mexico*).

The *Los Angeles Times* in May 2015 states:

“The drug business has corrupted local institutions and complicity between the police and drug gangs is commonplace” (Los Angeles Times (13 May 2015) *Internal U.S. documents detail 'alarming questions' about Mexico violence*).

In July 2015 *Business Monitor International* notes:

“Local police collusion with gangs and the reluctance of witnesses to come forward still make it difficult to convict cartel members” (Business Monitor International (1 July 2015) *Mexico - Q3 2015*).

An undated document published by *Insight Crime* notes that:

“Several large drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) dominate the Mexican underworld. Other, smaller groups traffic contraband, weapons, humans and other illegal goods through and across the country's borders. These groups operate with the complicity of, and often in conjunction with, government officials and members of the security forces” (Insight Crime (Undated) *Mexico*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

### **Information on murders by drug cartels including: are they investigated by the police; how many are recorded annually; how many are unresolved**

In February 2015 *Eurasia Review* citing another sources states:

“In Mexico, where just eight of every 100 crimes committed are reported and only 1 percent of crimes are investigated by prosecutors, this allows 99 percent of crimes to go unpunished...” (Eurasia Review (11 February 2015) *Uncivil Society: Death As A Way Of Life In Mexico – Analysis*).

In March 2015 the *United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office* notes that:

“The Mexican National Institute of Statistics and Geography estimates that in 2013 impunity reached its highest recorded rate yet – with 93.8% of crimes either not reported to the authorities or not investigated, mostly due to fear of extortion, the long and difficult processes required, or lack of trust in the authorities” (United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (12 March 2015) *Human Rights and Democracy: The 2014 Foreign & Commonwealth Office Report [Case Study: Mexico and Impunity]*).

The *Institute for Economics and Peace* points out in a report issued in March 2015 that:

“The national homicide rate peaked in 2011, and has fallen every year since, according to police data” (Institute for Economics and Peace (March 2015) *Mexico Peace Index 2015: Analyzing the Changing Dynamics of Peace in Mexico*, p.18).

This report also states:

“Police recorded data shows a drop in the national homicide rate from 19 per 100,000 people in 2012 to 13 in 2014. IEP analysis suggests that the homicide rate peaked in 2011 at 20 per 100,000, and whilst there are concerns regarding police recorded homicide data, all of the homicide datasets that track Mexico’s national homicide rate show a decrease in 2012 and 2013. There were a total of 15,855 homicides from December 2013 to November 2014, as compared to 18,331 over the same time period in 2013” (ibid, p.20).

This document also notes that:

“There are several sources of homicide data in Mexico. SESNSP data, which is used by IEP in the MPI, looks at the number of open police investigations into homicides started during the measurement period. The INEGI homicide dataset, which is not updated as frequently as the SESNSP data, uses a health system rather than police assessments to determine whether an incident is classed as a homicide or not” (ibid, p.22).

It is also noted in this report that:

“Most Mexican statistics are compiled by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI). In the case of crime and security statistics, one of the primary sources is the Executive Secretary of the National System for Public Security (SESNSP)...” (ibid, p.79).

A table on page 80 of the *Institute for Economics and Peace* report compares INEGI and SESNSP homicide statistics (ibid, p.80).

A publication issued in March 2015 by the *United States Department of State* notes:

“At the state and municipal level, law enforcement officials remain under-resourced, inadequately trained, and vulnerable to corruption” (United States Department of State (March 2015) *2015 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR), Country Report: Mexico*

This document also notes that:

“The most recent available Government of Mexico statistics indicate that from 2012 to 2013, reported homicides decreased by approximately 14 percent. Nevertheless, reported kidnappings and extortions rose sharply by 25.7 percent and 29.1 percent, respectively. A survey published in September by Mexico’s statistics agency (INEGI) found that 94 percent of total crimes and 99 percent of kidnappings went either unreported or uninvestigated in 2013” (ibid).

A *Justice in Mexico* report published in April 2015 notes that:

“In Guerrero, the federal government pronounced that public security operations within 13 municipalities had been controlled by organized crime, prompting its intervention. Tomás Zerón de Lucio, head of the Criminal Investigation Agency of Mexico’s Attorney General’s Office (Procuraduría General de la República, PGR), said that the leadership of municipal police forces had also been handpicked by local criminal organizations to work on behalf of their interests. According to Zerón de Lucio, these groups decided which operations would be carried out and when, and that the only distinction between criminals and police was their official designation” (Justice in Mexico (28 April 2015) *Drug Violence in Mexico: Data and Analysis Through 2014*, p.34).

This document also points out that:

“Neither of the two official sources on homicide statistics identifies whether there is a connection to organized crime in a particular case, such as “drug” killings. However, both government and independent sources have attempted to do so by examining other variables associated with a given crime. For example, characteristic signs of possible organized crime involvement in a homicide might include the fact that the victim was carrying an illegal weapon, was transporting drugs, had been abducted, was killed in a particular fashion, or was under investigation for organized crime activities. These kinds of details are available to criminal investigators and analysts and are compiled by the SNSP...Based on such characteristics, in addition to tracking the total number of homicides, the Mexican government has also maintained records for the last several years on the number of homicides attributable to drug trafficking and organized crime. Early figures on “drug-related” homicides were reported by Mexico’s National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) from 2000-2008, based on data from the Mexican Attorney General’s Office...However, just as violence began to increase, the Mexican government stopped releasing this information, on the grounds that organized crime killings are not codified by law and are methodologically difficult to compile. This provoked significant pressure from researchers, media organizations, civic groups, and the government’s autonomous transparency agency, leading the government to release such information sporadically from 2010 to 2013...However, since mid-2013, the Mexican government has not released figures identifying the number of organized crime-style figures.” (ibid, pp.43-44).

In May 2015 *Business Insider* notes that:

“An overwhelming majority of murders throughout the country aren’t prosecuted or thoroughly investigated. According to the UN, only 1-2% of the 102,696 homicides that took place in Mexico between December 2006 and November 2012 were investigated to conviction. Of those homicides, an estimated 70% were in some way drug related” (Business Insider (14 May 2015) *Mexico’s drug war is getting even worse*).

In June 2015 an article published by *The Daily Telegraph* states:

“There were 1,374 murders in Mexico in April, the highest monthly total in a year” (The Daily Telegraph (8 June 2015) *Mexico Deploys Army of 40,000 to Protect Voters After Wave of Drug Cartel Killings*).

No further information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints.

This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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