The Mexican Drug War

Although Mexican drug cartels, or drug trafficking organizations, have existed for several decades, they have become more powerful since the demise of the Colombian Cali and Medellin cartels in the 1990s. **Mexican drug cartels now dominate the wholesale illicit drug market and in 2007 controlled 90% of the cocaine entering the United States.** Arrests of key cartel leaders, particularly in the Tijuana and Gulf cartels, has led to increasing drug violence as cartels fight for control of the trafficking routes into the United States.

By the end of Felipe Calderón's administration (2006–2012), the official death toll of the Mexican Drug War was at least 60,000, although unconfirmed accounts set the homicide rate above 100,000 victims, given the large number of people who have disappeared.

Analysts estimate that wholesale earnings from illicit drug sales range from $13.6 billion to $49.4 billion annually. **Drugs supplied include marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin, ecstasy, and more.**

Photos (Caution: Graphic Images)
http://projects.latimes.com/mexico-drug-war/#/multimedia-gallery/125

Mexico Drug War Fast Facts
By CNN Library
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(CNN) -- Here's a look at what you need to know about the Mexican Drug War. The Mexican government has been fighting a war with drug traffickers since December 2006. At the same time, drug cartels have fought each other for control of territory. More than 60,000 people have been killed from 2006 to 2012, according to Human Rights Watch.

Facts:
There are approximated 6,700 licensed firearms dealers in the U.S. along the U.S.-Mexico border. There is only one legal firearms retailer in Mexico.

Nearly 70% of guns recovered from Mexican criminal activity from 2007 to 2011, and traced by the U.S. government, originated from sales in the United States.

Ninety percent of the cocaine that enters the U.S. transits through Mexico. Mexico is also a main supplier of marijuana and methamphetamines in the U.S.

Mexican drug cartels take in between $19 and $29 billion annually from U.S. drug sales.
Major Cartels:
Beltran Leyva - Founded by the four Beltran Leyva brothers, Arturo, Carlos, Alfredo and Hector. Formerly aligned with the Sinaloa cartel, now aligned with Los Zetas against the Sinaloa, Gulf and La Familia Michoacana cartels.

Gulf Cartel - Based in Matamoros, Tamaulipas. Formerly one of the most powerful cartels.

Juarez Cartel - Formerly aligned with the Sinaloa Cartel, now fighting it for control of Ciudad Juarez and the state of Chihuahua.

La Familia Michoacana - Based in the Michoacan state. Possibly defunct as of 2011.

Los Zetas Cartel - Comprised of former elite members of the Mexican military. Initially they worked as hit men for the Gulf Cartel, before becoming independent. They know battle the Gulf cartel for control of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon.

Sinaloa Cartel - Considered to be the dominant drug trafficking organization in Mexico. Led by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

Tijuana/Arellano Felix Cartel - Based in Tijuana. Most of the Arellano Felix brothers have been apprehended or killed.

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**Mexican mayor and wife wanted over disappearance of 43 students**

Students went missing from Iguala in the south-western state of Guerrero after clashing with police in September

Reuters in Mexico City

The Guardian, Thursday 23 October 2014 03.42 EDT

 relatives of the 43 missing students during a protest at Zocalo square in Mexico City. Photograph: Tomas Bravo/Reuters

A Mexican mayor and his wife were the “probable masterminds” behind the disappearance of 43 student teachers last month, the country’s attorney general has said as he issued arrest warrants for the pair.

The students went missing on 26 September from Iguala in the south-western state of Guerrero after they clashed with police. The incident sent shockwaves across Mexico and undermined President Enrique Peña Nieto’s claims that Mexico is getting safer under his watch.

So far, federal authorities have arrested 52 people in connection with the incident, including dozens of police with links to a gang called Guerreros Unidos, or United Warriors. The gang’s leader, Sidronio Casarrubias, was caught last week.
Thousands marched in Iguala on Wednesday to protest against the disappearance of the student teachers. After the march, masked men set fire to the municipal offices with molotov cocktails and smashed the windows.

In Mexico City, the attorney general, Jesus Murillo, said Casarrubias had told prosecutors that Iguala’s mayor, José Luis Abarca, and his wife, Maria de los Ángeles Pineda, had ordered two local police forces to stop the students from disrupting a political event that day.

“We have issued warrants for the arrest of Iguala mayor José Luis Abarca, his wife Mrs Pineda Villa and police chief Felipe Flores Velázquez, as probable masterminds of the events that occurred in Iguala on 26 September,” Murillo said at a press conference.

During the incident, police shot and killed one student and detained the others before turning them over to Guerreros Unidos gang members, Murillo added. He said the gang then mistook the students for members of rival criminal group Los Rojos, or The Reds.

He also said that according to Casarrubias’ information, Pineda, who the government says comes from a family of high-ranking drug traffickers, was Guerreros Unidos’s top boss within the Iguala government.

Authorities continue to investigate nine mass graves in the area where they have already found 30 bodies. Initial examinations showed none of the bodies belonged to the students.

The case has overshadowed Peña Nieto’s bid to restore order in Mexico and shift the focus away from endemic gang violence and on to economic growth in Latin America’s second biggest economy. Drug violence exploded during the rule of his predecessor, Felipe Calderón, and has claimed about 100,000 lives since 2007.

Security forces killed 19 suspected criminals in the state of Tamaulipas on Tuesday alone, the state government said on Wednesday.

Making the Connections
Part 1: Chicago Homicides
Part 2: Guns from the United States

Part 1: Chicago Homicides
Five hundred and six people were murdered in Chicago last year. It was the kind of news that got John Lippert thinking.

Heroin Pushed on Chicago by Cartel Fueling Gang Murders
By John Lippert, Nacha Cattan and Mario Parker - Sep 17, 2013 Bloomberg Markets Magazine

The two Mexican couriers were hauling a tractor-trailer full of cash: $3 million collected for drugs sold on the streets of Chicago. Juan Gonzalez and David Zuniga were driving their rig through Indiana in October 2011, transporting the money to Mexico. As they stopped to fix a flat tire, three members of the Gangster Disciples, Chicago’s biggest street gang, held them up at gunpoint.
The gang had bought the drugs -- and now these members wanted the money back. They pistol-whipped and handcuffed Zuniga. As the gangsters were hooking their own purple Kenworth cab to the money-laden trailer, Gonzalez fled through a cornfield and called the police.

After a 15-mile chase north along Interstate 65, lawmen intercepted the rogue truck, arrested the gang members and recovered the loot, Bloomberg Markets magazine will report in its October issue.
Gonzalez, who worked for Mexican drug lord Joaquin Guzman, made a surprising request that fall day: He wanted proof for cartel leaders that police had confiscated the $3 million.

“He knew, without a receipt, they’d kill him or his family in Mexico,” says Jack Riley, head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for a five-state region that includes Illinois and Indiana.

Such is the fear that Guzman inspires on both sides of the border. Operating from heavily guarded compounds in the Sierra Madre of northern Mexico, Guzman’s Sinaloa cartel supplies 80 percent of the heroin, cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamine -- with a street value of $3 billion -- that floods the Chicago region each year, the DEA says. Job seekers in Guzman’s 150,000-strong enterprise must list where their relatives live.

Get Shorty
As far as the authorities can tell, 5-foot-6-inch (1.68-meter) Guzman, a grade school dropout known as El Chapo (or Shorty), has never set foot in Chicago.

Yet during the past seven years, Guzman, who’s now in his late 50s, has seized control of the supply and wholesale distribution of drugs in Chicago and much of the Midwest.

This steady flow of dangerous substances is sparking pitched and often deadly turf wars between Chicago’s splintered, largely African-American and Latino gangs.

“Most of Chicago’s violent crime comes from gangs trying to maintain control of drug-selling territories,” Riley says. “Guzman supplies a majority of the narcotics that fuel this violence.”

Confounding Police
The Department of Justice indicted Guzman in absentia in Chicago in August 2009, charging him with conspiring to transport drugs across international borders. He has so far confounded all efforts by Mexican and U.S. authorities to put him and his cartel out of business. Two years after officers thwarted the Indiana hijacking, police still intercept drugs or cash heading in or out of Chicago every couple of weeks. That pales in comparison to what they miss.

“We’re lucky to stop a 10th of what’s going through,” says Terry Risner, sheriff of Jasper County, Indiana, 80 miles (130 kilometers) southeast of the city.
The pipeline of Sinaloa drugs to Chicago runs through the predominantly Mexican neighborhood known as Little Village on the city’s southwest side, authorities say. Yet four years after federal prosecutors indicted twins Margarito and Pedro Flores for being key Guzman distributors in Little Village, police don’t know who has succeeded them.

‘Home Port’
The drugs continue to pour in. In a 2006 conversation monitored by Mexican police, Guzman said he wanted to make America’s third-largest city his “home port.”

He’s done that, says Art Bilek, a retired detective who’s executive vice president of the Chicago Crime Commission, a public-safety group that in February named Guzman the city’s public enemy No. 1.

“We had freelance distributors in Chicago before,” Bilek says. “Guzman has taken them over one by one. He centralized everything -- the shipping, warehousing and distribution of drugs, and the collection and transport of money back to Mexico.”

Chicago had cartel drugs in the past but not cartel leaders, Bilek says.

“Now, Guzman has top people in here to make sure things run smoothly,” he says.

The link between drugs and crime, including violent crime, would be hard to overstate in Chicago. Eighty-six percent of adult males arrested in Chicago last year tested positive for drug use. Chicago, with a population of 2.7 million, had 506 murders in 2012, the highest per capita among the four most populous U.S. cities.

‘Heroin Epidemic’
So pervasive is narcotics commerce along the Eisenhower Expressway, the city’s main east-west artery, that federal authorities have nicknamed it the Heroin Highway.

The expressway leads to suburban DuPage County, where State’s Attorney Robert Berlin recently declared a “heroin epidemic.” Since the start of 2012, an average of one heroin user has died every eight-and-a-half days in the county, Berlin says, many of them in their teens and twenties and snorting Sinaloa’s product.

As the setting sun casts long shadows on a hot Friday in June, young men in low-riding jeans cluster on porches and around liquor stores near Pulaski Road and Van Buren Street, ready to do business. Keeping an eye out for police, the men lean into car windows, quickly consummating their transactions.

Gang members pay for their turf with blood. Harold “Noonie” Ward, a leader in the Gangster Disciples before going to jail in 1994 for selling drugs, links the persistence of street violence to Guzman’s stranglehold over supply. Ward says Chicago gangs were once able to pick among several Latin American vendors.

Supplier’s Power
With Guzman gaining near-monopoly control, they can’t negotiate prices: He personally dictates how much distributors pay his operatives, court documents allege. In the past decade, wholesale heroin prices have doubled in Chicago to the current cost of $80,000 a kilogram, says Nick Roti, head of anti-gang enforcement for the city’s police. For street sellers to keep profits flowing, they must seize ground in sometimes lethal block-by-block combat.

“The supplier has all the power now; he can set prices,” says Ward, 51, who’s chief executive officer of Block 8 Productions LLC, a record and film company. “It used to be honor among thieves,” he says of gang protocol that punished renegade behavior like the hijacking in Indiana. “Now, it’s by any means necessary.”

Memorials that have sprung up south and west of downtown reflect a grim statistic: The city suffers an average of more than five shootings and more than one murder every day.

Two Chicago
The crimes tell a tale of two Chicago. The number of murders in the city is half what it was during the crack epidemic of the early 1990s. Yet on portions of the South and West sides, killings are actually more common today, according to research done by Daniel Hertz, a graduate student at the University of Chicago. On the north side, with its parks and high-rise residences abutting Lake Michigan, murders have declined so much that the area now rivals Toronto as an oasis of urban safety, he says.

“Over the last twenty years, at the same time as overall crime has declined, the inequality of violence in Chicago has skyrocketed,” Hertz wrote.

The city prepared for another potential bout of bloodshed when schools reopened in late August: After Mayor Rahm Emanuel permanently closed 47 elementary schools in June, mostly in the murder-plagued south and west, the city agreed to hire 600 monitors to escort children through gang boundaries to their new classrooms.

Three days into the academic year, dismissal at one elementary had to be delayed because an 18-year-old woman was shot a few blocks from the school.

Obama Link
Across the street from the community center in Altgeld Gardens, a housing project on the far South Side where President Barack Obama once worked as an organizer, names of gunshot victims line a yellow-brick hallway.

In the South Shore neighborhood, a deflated heart-shaped balloon droops above candles, teddy bears and two white crosses. Police say the victim, 24-year-old Jordan Jefferson, was a Black P. Stone gang member who was on parole for a narcotics violation when he was gunned down on June 30. A note written on the wall behind the makeshift shrine reads: “Love you always. RIP. Your Mom.”

Losing Children
Eight people were killed during the Labor Day weekend. Four days around the Fourth of July holiday were even bloodier: 47 shootings left 11 people dead, according to the Chicago police. Two boys ran up behind 14-year-old Damani Henard and shot him in the head as he rode the bike he’d
received for eighth-grade graduation home from playing video games. Factions of the Four Corner Hustlers are battling over the neighborhood, and Damani was an unintended victim, police say.

“The streets of Chicago belong to gangbangers,” says Damani’s mother, Yolanda Paige, who, on the day Damani was killed, had made him tacos before leaving for a 16-hour day working two jobs as a nursing assistant.

“We’re losing our children,” she says.

Guzman grabbed control of Chicago partly by exploiting the disarray among its gangs. From the 1970s into the 2000s, organized mega-gangs divvied up drug-selling territories from public-housing towers, says Jody Weis, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent and Chicago Police Department superintendent from 2008 to 2011. The city razed the housing projects just as federal prosecutors were using new racketeering laws to convict and incarcerate gang leaders.

**Warring Factions**
Rudderless, Chicago’s more than 70,000 gang members split into an increasing number of warring factions. When police searched for the reason murders were on a pace to climb past 500 last year, they identified about 625 gang offshoots, including 100 they hadn’t previously known about.

“The biggest driver of violence in Chicago -- and where it’s becoming difficult to address -- is the factionalizing or breaking down of the bigger gangs into these smaller cliques,” Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy says.

Guzman stepped into the vacuum in Chicago by first winning a key stronghold in Mexico: the transshipment border town of Ciudad Juarez. He was born 300 miles south in the mountain village of La Tuna de Badiraguato, according to Malcolm Beith’s “The Last Narco: Inside the Hunt for El Chapo.” Relatives sponsored his rise in the drug trade, the book says.

Guzman set his sights on Juarez, a sprawling city of 1.5 million, when cartel leader Amado Carrillo Fuentes died during plastic surgery in 1997.

**Severed Limbs**
Incarcerated in a Jalisco, Mexico, prison on murder and drug-trafficking convictions, Guzman escaped in a laundry cart in 2001 and unleashed a spree of assassinations starting seven years later, police say. By 2012, he’d won much of Juarez and the route through El Paso, Texas, and highways north.

A 26-year-old member of the rival Aztec gang recounts those deadly days. Sitting in a sweltering room on a west Juarez street where a table fan strapped to a wooden beam provides no respite from the suffocating heat, the man runs his forefinger under his chin to show how he slit throats.

He recalls how hard it was to sever the arms and legs of one of his victims with a hacksaw because bones are so strong. In all, more than 10,000 people died in the mayhem that cemented Guzman’s grip on the Juarez crossing.

**Mexican Mud**
Today, Sinaloa hit men and kidnappers called the New People patrol the city, says Alejandro Hope, a former intelligence officer for Mexico’s government and now a security analyst at the Mexican Competitiveness Institute. The New People and allied gangs lure recruits -- and gain information -- with gifts, says the gang member, whose waist swims in his baggy jeans.

“They know all of our movements because they’re our friends,” he says, asking not to be identified because he feared reprisals.

Chicago’s connection to Mexican drugs goes back decades. Local Mexican-Americans sold brown heroin called Mexican mud in the 1970s, says Luis Astorga, a sociologist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Guzman inherited and improved that network along with channels that Ward, the former Gangster Disciple, says he set up in the early 1990s in Detroit, Minneapolis and elsewhere.

‘Logistical Genius’
Law enforcement officials say Guzman chose Chicago for the same reasons Sears, Roebuck & Co. once centered catalog sales in the city: It’s a transportation hub where highways and rail lines converge and then fan across the Midwest. The disappearance of factory jobs and the struggle of public schools on the city’s South and West sides also give Guzman tens of thousands of willing salesmen who are jobless and poorly educated.

In 2009, a Guzman distributor ran 11 warehouses and stash houses in Chicago and southwestern suburbs. One was in Bedford Park, steps from a facility used by FedEx Corp., operator of the world’s largest cargo airline.

“He’s a logistical genius and a hands-on guy,” Riley says, adding that Guzman is also a billionaire. “If he had turned his talents to legitimate business, he’d probably be in the same situation moneywise.”

The Chicago police strategy of saturating high-crime areas with patrols appears to be cutting the homicide rate. Murders through Sept. 8 fell 21 percent -- to 297 from 377 -- from the 2012 period. Yet the authorities have made scant progress in cracking Sinaloa’s supply chain.

More Arrests?
In January, 70 investigators led by the DEA set up what they call the Chicago Strike Force in a three-story building. One investigation spurred the indictment and arrest of 21 defendants in June for distributing heroin and cocaine in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Riley expects more arrests, though the narcotics keep flowing.

“The rivers of drugs coming into Chicago are diverse and sufficient to meet demand,” says John Hagedorn, a criminologist at the University of Illinois at Chicago. “This is not a war you can win.”

Civic leaders and police vowing to reduce the gunfire have homed in on gang-against-gang retribution. On the fifth floor of their South Side headquarters, police use facial-recognition software to scan images from 24,000 city surveillance cameras. Within minutes of a shooting, they send e-mails and texts about gang affiliations -- and potential locales for retaliation -- so patrols can swarm the trouble spots.

Cure Violence
In the neighborhoods, a Chicago nonprofit called Cure Violence tries to reduce shootings by removing potential attackers and victims from the streets. Frankie Sanchez, a former gang member who works with the group, drove members of the Gangster Two Six Nation, one of Chicago’s
biggest Latino gangs, to a Wisconsin lake after several shootings in June. After another, he hustled them to the city’s Grant Park. The tactic worked: Nobody else got shot, at least not in the critical period immediately following the crimes.

In addition to destroying lives, the violence is bad for business, says Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board president.

“It’s terrible for our region because it makes it seem like this is an unsafe place to live and work,” she says.

While the city’s tourism numbers have held up so far, Moody’s Investors Service in July cited crime when it reduced Chicago’s general-obligation debt rating by three grades -- a magnitude unprecedented for a major U.S. city, according to data since 1990.

“The city’s budgetary flexibility is already burdened by high fixed costs, including unrelenting public safety demands,” analysts wrote.

‘Evil Mexicans’
Skeptics in Mexico say U.S. authorities are defending their own interests by exaggerating Guzman’s impact.

“It’s easier to sell the need for a bump in your budget if you speak about evil Mexicans than if you present a complex web of gangs,” says Hope, the Mexican Competitiveness Institute analyst.

In Chicago, the DEA-led strike force concentrates its anti-Guzman efforts in Little Village, where immigrants have congregated for a century.

On a sunny June afternoon, traffic snarls on 26th Street as diners enjoy tortillas and roast pork at $25 for four people. The Two-Six gang takes its name from this thoroughfare, which is lined with currency exchanges for buying identification cards and wiring cash back to Mexico.

The DEA is zeroing in on so-called choke points in Little Village where drugs change hands between distributors and street gangs.

“The middlemen tend to be Mexican gang members from the Latin Kings, Two-Six and Maniac Latin Disciples,” says Roti of the Chicago police. “From there, it flows to African-American gangs, who control the street.”

‘Right Connection’
Luis Lopez says he’s proud to be a Two-Six member. Since grade school, he says, he never wanted to do anything but join members of his extended family in the gang. From the sidelines of a softball game in July, Lopez, 18, describes the links between Little Village and Mexican smuggling.

“Since we’re Latino, we know more people who are tied to the cartel,” he says. “The black guys, they need us for drugs and guns because we have the right connection.”

The top-ranked Sinaloa operatives in Little Village are obsessed with secrecy, criminologist Hagedorn says. They deal whenever possible with family members and have no interest in leading a Chicago gang.

“Why would you want that hassle when you’re busy making money?” he asks.
**Snortable Heroin**
Little Village police commander Maria Pena understands how gangs operate after growing up in nearby Logan Square.

“In my district, Latinos are more territorial than gangs in other parts of the city,” says Pena, a 25-year veteran who once walked a beat. “They won’t allow opposition gangs to come through. They only sell drugs to known individuals.”

A few blocks north of Little Village, black gangs peddle Sinaloa drugs near the Eisenhower Expressway, the Heroin Highway. Riley says Guzman keeps the price of cocaine artificially high to push a more profitable and easily transportable product his chemists refined -- a snortable heroin that lures suburbanites wary of needles.

“They think if they snort or smoke it, they won’t end up injecting,” says R. Gil Kerlikowske, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. “Very quickly, they do.”

**Flores Twins**
The Flores twins in Little Village were the cornerstones of Guzman’s U.S. business from 2005 to 2008, federal court documents allege. They took delivery of 2,000 kilograms (4,400 pounds) of cocaine a month from Sinaloa and associated cartels, plus heroin, the documents say. Their trafficking approached $700 million in 2008.

The twins used local warehouses to break down loads from Mexico for retail distribution around Chicago and shipment as far away as Vancouver. They encoded ledgers to track cash sent to Mexico for drugs purchased on credit and to note which couriers handled each step of the process.

The system ran smoothly until early 2008. Guzman began a war with boyhood friend Arturo Beltran Leyva over, among other things, the loyalty of the Flores brothers, according to federal court documents. As the Guzman-Beltran Leyva battle claimed hundreds of lives in Mexico, the twins offered during the summer of 2008 to help the DEA investigate Guzman, Patrick Fitzgerald, then-U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, said in court documents.

The twins recorded their phone calls with Guzman and their visits to his mountain stronghold. In an October 2008 meeting that included Margarito Flores, Guzman and subordinates complained that Mexican authorities had ceded power to the U.S. in the war on drugs.

**Setting Prices**
“They are f---ing us everywhere,” he said. In a taped phone call in November 2008, he approved Pedro Flores’s request for a 9 percent drop in the charge for Chicago heroin -- to $50,000 a kilogram -- citing poor quality.

“That price is fine,” Guzman said.

The Flores twins also taped Jesus Vicente Zambada Niebla, son of Ismael Zambada, who court documents identify as a principal Sinaloa leader along with Guzman. Mexican soldiers arrested the younger Zambada in March 2009. He was extradited to Chicago, where he’s awaiting trial on drug-trafficking-conspiracy charges. He pleaded not guilty on all counts. Charges against the Flores twins are still pending.
Police deconstructed a further piece of Guzman’s Chicago network with the August 2010 arrest of Erik Guevara, whom they say has family ties to Sinaloa in Mexico.

They charged Guevara, 31, with conspiracy to supply heroin after discovering a secret compartment under the floor of a house in suburban Forest Park, Illinois, court records allege.

Grandma’s House
The building had been owned by an 86-year-old woman who died five years earlier. Guevara, who lived nearby, appropriated the vacant home to stash money and drugs. He was arrested in 2010 with 7.7 kilograms of heroin stuffed in a drive shaft he was transporting in his Jeep, the Justice Department says. He pleaded guilty and began a 30-year jail sentence in January.

Sinaloa leaders orchestrate punishments from afar. In 2011, they sent a list of targets to a clan of Chicago roofers who served as cartel enforcers by night, says John Blair, intelligence director for the Cook County Sheriff’s Office. The dossier contained names of people Guzman’s cartel believed had robbed it in Mexico.

Blair suspects roofer Arturo Ibarra was among Guzman’s U.S. hit men. Police shot and killed Ibarra as he fled from a north side neighborhood just as two men named in the dossier lay bleeding to death from stab wounds.

‘Unlimited Resources’
The Gangster Disciples who tried to hijack Guzman’s cash in 2011 have avoided Sinaloa reprisals so far, says Jasper County prosecutor Kathryn O’Neall. An Indiana judge sentenced the trio on May 28 to three years in prison for money laundering. Gonzalez and Zuniga, who cooperated with authorities, weren’t charged.

Guzman’s grip on the U.S. Midwest may actually be strengthened by a move Mexican authorities hailed as a victory in their war on trafficking. In July, they arrested Miguel Angel Trevino Morales, head of the Zetas cartel, which Sinaloa has been battling over a route through Nuevo Laredo on the U.S. border.

“Trevino’s arrest makes it easier for Sinaloa to conquer territory,” says Jorge Chabat, a security analyst at the Mexico City-based Center for Economic Research and Teaching.

The reach of Sinaloa and its elusive leader extends from the rugged Sierra Madre to the dusty streets of Juarez to Chicago and beyond.

“They’re the pre-eminent organized crime group in the world today,” the Chicago Police Department’s Roti says. “They have almost unlimited resources.”
Part 2: Guns from the United States

**Mexico Drug War: 70 Percent Of Guns Seized Originate In U.S.**

MEXICO CITY -- About 70 percent of the guns seized in Mexico and submitted to a U.S. gun-tracing program came from the United States, according to a report released by three U.S. senators Monday.

Of the 29,284 firearms recovered by authorities in Mexico in 2009 and 2010, 20,504 came from the United States, according to figures provided to the senators by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Most of those weapons – 15,131 – were U.S. made, while another 5,373 were of foreign manufacture but had moved through the United States into Mexico.

The ATF said the remainder of the weapons total – 8,780 arms – were of "undetermined origin due to insufficient information provided."

The figure of the number of guns arriving in Mexico from north of the border has been polemical ever since a June 2009 U.S. report covering earlier years said that 87 percent of guns seized in Mexico came from the United States.

While the report did not specify why the percentage had changed, the most recent figures appear to included more gun-trace reports, as the reporting program in Mexico became easier to use.

On Saturday, in a speech to the Mexican-American community in San Jose, California, President Felipe Calderon lashed out at the U.S. weapons industry.

"I accuse the U.S. weapons industry of (responsibility for) the deaths of thousands of people that are occurring in Mexico," Calderon said. "It is for profit, for the profits that it makes for the weapons industry."

The report, issued by Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California and two other senators, recommended background checks for sales at gun shows, a ban on the import of nonsporting weapons and the reinstatement of the assault weapons ban in force in the United States until 2004.

Calderon endorsed calls for reinstating the ban on domestic sales of assault rifles, saying its expiration in 2004 may have played a role in the increase of drug violence in Mexico.

"You can clearly see how the violence began to grow in 2005, and of course it has gone on an upward spiral in the last six years," Calderon said.
 Shootouts with Mexican police in Michoacan state leave 22 dead
Organized criminals in the troubled Mexican state of Michoacan were suspected of unleashing a series of attacks on government forces Tuesday that resulted in the deaths of 20 criminals and two federal police officers, according to the federal government.

Mexico official says attacks in Michoacan show cartel desperation
A wave of ambushes on Mexican federal police in Michoacan state underscores the challenge faced by President Enrique Peña Nieto.

In Mexico, dozens fall to new violence across 4 troubled states
Despite some recent promising homicide statistics, violence continues to rage in regions of Mexico plagued by drug gangs and organized crime, as evidenced by dozens of killings spread over four states in the last five days.

Capture of Mexican mob boss began with a fed-up informant
The Tijuana drug cartel insider said he had grown disgusted by the savagery of Teodoro "El Teo" Garcia Simental — the pudgy kingpin whose criminal mayhem was generating headlines around the world.

Leader of Zetas drug cartel seized, Mexico says
Mexican naval special forces capture Miguel Angel Treviño Morales, alias Z-40, authorities say. He is wanted for crimes including the slaughter of 260 migrants.

Mexico cartel leader's capture will have little effect on drug flow
In Mexico, rivals and potential successors to Miguel Angel Treviño Morales will pick up where the chief of the ultra-violent Zetas cartel left off.

Political violence casts shadow over upcoming Mexico elections
As the PRI highlights its efforts to curb crime in Mexico, people from all political parties have been attacked, kidnapped and threatened.

Mexico City mayor under fire over disappearances of 12
Miguel Angel Mancera mishandled the case of the missing bar patrons, critics say. The incident and others have sparked debate about crime in Mexico’s capital. *Mexico City mayor under fire over disappearances of 12*

More than 26,000 people were reported missing — many seized by drug traffickers or security forces — during former President Felipe Calderon’s six-year tenure. *Mexico creates task force to search for the missing*

Armed citizen patrols fighting drug cartel violence join forces with a radical teachers union in Guerrero state opposed to an education reform law. *Worry grows over Mexico vigilante movement*

In Guerrero state, drug criminals who terrorized farming communities have left a cluster of more than 20 ghost pueblos, abandoned towns from which residents fled — if they were lucky. *Mexican towns, once frozen with fear, now frozen in time*

Mexican officials and trade executives look for ways to minimize damage to tourism, an industry that is a top income-earner and employer in Mexico. *Mexico scrambles as violence threatens tourism zones*

The case charging six officers, including four generals, with colluding with the Beltran Leyva drug cartel, was filed by the previous administration, headed by President Felipe Calderon. *Mexico prosecutors say evidence lacking against military officers*

Peña Nieto says the 10,000-member force will be deployed to Mexico’s most troubled regions. *Mexican president announces new security force*

The president, who steps down Saturday, essentially rewrote the rules under which foreign countries can intervene in Mexico. *U.S.-Mexico drug war partnership under Calderon broke new ground*

The Mexican navy says it hopes Said Omar Juarez’s capture in Coahuila state will lead authorities to the cartel’s remaining top leader. *Mexico reports capture of alleged Zetas cartel commander*

The man known as the Squirrel is accused of numerous crimes, including the possible slaying of an American who vanished, reportedly while jet-skiing. *Mexico announces capture of Zetas paramilitary suspect*

Leader of Mexico’s Zetas drug gang proves elusive even in death
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Byline</th>
<th>Headline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-10-09</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mexican officials confirm that they killed Heriberto Lazcano last weekend, but say his body has been snatched from a funeral home. <strong>Leader of Mexico’s Zetas drug gang proves elusive even in death</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12, 2012-09-12</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson</td>
<td><strong>Sifting for answers in a mass grave in Tapachula, Mexico</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 17, 2012-08-17</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson</td>
<td><strong>Mexico journalists' killings solved? Critics doubt it</strong></td>
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<td>Aug. 8, 2012-08-08</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson</td>
<td><strong>Memorial to victims of drug war inspires debate</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>July 24, 2012-07-24</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson</td>
<td><strong>Mexico cartel attacks on press take toll on drug war coverage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2012-06-01</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson</td>
<td><strong>Drug war displaces families in Sinaloa highlands</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 2012-05-19</td>
<td>Ken Ellingwood, Richard MarosiEllingwood</td>
<td><strong>Arrest of alleged drug kingpin seen as blow to Sinaloa cartel</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 2012-05-14</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson</td>
<td><strong>Dozens of bodies, many mutilated, dumped in Mexico</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3, 2012-04-03</td>
<td>Daniel Hernandez Hernandez</td>
<td><strong>In Monterrey, Mexico, a culture of fear is evident</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13, 2012-03-13</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td><strong>Mexico drug lord’s fate is focus of election year speculation</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Headline
Mexico's presidential campaign before the July 1 vote. Mexico drug lord’s fate is focus of election year speculation

Mexico prison riot was cover for jailbreak, officials say
Authorities say 30 Zetas gang members escaped, with the apparent complicity of guards, and that all 44 slain inmates were from the rival Gulf cartel. Mexico prison riot was cover for jailbreak, officials say

Mexico arrests Sinaloa drug cartel's reputed enforcer
Jose Antonio Torres Marrufo allegedly amassed weapons from the U.S. government's Fast and Furious gun program. He is also wanted in the U.S. on drug charges. Mexico arrests Sinaloa drug cartel's reputed enforcer

Gunmen attack buses, town in Veracruz, Mexico, killing 11
The five gunmen are chased down and killed in a shootout in Veracruz state, Mexican authorities say. No possible motive is given. Gunmen attack buses, town in Veracruz, Mexico, killing 11

Cartels use legitimate trade to launder money, U.S., Mexico say
Fruit, fabric and toys are purchased and then exported south, generating paperwork that gives drug money the appearance of lawful proceeds from a transaction, authorities say. Cartels use legitimate trade to launder money, U.S., Mexico say

Mexico violence claims another member of peace movement
Trinidad de la Cruz, a peasant activist, was kidnapped Tuesday by armed attackers in the state of Michoacan, his associates said. His body, with four bullet wounds and an ear sliced off, was discovered about 24 hours later, the Milenio newspaper reported. Mexico violence claims another member of peace movement

Mexico seeks to fill drug war gap with focus on dirty money
The evolving anti-laundering campaign could change the tone of the Mexican government's battle by striking at the heart of the cartels' financial empire, analysts say. Mexico seeks to fill drug war gap with focus on dirty money

International banks have aided Mexican drug gangs
Despite strict rules, some banks have failed to 'know their customer' or ask about the source of large amounts of cash, allowing billions in dirty money from Mexico to be laundered. International banks have aided Mexican drug gangs

U.S. blacklisting seems to have little consequence in Mexico
Washington employs sanctions in an effort to deter money launderers and others who serve drug traffickers, but evidence shows that being put on the 'kingpin designation list' doesn't cause hardship. U.S. blacklisting seems to have little consequence in Mexico

Indian 'Shadow Wolves' stalk smugglers on Arizona reservation
They work for the federal government — and also to protect sacred lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation along the border with Mexico. Indian 'Shadow Wolves' stalk smugglers on Arizona reservation
Headline

Mexico nun is crusader for rights amid drug violence
Sister Consuelo Morales is one of Mexico's most effective defenders of human rights. As the nation's drug war enters its sixth year, the fearless nun has her work cut out for her. Mexico nun is crusader for rights amid drug violence

Shadowy group says it targets cartel; some in Veracruz are glad
It is a sign of the desperation and outrage over drug-war violence that the vigilantes are not only tolerated but welcomed. But there is a disturbing question: Just who is behind their killings? Shadowy group says it targets cartel; some in Veracruz are glad

Fast and Furious guns turned up in cartel enforcer's home
Guns illegally purchased under the ATF operation were found in April hidden in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, court records show. Fast and Furious guns turned up in cartel enforcer's home

Wife of fugitive Mexican drug lord gives birth in L.A. County
Joaquin 'Chapo' Guzman's wife, Emma Coronel, gave birth Aug. 15 to twin girls at Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster, according to birth records and a senior U.S. law enforcement official. Wife of fugitive Mexican drug lord gives birth in L.A. County

Fallout from deadly Mexico casino fire sets off political brawl
The mayor of Monterrey, where 52 people died in last month's arson attack, is in President Felipe Calderon's PAN party, which wants him to resign. Its chief rival, the PRI, has leaped into the fray. Fallout from deadly Mexico casino fire sets off political brawl

Mexico says a top criminal gang figure has been captured
The army and federal attorney general's office said Saul Solis Solis was arrested a day earlier in the western state of Michoacan. He is said to have played a key role with the Knights Templar gang. Mexico says a top criminal gang figure has been captured

Mexico woman presses case of missing police officer son
Thousands have disappeared in Mexico's drug war. But the case of Luis Angel Leon and his colleagues is especially puzzling: fully armed officers vanishing on their way to help police a violent town. Mexico woman presses case of missing police officer son

2 Mexican journalists found slain
Ana Marcela Yarce Viveros, co-founder of Contralinea magazine, and Rocio Gonzalez Trapaga, a former Televisa reporter, were abducted in Mexico City. The women's deaths bear the mark of drug cartels. 2 Mexican journalists found slain

2 journalists found slain in capital
Ana Marcela Yarce Viveros, co-founder of Contralinea magazine, and Rocio Gonzalez Trapaga, a former Televisa reporter, were abducted in Mexico City. The women's deaths bear the mark of drug cartels. 2 journalists found slain in capital

Mexico gunmen set casino on fire, killing at least 53
Headline
The attackers apparently used gasoline to torch the crowded Casino Royale in Monterrey, which has been the setting for a brutal turf war between drug gangs. Mexican President Felipe Calderon denounced the violence as an "aberrant act of terror." *Mexico gunmen set casino on fire, killing at least 53*

*Nine poll workers missing in rural Michoacan*
Days after six workers from a polling firm vanish in a rural, violence-prone part of the state, three more from a separate firm disappear in the same area. *Nine poll workers missing in rural Michoacan*

*Suspicion in Mexico’s Sinaloa cartel*
Why were drug smugglers' cocaine shipments being seized all over the U.S.? The boss in Mexico was demanding answers. He had no idea he was being targeted by the DEA's Operation Imperial Emperor. *Suspicion in Mexico’s Sinaloa cartel*

*Flying high for the Sinaloa drug cartel*
Times were good for Carlsbad pilot John Ward as he smuggled cocaine across the U.S. for Mexico's Sinaloa cartel. But the men at the other end -- they worried him. *Flying high for the Sinaloa drug cartel*

*The strands of the Sinaloa drug cartel web*
Inside the Cartel, Part 2: Gabriel Dieblas Roman took orders from cartel bosses in Mexico, hard men who ruled by fear, but he wouldn't approve a shipment without talking to a plucky, middle-aged woman from Compton. *The strands of the Sinaloa drug cartel web*

*Unraveling Mexico’s Sinaloa drug cartel*
Inside the Cartel, Part 1: As drug smugglers from the Sinaloa cartel in Mexico sent a never-ending stream of cocaine across the border and into a vast U.S. distribution web in Los Angeles, DEA agents were watching and listening. *Unraveling Mexico’s Sinaloa drug cartel*

*Ex-mayor of Cancun released as case appears to collapse*
A judge had dismissed charges of drug trafficking and money laundering against Gregorio 'Greg' Sanchez. Mexican prosecutors say he may yet be charged with smuggling undocumented Cubans. *Ex-mayor of Cancun released as case appears to collapse*

*At least 20 killed in Mexico bar, officials say*
The attack takes place in the downtown of Monterrey, a prosperous and once-orderly industrial hub hit by over a year of fighting between the Zetas, known as the country's most violent drug gang, and the Gulf cartel. *At least 20 killed in Mexico bar, officials say*

*Four men found guilty in 2010 killing of 15 at Mexico teen party*
President Felipe Calderon set off outrage when he referred to the victims of the Ciudad Juarez massacre as gang members. He backpedaled after it turned out they were promising students and athletes. *Four men found guilty in 2010 killing of 15 at Mexico teen party*

*Arrest may do little to change the drug cartel equation*
The capture of Jose de Jesus 'El Chango' Mendez, La Familia's alleged leader, isn't likely to deal the cartel a fatal blow. *Arrest may do little to change the drug cartel equation*

**U.S. AK-47s linked to Mexican attorney's slaying**

A U.S. congressional investigation into Operation Fast and Furious, the controversial federal gun-running surveillance operation, moves to Mexico amid reports that two assault weapons sold in Arizona were found at the scene of a shootout with the suspects in a Mexican attorney's slaying. *U.S. AK-47s linked to Mexican attorney's slaying*

**A top leader of La Familia cartel arrested**

The capture of Jose de Jesus 'El Chango' Mendez is considered a significant blow to the drug cartel, analysts say. But other factions are likely to fill any void. *A top leader of La Familia cartel arrested*

**Mexican journalist, family slain**

Gunmen kill Miguel Angel Lopez Velasco, a columnist in Veracruz who wrote about corruption and drug violence. His wife and son are also targeted by the killers, who broke into their home. *Mexican journalist, family slain*

**Mexico says leader arrested in kidnapping, killing of 72 migrants**

Mexican police say Edgar Huerta Montiel, 22, confessed to leading the capture of two truckloads of undocumented migrants in Tamaulipas state, and the killing of 10 of the victims. He also allegedly told of ordering the kidnapping of six busloads of passengers in San Fernando, Mexico. *Mexico says leader arrested in kidnapping, killing of 72 migrants*

**Ex-Tijuana mayor freed, faces new charge of murder**

Jorge Hank Rhon is released from detention after a federal judge throws out weapons charges against him. He is now charged in a woman's killing, but a local judge orders him freed and the case appears to be unraveling. *Ex-Tijuana mayor freed, faces new charge of murder*

**Raid puts Mexican casino mogul in role of victim**

The Mexican soldiers stormed the casino mogul’s Tijuana estate, rousting him out of bed and allegedly recovering a cache of 88 weapons, among them a revolver engraved with his name: Jorge Hank Rhon. Still in his pajamas, Hank was whisked to Mexico City to be questioned by federal investigators. *Raid puts Mexican casino mogul in role of victim*

**U.S. can’t justify its drug war spending, reports say**

As drug cartels wreak murderous havoc from Mexico to Panama, the Obama administration is unable to show that the billions of dollars spent in the war on drugs have significantly stemmed the flow of illegal narcotics into the United States, according to two government reports and outside experts. *U.S. can’t justify its drug war spending, reports say*

**Two years after fire killed 49 Mexico preschoolers, parents don’t see justice done**

Two years after the awful blaze, indignation hangs over Hermosillo like a sooty cloud. *Two years after fire killed 49 Mexico preschoolers, parents don’t see justice done*

**Cop show spawns real drama in Mexico**
"The Team" aired for three short weeks and never scored high ratings. It proved one thing, though. Amid sharpening divisions over Mexico's drug war, even a mediocre cop drama can be fuel on the fire. *Cop show spawns real drama in Mexico*

**Prosecutors seek to oust Tijuana drug kingpin's lead attorney**

Federal prosecutors have asked a judge to disqualify the lead defense attorney for Mexican drug kingpin Benjamin Arellano Felix, saying the lawyer once worked on behalf of the Arellano Felix drug cartel to dissuade a witness from cooperating with U.S. law enforcement. *Prosecutors seek to oust Tijuana drug kingpin's lead attorney*

**Mexico poet an emblem of nation's drug war carnage**

To poet Javier Sicilia, his son's March slaying is a sign of Mexico's failure to safeguard its people amid what he considers an ill-conceived war on drug gangs. It has also launched him on a crusade. *Mexico poet an emblem of nation's drug war carnage*

**Ultralight aircraft now ferrying drugs across U.S.-Mexico border**

Mexican organized crime groups are using ultralight aircraft to drop marijuana bundles in agricultural fields and desert scrub across the U.S. border. The incursions are hard to detect and are on the upswing. *Ultralight aircraft now ferrying drugs across U.S.-Mexico border*

**Military says drug lord's successor arrested**

Martin Beltran Coronel, a nephew of Sinaloa cartel kingpin Ignacio Coronel, is captured outside Guadalajara, in the same suburb where his uncle was slain in July. *Military says drug lord's successor arrested*

**Mexico immigration agency fires top officials amid reports of collusion with kidnappers**

The agency chief announces steps to tighten and speed screening of immigration agents and other functionaries in states traversed most often by Central American migrants en route to the United States. *Mexico immigration agency fires top officials amid reports of collusion with kidnappers*

**Mexico's president offers to meet with anti-violence movement**

President Felipe Calderon says he would like to try to bridge the gap with organizers of the March for Peace, which drew tens of thousands of Mexicans to the streets to demand a new strategy in the drug war. *Mexico's president offers to meet with anti-violence movement*

**In Mexico City, crowds protest drug violence**

Tens of thousands descend on downtown with placards saying 'No more blood!' and 'We're fed up!' More than 34,000 have died since President Felipe Calderon began cracking down on cartels. *In Mexico City, crowds protest drug violence*

**Criticism of Calderon mounts over drug violence**

Outrage over the rising death toll has generated sporadic street protests, and a massive demonstration is set for Sunday in Mexico City to denounce the government's failure to stem the bloodshed. *Criticism of Calderon mounts over drug violence*

**Mexican drug kingpin extradited to U.S. to face racketeering, drug conspiracy charges**
The Mexican government Friday extradited to the U.S. drug kingpin Benjamin Arellano Felix, the former leader of one of Mexico's most feared and powerful organized crime groups. **Mexican drug kingpin extradited to U.S. to face racketeering, drug conspiracy charges**

**Police, bus companies failed to act as graves filled in Tamaulipas**

There were clues but nothing was done, and now at least 177 bodies have been unearthed. Demand grows for dismissing the state's elected but apparently ineffective officials. **Police, bus companies failed to act as graves filled in Tamaulipas**

**Drug violence puts dent in Mexico City's Easter exodus**

This year, some residents are forgoing the annual spring trip to tourist areas such as Acapulco, where drug cartel violence have made inroads. **Drug violence puts dent in Mexico City's Easter exodus**

**Body count from mass graves in Mexico rises to 145**

Sixteen police officers are arrested for allegedly providing cover to drug-cartel gangsters suspected in the slayings. The graves were found near the northern Mexico town of San Fernando, where the arrested officers worked. **Body count from mass graves in Mexico rises to 145**

**16 Mexico police officers held, accused of aiding cartels in massacres**

The federal attorney general’s office identifies the 16 as municipal police in the Tamaulipas town of San Fernando, near where more than 120 bodies have been found in the last week in mass graves. **16 Mexico police officers held, accused of aiding cartels in massacres**

**Death toll in Tamaulipas mass graves reaches 116**

As authorities unearth 28 more bodies in Tamaulipas state while investigating bus kidnappings, the federal government sends in more troops to monitor highways. Officials have arrested 17 people in the case. **Death toll in Tamaulipas mass graves reaches 116**

**Key figure in ATF's Gunrunner operation cooperating in congressional inquiry**

George Gillett Jr. is expected to reveal crucial information about how a federal operation known as Project Gunrunner allowed weapons from the U.S. to pass into the hands of Mexican drug gangs. **Key figure in ATF's Gunrunner operation cooperating in congressional inquiry**

**13 more bodies found in Mexico mass graves**

The bodies were found in a different spot in the state of Tamaulipas than graves where 59 corpses were found earlier. Authorities found those bodies while investigating kidnappings of bus passengers. **13 more bodies found in Mexico mass graves**

**Mexican officials find 59 bodies in mass graves**

Officials investigating the kidnapping last month of bus passengers find the bodies in eight graves in Tamaulipas; it is not clear whether they were among those seized. Five captives are rescued and 11 suspects arrested. **Mexican officials find 59 bodies in mass graves**

**Thousands across Mexico protest drug violence**

Marches are held in several cities, prompted by the killing of seven people, one of whom was the
son of a prominent poet, Javier Sicilia. *Thousands across Mexico protest drug violence*

Human rights activists demand an outside investigation into the disappearance of four civilian men March 26 in the city, which has the highest drug-war death toll in Mexico.*Ciudad Juarez’s top police official accused of rights abuses*

Locked in a grueling and bloody war with drug cartels, Mexican President Felipe Calderon replaced the nation’s top legal official, whose lackluster stint had failed to improve paltry narcotics conviction rates or stem human rights abuses.*Calderon replaces Mexico attorney general*

Traffickers are aware of the risks of major provocations in Mexico City, home to the federal police, army, navy and intelligence services, not to mention many of the cartel leaders' families.*Mexico City an unlikely draw for those fleeing drug war violence*

The 10-point accord, covering more than 700 outlets across Mexico, calls on news-gathering organizations to find ways to protect their journalists and to avoid glorifying crime bosses.*Mexico news companies agree to drug war coverage guidelines*

Victor Manuel Felix was one of 18 people arrested in Mexico and Ecuador, authorities say. Police identify him as the father-in-law of Joaquin Guzman’s son and godfather of one of the drug lord’s children.*Relative of fugitive cartel chief captured, Mexico officials announce*

El Salvador finds itself enmeshed in an expanding drug trade, a shift brought on by better enforcement of sea routes; a new, U.S.-funded highway; and gangs with roots in Los Angeles.*El Salvador becomes drug traffickers' 'little pathway'*

Julian Leyzaola, who is credited with restoring law and order to Tijuana, is named public safety secretary in Ciudad Juarez, where drug cartels have made the city the most violent in Mexico.*Tijuana’s former top cop to tackle crime in Ciudad Juarez*

A Mexican legislator says at least 150 Mexicans have been killed or wounded by guns trafficked by smugglers being tracked by U.S. agents. The charges may exacerbate already rocky U.S.-Mexico relations.*Mexico demands answers about guns smuggled from U.S.*

A lack of resources, a policy against arming agents and staffers who don't speak Spanish hamper U.S. agents trying to stem the flow of weapons to drug cartels, say current and ex-staff members.*U.S. agents short-staffed and under the gun in Mexico*
Headline
Mexico’s drug war disappearances leave families in anguish
Thousands of people have vanished without a trace – some caught up in violence, others for no reason anyone can fathom. Relatives remain in agonized limbo.

U.S. gun-tracing operation let firearms into criminal hands
A federal operation aimed at tracing weapons to Mexican drug cartels lost track of hundreds, including two guns found at the scene of a Border Patrol agent’s killing in Arizona.

Gun used in U.S. agent’s killing traced to Texas
U.S. authorities say one of three men they arrested recently purchased an AK-47 at a Texas gun shop that was used in the attack last month that killed a U.S. agent and wounded his partner. The suspects are believed to have attempted to deliver at least 40 firearms to the Zetas drug gang.

Violent deaths in Mexico activist’s family know no end
The Reyes family has become a case study of the unrelenting violence. Surviving kin angrily blame government officials for failing to protect a family 'so historically aggrieved.'

Agent’s death may mean increased security for U.S. role in Mexico drug war
The fatal shooting of a U.S. federal agent is not expected to fundamentally alter the U.S.-Mexican alliance, but the expanding corps of U.S. personnel helping Mexico’s drug war may face new measures.

U.S. agent slain, second wounded in ambush
The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, assigned to the Mexico City office at the U.S. Embassy, were driving toward the northern city of Monterrey when attacked at a blockade, U.S. officials say.

U.S. missionary fatally wounded by gunmen
Missionary Nancy Davis is rushed back across the border by her husband but dies in a hospital in McAllen. He says gunmen tried to stop the couple and shot at them when they sped up.

Officials say Zetas drug gang figure arrested
Flavio Mendez Santiago allegedly was in charge of smuggling drugs and migrants in the south.

14 killed in army raid in Mexico’s Veracruz state
The shooting, in which 12 suspects and two soldiers were killed, spanned at least two neighborhoods in the normally quiet Veracruz state capital of Xalapa, Mexico news reports say.

Amid drug violence, Acapulco watches tourism recede
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 9, 2011-01-09 Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson 09</td>
<td>**Although officials insist tourism remains robust in Acapulco, merchants say months of carnage have scared away visitors. The rising death toll has prompted many Mexicans to skip the resort. **</td>
<td><strong>Amid drug violence, Acapulco watches tourism recede</strong> Messages attached to some of the bodies reportedly claim responsibility on behalf of the Sinaloa drug cartel and accuse the dead men of being extortionists. **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 6, 2011-01-06 Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson 06</td>
<td><strong>Mexico has arrested a leader of Santa Muerte 'church'</strong> La Santa Muerte is cherished by the marginalized, impoverished and sometimes-criminal sector. David Romo, a self-appointed bishop of the church, is accused of kidnapping and money laundering. **</td>
<td><strong>Mexico has arrested a leader of Santa Muerte 'church'</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 4, 2011-01-04 Tracy Wilkinson Wilkinson 04</td>
<td><strong>Out of prison and into mortal danger in Mexico</strong> Female kidnapping suspect 'The Redhead' was found tortured and hanging from an overpass after being sprung from prison. Observers wonder if it was a gang hit or even vigilante 'justice.' **</td>
<td><strong>Out of prison and into mortal danger in Mexico</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 31, 2010-12-31 Hector Tobar Tobar 04</td>
<td><strong>Mexican exiles in El Paso can see their pasts across the river</strong> They come from Ciudad Juarez, fleeing the drug violence that has claimed 3,000 lives this year. But their new lives, though far safer, are marked by loneliness, hardship and psychological torment. **</td>
<td><strong>Mexican exiles in El Paso can see their pasts across the river</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 30, 2010-12-30 Ken Ellingwood, Tracy Wilkinson Ellingwood 04</td>
<td><strong>Mexico army's failures hamper drug war</strong> The army often relies on numbers over intelligence and falls back on time-worn tactics, such as highway checkpoints, of limited use against drug traffickers. The shortcomings alarm U.S. officials. **</td>
<td><strong>Mexico army's failures hamper drug war</strong></td>
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<td>Dec. 23, 2010-12-23 Ken Ellingwood Ellingwood 04</td>
<td><strong>Mexico investigating kidnapping of 50 Central American migrants</strong> Mexico's announcement comes a day after it declared that no such incident occurred. Migrants arrested during a roundup allege that gunmen seized the group on Dec. 16 in Chiapas. **</td>
<td><strong>Mexico investigating kidnapping of 50 Central American migrants</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td>Dec. 20, 2010-12-20 Ken Ellingwood Ellingwood 04</td>
<td><strong>Kidnapped Mexican politician released after seven months</strong> Wealthy lawyer and former presidential candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, who appears healthy, declines to talk about his ordeal in detail. **</td>
<td><strong>Kidnapped Mexican politician released after seven months</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 19, 2010-12-19 Ken Ellingwood, Tracy Wilkinson Ellingwood 04</td>
<td><strong>Mexican drug cartels find youths to be easy prey</strong> Faced with a poor education system and dismal job prospects, boys and girls as young as 11 are lured into acting as mules, peddlers, lookouts — even executioners — for drug cartels offering easy money. **</td>
<td><strong>Mexican drug cartels find youths to be easy prey</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 18, 2010-12-18 Ken Ellingwood Ellingwood 04</td>
<td><strong>Mother shot dead at anti-crime vigil in Chihuahua</strong> Video shows the brazen killing outside the Chihuahua governor's office of a woman who had been **</td>
<td><strong>Mother shot dead at anti-crime vigil in Chihuahua</strong></td>
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Mother shot dead at anti-crime vigil in Chihuahua
protesting the freeing of the confessed killer in her daughter's 2008 slaying.

At least 140 escape prison in Nuevo Laredo
Officials give no details of the mass breakout in the border city, the latest in a string of escapes sometimes aided by corrupt prison guards. The inmates appeared to have fled through service entrances.

More than 12,000 killed in Mexican drug war this year, officials say
The overall death toll in the 4-year-old war is said to be 30,196, but it could be higher. A top official says recent operations against cartels have weakened them.

Corruption sweep in Mexico's Michoacan unravels in the courts
An examination of the sealed case file shows prosecutors relied on evidence that didn't hold up under judicial scrutiny and on three anonymous paid informants whose testimony was largely hearsay.

La Familia cartel leader believed killed in Michoacan violence
Mexican authorities believe Nazario Moreno Gonzalez, a.k.a. "El Mas Loco," died in the fighting that raged between drug traffickers and federal troops this week.

Youth sought in Mexico killings arrested
Edgar Jimenez Lugo, who authorities said was born in San Diego, was wanted on suspicion of killing rivals — allegedly beheading some — as part of his work for a violent drug-trafficking cartel.

WikiLeaks cables reveal unease over Mexican drug war
The secret cables give a much starker U.S. view of the pitfalls facing Mexican President Felipe Calderon in his campaign against drug cartels.

Gang leader blamed in Ciudad Juarez violence arrested
Arturo Gallegos Castrellon is described as the main leader of the Aztecas street gang. Mexican authorities say he confessed to numerous killings, including that of a U.S. consular employee that was previously blamed on a different Aztecas leader.

Another marijuana tunnel and two more warehouses found
20 tons of pot seized, eight arrested in San Diego and Tijuana.

Mexican expats warned on holiday travel home
The Mexican government advises them to travel in convoys and only in daylight because of the drug war.
Headline
U.S. effort to slow flow of guns into Mexico failing
A U.S. inspector general's review finds that a once-praised federal program is too narrowly focused, fails to share information with law enforcement agencies and does not adequately trace U.S. guns in Mexico.

Dismembered bodies, warped minds
The extreme violence produced by the drug war is seen as a form of social disfigurement in which Mexican values get more distorted each time a mutilated body is found. Dismembered bodies, warped minds

20 slain over weekend in Ciudad Juarez
Seven are slain outside a home where people attended a party, Chihuahua state officials say. Eleven others were killed Saturday, and two police officers were shot to death Sunday.

Reynosa: Caught behind enemy lines
Reynosa, on the Texas border, is a city under the control of cartels. Traffickers brazenly patrol the streets, set up roadblocks, gun down enemies and censor the news. Those who can, have fled. Others find ways to cope.

Mexico drug kingpin slain in fierce gun battle with military
Antonio Ezequiel Cardenas Guillen, alias Tony Tormenta, was a top leader of the Gulf cartel. He is said to have tortured and beheaded victims. The U.S. had offered a $5-million reward for his capture.

Kidnapped Chihuahua attorney found dead
Gunmen said to be with the Sinaloa cartel had made Mario Gonzalez accuse his sister, the former state attorney general, of ties to the rival Juarez drug gang in a video later posted on YouTube. Eight suspects are held.

Mystery of missing 20 may be solved
Eighteen bodies found in a mass grave south of Acapulco may belong to members of a vacationing group of men who vanished Sept. 30. Relatives will attempt to identify the corpses while authorities continue to search for more bodies.

Violence casts shadow over Day of the Dead
Residents can't forget victims of the drug war during a holiday that celebrates death.

Gunmen kill 15 at carwash, in latest Mexico massacre
The attack took place at a carwash in the Nayarit state capital, Tepic. State authorities said 13 of the victims, who were all men, worked at the carwash and most were clients of a drug rehab center.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Byline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 26, 2010-10-26</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td>Chihuahua says she took bribes and ordered killings. She says her brother was coerced to lie.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><strong>Kidnapped Mexican names names, including his sister's</strong></td>
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<td>Oct. 25, 2010-10-25</td>
<td>Times Wire ServicesServices</td>
<td>13 executed at Tijuana drug treatment center</td>
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<td>The assault may have been carried out in retaliation for the seizure of 134 tons of marijuana in the</td>
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<td>city last week.</td>
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<td>Oct. 23, 2010-10-23</td>
<td>Tracy WilkinsonWilkinson</td>
<td>Ciudad Juarez cries for its slain youths</td>
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<td>The toll in Friday’s shooting rises to 14. In nearby Coahuila state, six people are killed in two</td>
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<td>incidents.</td>
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<td>Oct. 22, 2010-10-22</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td>A top Salvadoran ex-guerrilla commander advises Mexico's conservative president</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Joaquin Villalobos, whom U.S. officials once called 'the baby-faced killer,' has emerged as one of the</td>
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<td>key advisors behind Mexican President Felipe Calderon’s military crackdown on drug cartels.</td>
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<td>Oct. 21, 2010-10-21</td>
<td>Richard MarosiMarosi</td>
<td>Mexico arrests man alleged to have directed fatal Juarez car bomb attack</td>
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<td>A man identified as a regional boss of an armed gang was arrested in Chihuahua city, federal police</td>
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<td>say. He is accused of overseeing the July blast that killed four people, including a police officer.</td>
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<td>Oct. 19, 2010-10-19</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td>Mexican army destroys 134 tons of marijuana</td>
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<td>The stash was found Monday after a shootout with traffickers near Tijuana. Officials believe the</td>
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<td>seizure cost the Sinaloa drug cartel nearly $200 million.</td>
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<td>Oct. 19, 2010-10-19</td>
<td>Richard MarosiMarosi</td>
<td>Civilian trials proposed for troops in rights abuse cases</td>
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<td>President Felipe Calderon proposes civilian trials for troops accused of serious rights abuses.</td>
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<td>The move would mark an important concession by the military and meet a key requirement of a U.S.</td>
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<td>security aid package.</td>
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<td>Oct. 18, 2010-10-18</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td>105 tons of pot seized in Tijuana</td>
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<td>It is believed to be one of the largest drug busts in recent Mexican history, authorities say.</td>
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<td>Oct. 17, 2010-10-17</td>
<td>Richard MarosiMarosi</td>
<td>The case of the 20 missing Mexican tourists doesn’t add up</td>
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<td>Relatives insist they are ordinary guys. The government focuses on their unusual travel</td>
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<td>Oct. 16, 2010-10-16</td>
<td>Richard MarosiMarosi</td>
<td>Mexico convoy threads its way through strange drug war in Sonora state</td>
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<td>A heavily armed convoy heads off to deliver pensions to people caught behind the siege line as one</td>
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<td>drug cartel tries to starve out another in a sinister battle for trafficking routes into Arizona.</td>
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<td>Tijuana throws festival for a break from drug violence</td>
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</table>
Days after big names launched the Tijuana Innovadora, grisly slayings provided a reminder of Mexico’s drug war. Still, the city is determined to shrug off the violence and enjoy its moment in the sun. Tijuana throws festival for a break from drug violence

Mexico’s president opposes marijuana legalization

Prop. 19, the California measure to legalize pot, would undercut Mexico’s fight against drug cartels, President Felipe Calderon says. He calls on the Obama administration to oppose the measure. Mexico’s president opposes marijuana legalization

Mexican president wants to do away with local police

President Felipe Calderon’s reform would eliminate Mexico’s 2,000 local police departments, seen as tainted by corruption from the drug war. The plan must still be approved by Congress and the states. Mexican president wants to do away with local police

14 injured in grenade attack on crowd in Guadalupe

Several witnesses say local police blocked traffic after the explosion to clear the way for the attackers. The mayor agrees to investigate the claim. 14 injured in grenade attack on crowd in Guadalupe

Gunmen kidnap 22 in Acapulco

The Mexican tourists from a neighboring state were reportedly seized as they looked for lodging. Gunmen kidnap 22 in Acapulco

In Mexico, a dividing line on ‘El Infierno’

Its citizens have made Luis Estrada’s ‘El Infierno’ a blockbuster. But the film, which gives a bleak view of the country’s raging drug war, has angered government officials. In Mexico, a dividing line on ‘El Infierno’

Mexican mayor killed in a town threatened by drug traffickers

Gustavo Sanchez of Tancitaro in Michoacan state is found beaten to death with rocks, authorities say. He is the fifth mayor in Mexico killed in six weeks. Mexican mayor killed in a town threatened by drug traffickers

Determined federal prosecutor targets the Tijuana cartel

U.S. Atty. Laura Duffy gets much of the credit for crippling it, and now she vows to shut it down for good. Determined federal prosecutor targets the Tijuana cartel

Why Mexico is not the new Colombia when it comes to drug cartels

Comparisons took on a new urgency after a statement by Hillary Clinton, but a careful look at tactics, targets and the nature of the foe shows they’re apples and oranges. Why Mexico is not the new Colombia when it comes to drug cartels

Fourth Mexico mayor killed in under six weeks

Gunmen ambushed Prisciliano Rodriguez Salinas at his ranch home near the industrial center of Monterrey in northern Mexico. Rodriguez was mayor of the nearby town of Doctor Gonzalez. Fourth Mexico mayor killed in under six weeks
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Byline</th>
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<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23, 2010-09-23</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td><strong>Mexican lawmaker-elect is sworn in after evading police</strong></td>
<td>Julio Cesar Godoy, accused of ties to traffickers, is now immune from prosecution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17, 2010-09-17</td>
<td>Times Wire ServicesServices</td>
<td><strong>Gunmen target 2 news photographers in Ciudad Juarez; 1 slain</strong></td>
<td>The victims worked for Diario de Juarez, a newspaper that has not stopped reporting on drug-gang violence. Elsewhere in Mexico, news reports say troops kill 41 gunmen in two incidents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 14, 2010-09-14</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td><strong>Mexico arrests key suspect in Beltran Leyva cartel</strong></td>
<td>The capture of Sergio Villarreal Barragan, one of the four most-wanted suspects in the Beltran Leyva gang, is another blow to the cartel, weakened by a security crackdown and infighting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 11, 2010-09-11</td>
<td>Paul RichterRichter</td>
<td><strong>Obama rejects Clinton comment on Mexico</strong></td>
<td>Seeking to calm a diplomatic furor, he disputes the secretary of State's assertion that Mexico's drug war has begun to look like the Colombian insurgency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9, 2010-09-09</td>
<td>Ken Dilanian, Paul RichterDilanian</td>
<td><strong>25 slain in Ciudad Juarez</strong></td>
<td>Attacks by drug gangs result in the city's worst death toll in two years. Farther east along the border, 85 inmates escape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 6, 2010-09-06</td>
<td>Tracy WilkinsonWilkinson</td>
<td><strong>Clinton says Mexico drug wars starting to look like insurgency</strong></td>
<td>Her comments reflect a striking shift in public comment by the Obama administration about the violence and come as U.S. officials weigh a large increase in aid to Mexico to help fight the cartels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 4, 2010-09-04</td>
<td>Paul RichterRichter</td>
<td><strong>Mexican drug cartels cripple Pemex operations in basin</strong></td>
<td>The kidnappings of five petroleum company workers along with 30 others have terrorized the oil community, paralyzing segments of the business. Months later, families have still heard nothing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 3, 2010-09-03</td>
<td>Tracy WilkinsonWilkinson</td>
<td><strong>U.S. may boost funding for Mexico's drug war</strong></td>
<td>Obama administration officials say they continue to examine their approach toward an issue they consider to be a top priority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2, 2010-09-02</td>
<td>Ken EllingwoodEllingwood</td>
<td><strong>Gun battle in northeastern Mexico leaves 25 dead</strong></td>
<td>Troops rescued three hostages and seized drugs and weapons in the clash with purported drug traffickers in Tamaulipas state, the army says. Meanwhile, a former mayor is reported missing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 1, 2010-09-01</td>
<td>Daniel HernandezHernandez</td>
<td><strong>Mexico's crackdown on organized crime is working, Calderon says</strong></td>
<td>In his state of the nation report, President Felipe Calderon notes the arrests or killings of drug kingpins and efforts to clean up police. He also touts job gains and other economic improvements.</td>
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<td><strong>U.S. border officer gets 20 years for corruption, smuggling drugs</strong></td>
<td>U.S. border officer gets 20 years for corruption, smuggling drugs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A former U.S. Customs employee is headed to federal prison for 20 years after being convicted of corruption and smuggling charges in El Paso, Texas. **U.S. border officer gets 20 years for corruption, smuggling drugs**

Hundreds of others face charges or disciplinary action as the government attempts to modernize the force and eliminate corruption, part of its war against drug cartels. **Mexico fires 3,200 federal police officers**

Edgar Valdez Villarreal, also known as 'La Barbie,' was seized by federal police agents, the government says. He had been battling for control of the Beltran Leyva cartel's business. **Suspected drug lord captured in Mexico state**

'He might sing like a canary,' one analyst says the day after the capture of the Texas-born figure known as La Barbie. **Mexico’s capture of accused drug lord may yield inside cartel information**

Marco Antonio Leal Garcia, mayor of Hidalgo, is shot dead while with his young daughter, who is injured. He was mayor in a state that's a battleground between vicious rivals the Gulf Cartel and the Zetas. **Mexican drug traffickers blamed in killing of second mayor**

An official investigating this week's massacre of 72 migrants was missing, while possible car bomb explosions rocked a TV station and police station in the same violence-torn state of Tamaulipas. **Mexico massacre investigator missing; blasts hit TV and police stations**

Julian Leyzaola has chased out major drug traffickers, purged his force of corrupt cops, and helped set the stage for the return of investment and tourism. But he may fall victim to partisan politics. **Successful Tijuana security chief’s job at risk**

Authorities would not comment on reports that they may have been Central or South American migrants. The bodies of 58 men and 14 women were found in violence-racked Tamaulipas state. **Mexico marines find 72 bodies at ranch, navy says**

Mexico President Felipe Calderon says he'll offer legislation limiting big-ticket cash purchases by which drug traffickers launder billions of dollars smuggled south across the U.S.-Mexico border. **Calderon proposes steps against money laundering**

A police agent who was Santiago Mayor Edelmiro Cavazos' bodyguard is among the suspects held. A state prosecutor says the detainees 'confessed.' He predicts additional arrests. **Mexico arrests 6 police officers in mayor's slaying**
police officers in mayor’s slaying

Mayor found dead three days after being kidnapped

Edelmiro Cavazos of Santiago was seized at his home near Monterrey on Sunday. He might have been targeted because of his efforts to purge corrupt local police, the state governor says.

Under threat from Mexican drug cartels, reporters go silent

Journalists know drug traffickers can easily kidnap or kill them — and get away with it.

Gunmen grab Mexico surgeon, later release him

The kidnapping at a high-end clinic in Monterrey suggested a narco kingpin might be forcing a surgeon to alter his looks and help him evade the law. But the doctor’s patient was the apparent target.

Narco ballads without a home

Police officials ban Los Tucanes de Tijuana from their hometown over accusations that their music celebrates drug bosses.

Mexico drug cartels thrive despite Calderon’s offensive

Nearly four years after President Felipe Calderon launched a military-led crackdown, the cartels are smuggling more narcotics into the U.S., amassing bigger fortunes and extending dominion at home.

Calderon delivers blunt view of drug cartels’ sway in Mexico

He says the government will press its military-led battle against the cartels. But in the unusually bleak portrait he offers, he acknowledges the need to significantly alter the drug war strategy.

Mexican drug lord ’Nacho’ was quiet and ruthless

The slain Sinaloa leader was known for methamphetamine and cocaine trafficking, and not much else. His death is seen as a ‘harsh blow’ to the cartel.

Mexican troops kill top Sinaloa cartel figure

Ignacio Coronel Villarreal died in a gunfight in an upscale suburb of Guadalajara, authorities say. Separately, dozens of Tijuana law enforcement officers are arrested in an anti-corruption sweep.

Four journalists who covered Mexico prison riot missing

The kidnappings appeared to have been aimed at manipulating news coverage of drug gangs battling in violence-plagued northern states.

Photo and letter stir speculation on missing Mexico political figure

The mystery over the whereabouts of a former Mexican presidential candidate deepened when a
Headline

Photograph and letter purportedly written by him showed up on Twitter and then all over the Mexican media. *Photo and letter stir speculation on missing Mexico political figure*

Freed inmates carried out killings, Mexico police say

Prison guards loaned their own weapons to the killers, who went on to slay 17 at a birthday party in Coahuila state, authorities say. Inmates from the same prison are suspected in other attacks.*Freed inmates carried out killings, Mexico police say*

Mexico grave yields 51 bodies

Forensic workers recover 51 bodies, some burned and mutilated, from a mass grave in the northern border state of Nuevo Leon. They are believed to be linked to Mexico's drug war.*Mexico grave yields 51 bodies*

U.S. charges top leaders of Tijuana-based drug cartel

Dozens are accused in racketeering conspiracy case, including a top official in the Baja California attorney general's office and other current or former Mexican law enforcement officers.*U.S. charges top leaders of Tijuana-based drug cartel*

Mexico cartel kills four in car bombing

An already terrorized Mexico reacts with dismay to traffickers' latest bloody tactic. Officials say the attack near a federal police headquarters was planned to lure police and emergency workers to the explosives-laden vehicle.*Mexico cartel kills four in car bombing*

Mexico takes different tack on Juarez violence

A shift from military to police control is part of a broadened strategy aimed at curbing violence that has killed more than 5,000 people in Ciudad Juarez since 2008. So far, the results are mixed.*Mexico takes different tack on Juarez violence*

Drug gang hit man narrates assassination of prosecutor in Mexico

In an unusually frank and chilling video confession, a drug gang sicario, or hit man, in Ciudad Juarez narrates his participation in the June 30 assassination of a top official (link in Spanish)*Drug gang hit man narrates assassination of prosecutor in Mexico*

Suspicions of drug ties don't hurt candidates

Front-runners in two races in Sinaloa state and Ciudad Juarez brush off questions, and voters seem to care only about what services they'll provide.*Suspicions of drug ties don't hurt candidates*

Suspect held in U.S. consulate worker's killing in Ciudad Juarez

Police say Jesus Ernesto Chavez told them that Lesley A. Enriquez, 35, was shot to death in Ciudad Juarez because his gang thought she was providing visas to rivals.*Suspect held in U.S. consulate worker's killing in Ciudad Juarez*

Calderon urges Mexicans to unite against crime

In the wake of the assassination of a gubernatorial candidate, the president urges citizens to join against 'a common enemy that today threatens to destroy not only our tranquility but our democratic institutions.'*Calderon urges Mexicans to unite against crime*
Ex-police commander held in Michoacan ambush

Mexican officials say Miguel Ortiz Miranda, alias 'El Tyson,' directed operations in Morelia for the Michoacan-based La Familia, including an attack on security chief Minerva Bautista Gomez's convoy.

PRI candidate Rodolfo Torre slain in Tamaulipas

Gunmen ambush the gubernatorial candidate on a highway to Matamoros just days before an election he was expected to win.

Mexican state security minister can't trust her own police

Minerva Bautista and her entourage were attacked by gunmen in Michoacan, turf of La Familia drug gang. The chief suspects are well known to her.

Mexico official blames army in two child deaths

The military had said the two children were killed at Easter after their van was caught in cross-fire between troops and drug gang gunmen. But the human rights official rejects the account.

Shootout leaves 14 dead in Mexico tourist spot

News reports said the shooting broke out when troops went to search a suspected criminal hide-out in Taxco, a picturesque town that draws thousands of visitors. All the dead were said to be gunmen.

At least 10 Mexican police officers killed in shootouts

Gunmen ambush the officers in Michoacan state. An unknown number of the assailants are slain, their bodies whisked away by survivors.

More than 2,200 arrested in crackdown on Mexican drug cartels

The United States has arrested more than 400 additional suspects -- for a total of 2,200 over 22 months -- as part of its crackdown on illegal drugs coming from Mexico, Atty. Gen. Eric H. Holder Jr. announced Thursday morning.

Cartels smuggle U.S. drug money back to Mexico in cash, study finds

A new U.S.-Mexico government study estimates that $19 billion to $29 billion is shipped south, then laundered through cash purchases of land, luxury hotels, cars and other high-end items.

2 Monterrey officials kidnapped

The kidnapped officials head the transportation department of the affluent city, which has seen drug-trafficking violence rise sharply.

Cancun mayor's arrest adds to Mexico worries

The charges against Gregorio Sanchez, on leave to run for governor, add new force to worries organized crime has infiltrated politics at all levels and is undermining moves toward a real
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<td>May 27, 2010</td>
<td>Ken Ellingwood</td>
<td>Cancun mayor’s arrest adds to Mexico worries</td>
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<td>May 23, 2010</td>
<td>Richard Marosi</td>
<td>Cal State system’s ban on studying in Tijuana draws protest</td>
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<td>May 20, 2010</td>
<td>Peter Nicholas</td>
<td>Cal State system’s ban on studying in Tijuana draws protest</td>
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<td>May 18, 2010</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Mexican president urges U.S. to ban assault rifles, overhaul immigration policy</td>
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<td>May 17, 2010</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Politician’s disappearance rivets Mexico</td>
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<td>May 11, 2010</td>
<td>Richard Serrano</td>
<td>Monterrey, Mexico, finally feeling the effects of the drug war</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9, 2010</td>
<td>Richard Marosi</td>
<td>Ex-Cancun mayor extradited to U.S. on drug charges</td>
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<td>May 5, 2010</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Tijuana club scene revs up as drug-war fears ease</td>
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<td>April 25, 2010</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Mexico army handling of civilian death inquiries questioned</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, 2010</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Gunmen kill 4, wound top security official in Michoacan</td>
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<td>April 24, 2010</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>8 killed in ambush in Ciudad Juarez</td>
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Cancun mayor’s arrest adds to Mexico worries
The charges against Gregorio Sanchez, on leave to run for governor, add new force to worries about organized crime having infiltrated politics at all levels and is undermining moves toward a real democracy.

Cal State system’s ban on studying in Tijuana draws protest
University-sponsored activities there are frozen because of drug war violence. Students, faculty and Baja California officials say the policy is based on a distorted perception of the city.

Mexican president urges U.S. to ban assault rifles, overhaul immigration policy
President Felipe Calderon makes an impassioned plea to Congress, saying Mexico is being flooded with smuggled assault weapons and denouncing Arizona’s immigration law.

Politician’s disappearance rivets Mexico
In a country inured to killings and kidnappings, the disappearance of Diego Fernandez de Cevallos has horrified Mexicans — especially the ruling class. It has dominated headlines, talk shows, conversations.

Monterrey, Mexico, finally feeling the effects of the drug war
The wealthy city is perhaps paying the price for tolerating the presence of drug traffickers for so many years. Now, 'security is collapsing,' an official says.

Ex-Cancun mayor extradited to U.S. on drug charges
Mario Ernesto Villanueva Madrid is accused of taking millions of dollars in bribes to help the Juarez cartel ferry cocaine across the border.

Tijuana club scene revs up as drug-war fears ease
Several months after the capture of cartel boss Teodoro Garcia Simental, this Mexico city is looking more like its old, vibrant self.

Mexico army handling of civilian death inquiries questioned
A military-led inquiry and another by the attorney general find the army not responsible in recent cases of civilians being killed amid the war on drug cartels. But their credibility is questioned.

Gunmen kill 4, wound top security official in Michoacan
The state public security minister had just left ceremonies launching a state fair in Morelia when her armored SUV and bodyguard escort came under fire.
Drug war ensnares Morelos state
Violence has increased recently in Morelos due to a battle for control of a drug cartel. Nearly 50 people have been killed in the state this year, newspapers say. **Drug war ensnares Morelos state**

Caribbean countries seek anti-drug assistance from U.S.
Officials say in a meeting with Defense Secretary Robert Gates that a Washington-based crackdown in Mexico has pushed traffickers into their region. **Caribbean countries seek anti-drug assistance from U.S.**

Deadly street shootout strikes fear in Acapulco
In the Mexican resort city, gunmen fire at two men in a car and federal police officers. They also shoot at other vehicles, leaving behind casings from AK-47s, which are favored by drug hit men. **Deadly street shootout strikes fear in Acapulco**

Mexico death toll in drug war higher than previously reported
More than 22,000 have died since President Felipe Calderon launched his crackdown on drug trafficking gangs, according to news reports citing confidential government figures. **Mexico death toll in drug war higher than previously reported**

Key figure in Juarez violence eludes capture
Eduardo Ravelo is believed to have helped turn Ciudad Juarez into Mexico’s homicide capital, with more than 600 slain there this year. Now he's linked to the recent U.S. Consulate slayings. **Key figure in Juarez violence eludes capture**

Mexico drug gangs turn weapons on army
In northern states this week, gunmen fought troops and sought to confine some to their bases by cutting off access and blocking roads. The aggression shows they are not afraid to challenge the army. **Mexico drug gangs turn weapons on army**

Suspect details U.S. Consulate-related shootings, officials say
An Aztecs drug gang member says a consulate official’s husband, an El Paso corrections officer, was the target of the Ciudad Juarez attack that left three dead. **Suspect details U.S. Consulate-related shootings, officials say**

10 youths slain in Mexico
The students, ages 8 to 21, were on their way to pick up scholarships when apparent drug gang members opened fire and threw grenades when their vehicle didn’t stop at a checkpoint. **10 youths slain in Mexico**

Mexico arrests alleged major heroin trafficker
Jose Antonio Medina, called 'the king of heroin,' was arrested in the state of Michoacan. He is suspected of heading a smuggling network that brought the drug to Southern California. **Mexico arrests alleged major heroin trafficker**
Clinton pledges more U.S. help in Mexico war on drug violence

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton leads a large U.S. delegation to Mexico City, reaffirming that the battle against violent gangs is one shared by both countries. Clinton pledges more U.S. help in Mexico war on drug violence

Mexico military faces political risks over drug war

As the death toll keeps climbing in Calderon’s crackdown on the drug trade, there is a growing feeling that the army has been less than effective as a police force. Mexico military faces political risks over drug war

Mexico border city relives nightmare of violence

Renewed feuding in Nuevo Laredo between drug gangs spurs old fears amid dozens of deaths. Mexico border city relives nightmare of violence

President Calderon visits an angry Ciudad Juarez

In Ciudad Juarez, Mexico’s president faces citizen outrage amid new signs his war on drug gangs is failing. President Calderon visits an angry Ciudad Juarez

Consular slayings spotlight Mexico’s failures in fighting drug gangs

On a visit to Ciudad Juarez in the wake of the killings of an American couple and a Mexican, President Calderon is confronted by angry demonstrations and a tense, frustrated citizenry. Consular slayings spotlight Mexico’s failures in fighting drug gangs

Attack on a U.S. official is rare in Mexico

If drug traffickers in Ciudad Juarez deliberately targeted diplomatic personnel, it would mark a significant departure in tactics. Attack on a U.S. official is rare in Mexico

2 Americans and a third victim are killed in Mexico shootings

Two of the victims worked for the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez. Gunmen targeted the two cars involved as the people left a child’s birthday party. 2 Americans and a third victim are killed in Mexico shootings

Mexico puts its drug suspects on parade

Critics of the media events say human rights are also on the line, along with the country’s efforts to establish the rule of law. But Mexico wants to show victories in its drug war. Mexico puts its drug suspects on parade

Mexico president says all cartels are pursued equally

President Felipe Calderon confronts an allegation long circulated that his government has gone easier on the Sinaloa cartel. 'It is absolutely false,' he says. Mexico president says all cartels are pursued equally

U.S. warns Americans to avoid Nuevo Laredo

Nineteen killings in three days in the region prompt the U.S. Consulate in Monterrey to issue the warning. U.S. warns Americans to avoid Nuevo Laredo

Juarez massacre may mark a turning for Mexico
Headline
The January killing of 15 young people has created a furor and left some wondering whether it’s a tipping point, a moment when Mexicans overcame their fear and fatalism to confront the violence. *Juarez massacre may mark a turning for Mexico*

A lethal business model targets Middle America
Sugar cane farmers from a tiny Mexican county use savvy marketing and low prices to push black-tar heroin in the United States. *A lethal business model targets Middle America*

Calderon visits Ciudad Juarez
In the traumatized border city, he talks of social programs aimed at boosting the fight against drug cartels. *Calderon visits Ciudad Juarez*

2 suspected drug gang leaders held in Tijuana
Raydel Lopez Uriarte and Manuel Garcia Simental are believed to be top lieutenants in a cartel blamed for a string of massacres, police killings, beheadings and kidnappings in Tijuana. *2 suspected drug gang leaders held in Tijuana*

Mexico massacre response fails to convince
Officials’ suggestions that slain Ciudad Juarez teens had drug ties anger relatives. *Mexico massacre response fails to convince*

Mexico kidnapping attempt leaves 8 dead
A Mexico federal police officer and seven gunmen are killed after a kidnapping at a mall in Torreon. The two kidnapping victims are freed. Officials blame the Zetas drug gang. *Mexico kidnapping attempt leaves 8 dead*

Telephoned abduction claims bedeviling Mexico
A cottage industry has exploded alongside the skyrocketing kidnapping rate: telephoned shakedowns that play on fears, in which the perpetrators scamming for pesos make random, scattershot calls. *Telephoned abduction claims bedeviling Mexico*

Mexico arrests suspect in Ciudad Juarez shooting attack on party
The man tells reporters that assailants targeted the high-school party because members of a rival trafficking group were said to be in attendance. *Mexico arrests suspect in Ciudad Juarez shooting attack on party*

Ciudad Juarez police baffled by shooting of teens
The attack on a party attended by mostly high school and college students has ‘no apparent motive,' the mayor says. The death toll rises to 16. *Ciudad Juarez police baffled by shooting of teens*

As Mexican teens celebrate school soccer win, gunmen open fire
Fourteen people are killed in Ciudad Juarez during a party in a private home, the latest victims of the drug war. More than 3,700 people have been slain in two years in this violent area of Mexico. *As Mexican teens celebrate school soccer win, gunmen open fire*

Mexico prison riot leaves at least 23 dead
All of the dead in the Durango prison uprising are inmates. The fighting is said to have been
Headline
between members of rival drug-trafficking cartels.

Mexico prison riot leaves at least 23 dead

The crime boss 'El Teo,' who authorities say is responsible for massacres and beheadings, is quietly arrested in Baja California. Hundreds fled Tijuana to avoid being kidnapped.

Mexican drug lord Teodoro Garcia Simental, known for his savagery, is captured

New years see Tijuana slip into cycle of violence

After some gains in Mexico's drug war in 2009, Tijuana has had a bloody turn of events in the new year. More than a dozen people, four of them students, were reported slain in the last week.

Mexico's drug violence respects no borders

The slaying of an El Monte educator visiting Mexico's Durango state brings the drug war toll home to Southern California.

Mexico's public is missing in action in the drug battle

Faced with drug-cartel violence and signs of vigilantism against the gangs, ordinary people would argue that it doesn’t pay to get involved.

Crime reporters face deadly perils

As many as 12 reporters and media workers have been slain this year. The steady intimidation of journalists has caused many of them to pull their punches and refrain from writing the whole truth.

Mexico drug raid hero’s family slaughtered

Hours after the burial of a marine who died in a raid that killed drug lord Arturo Beltran Leyva, gunmen burst into his home and killed family members.

Staged photos of slain drug lord stir controversy

Images of Arturo Beltran Leyva's corpse covered with blood-stained peso and dollar bills and jewelry raise concerns that law enforcement is adopting the tactics of hit men. An inquiry is underway.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Byline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-12-20</td>
<td>Ken Ellingwood, Josh Meyer, Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Julian Leyzaola lives with threats and worse, plus the accusations.<em>Tijuana's security chief need all of it he can get</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-12-18</td>
<td>Ken Ellingwood, Josh Meyer, Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Cartel chief is dead, but now what? Officials herald the killing of Arturo Beltran Leyva as a coup. Still, the drug violence could grow.<em>Cartel chief is dead, but now what?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-12-14</td>
<td>Richard Marosi</td>
<td>One man’s war zone is another’s paradise From the insulated safety of Baja’s luxurious seaside gated communities, American expatriates say reports of kidnappings and violent drug cartels seem a world away.<em>One man’s war zone is another’s paradise</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-12-09</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Rights group faults Mexico over alleged army abuse Amnesty International, citing cases of alleged slayings by the military in the drug war, criticizes civilian officials, saying they fail to properly investigate or prosecute crimes by the army.<em>Rights group faults Mexico over alleged army abuse</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-11-25</td>
<td>Richard Marosi</td>
<td>Mexico tightens security at U.S. border crossings The new infrastructure -- including gates, cameras and vehicle scales -- aims to hamper the smuggling of drug money and weapons to Mexican cartels. Businesses are protesting the increased wait times.<em>Mexico tightens security at U.S. border crossings</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-11-17</td>
<td>Ken Ellingwood</td>
<td>Fixing Mexico police becomes a priority Reversing police corruption that has tainted whole departments, shattered faith in law enforcement and compromised one of society's most basic institutions is proving difficult, but not impossible.<em>Fixing Mexico police becomes a priority</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-11-09</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Women play growing role in Mexico’s drug war Addiction, the economy and the lure of living well have sucked many into the narcotics underworld. The trend threatens the foundations of Mexican society.<em>Women play growing role in Mexico’s drug war</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10-29</td>
<td>Cecilia Sanchez, Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>Song banned, band pulls out Los Tigres del Norte are initially barred from playing their latest drug-trade lyrics.<em>Song banned, band pulls out</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10-28</td>
<td>Ken Ellingwood</td>
<td>Grim glossary of the narco-world Average words aren’t sufficient for the over-the-top violence of Mexico’s drug war, so new ones have been invented.<em>Grim glossary of the narco-world</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10-23</td>
<td>Tracy Wilkinson</td>
<td>In drug-trafficking hub, artist is in demand Between mansions for the living and mausoleums for the dead, there is work to be had in the Sinaloa capital for painter and sculptor Jose Espinoza, who says of his patrons: 'I don't probe.'<em>In drug-trafficking hub, artist is in demand</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10-17</td>
<td>Ken Ellingwood</td>
<td>Gruesome slayings add to Guerrero’s toll The mutilated corpses of nine people were found in plastic bags in the bed of a pickup, authorities...</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Note: The text continues but is not shown here.*
said. The area where they were discovered is known for its drug trafficking. Gruesome slayings add to Guerrero’s toll

Mexico's 'narco-lawyers' risk everything

One 'Bulletproof Lawyer' survived four assassination attempts before being gunned down. Such unsolved killings highlight the violence within a judicial system manipulated by powerful drug cartels. Mexico's 'narco-lawyers' risk everything

One Mexico border city is quiet, maybe too quiet

Mexicali seems an oasis from violence, but some U.S. officials suspect that the peace comes at a high price. One Mexico border city is quiet, maybe too quiet

18 killed in Juarez clinic for addicts

The systematic execution of clients in one of the many treatment centers for addicts that have sprouted in Ciudad Juarez suggests smuggling gangs may be fighting over local markets. 18 killed in Juarez clinic for addicts

8 killed at street party in Mexico

Four gunmen leap from a pickup truck and fire semiautomatic weapons at the revelers in the town of Navolato in Sinaloa state. The shooters escape. 8 killed at street party in Mexico

Mexico shifts tactics in the drug battle

Allowing possession of small amounts frees resources for fighting cartels and traffickers, the government says. Mexico shifts tactics in the drug battle

Actually, violence is down--so say the numbers

The attorney general points to statistics that indicate homicides have declined in the last 15 years. Critics dismiss his argument as so much spin. Actually, violence is down--so say the numbers

17 charged in string of brutal kidnappings and slayings in San Diego suburbs

In a spillover of Tijuana violence, Mexican gang members posing as U.S. law enforcement personnel abducted and killed 9 victims. 17 charged in string of brutal kidnappings and slayings in San Diego suburbs

Police figures slain in separate attacks

An investigator and a commander and his family are killed at their homes as drug crackdown continues. Police figures slain in separate attacks

U.S. indictments target Mexico's Gulf cartels

Gulf cartel and a brutal mercenary group are targeted in an effort that could lead to the seizure of U.S.-held assets. U.S. indictments target Mexico's Gulf cartels

Drug cartels imperil immigrants

Tighter border enforcement has driven narcotics smugglers to share territory with migrants, adding to the dangers of the journey and possibly contributing to a drop in immigration. Drug cartels imperil immigrants

Forces hiked to counter drug gang
Mexico is to deploy 5,500 security personnel to the western state of Michoacan, where a series of recent attacks has killed 16 police officers. The La Familia drug gang is suspected in the slayings. **Forces hiked to counter drug gang**

Congressman-elect Julio Cesar Godoy is suspected of helping protect the La Familia cartel, accused of killing 16 officers in recent days. That has brought pressure on his sibling, Michoacan Gov. Leonel Godoy. **Politician is tied to gang targeting police**

The attack continues a spree in Michoacan by the La Familia drug cartel, officials say. **12 slain in Michoacan were federal police officers**

The 2 1/2-year offensive has uncovered deep corruption and sparked violent gang wars, presenting a stark reality: The longer and harder the war is fought, the more complex and daunting it becomes. **Drug offensive stirs ‘wasps nest’**

A heroin overdose leads detectives to unravel a growing addiction problem in small New England towns. Maine is now on the drug mainline from Mexico. **Small-town cops in coastal Maine face a big problem**

The attack on Benjamin LeBaron, a U.S. citizen, and his brother-in-law bore the signs of an organized-crime hit. LeBaron had led a demonstration in May against kidnapping. **Protest leader, relative shot to death in Mexico**

The wild pursuit that ended on the 101 freeway may have been the result of a rivalry between alleged members of the Arellano Felix drug-smuggling organization, according to an affidavit obtained by the Times. **Bentley driver’s slaying in L.A. might have cartel link**

Pressure on the U.S.-Mexico border makes the Vancouver, Canada market all the more lucrative and dangerous as narcotics traffickers battle for market share. **Drug war on another border: Canada**

The deadly clash in the state of Guanajuato is said to have occurred when security forces sought to search a home. Elsewhere, in the state of Sonora, a congressional candidate escapes assassination. **At least 12 die in Mexico shootout**

President Calderon, who wants to focus on trafficking, is set to sign the law decriminalizing minor drug use. But critics say letting off users caught with limited amounts of cocaine or other substances...
Designated immigration agents authorized to participate in drug enforcement
Homeland Security and Justice departments repair schism with an accord to interchange staff and better share information.

Gun flow south is a crisis for two nations
The U.S. government lacks a coordinated strategy to combat the flow of arms into Mexico, where 90% of the seized weapons that can be traced are linked to U.S. sales, watchdog report says.

Mexican national arrested trying to smuggle marijuana ashore on a surfboard
Suspect tosses duffel bag as authorities approach, but the bag washes ashore at Imperial Beach. Officials say it contained 24 pounds of marijuana with a street value of about $74,400.

Acapulco shootout leaves 18 dead
The hours-long battle that killed two soldiers and 16 gunmen took place several miles from the main strip of tourist complexes.

At least 18 killed in shootout in Acapulco
An hours-long gun battle erupts when government troops approach a home in a beachfront neighborhood of the Mexican resort. No tourists are reported hurt.

Drug violence spilling into Guatemala
Mexican drug gangs under pressure at home are moving operations to Guatemala, whose proximity, weak law enforcement and deep-rooted corruption provide fertile ground, officials and analysts say.

47 police officers questioned in disappearance of Mexican customs official
The customs administrator in Veracruz has not been seen since an apparent traffic collision Monday night. On a security video, several police cars are seen arriving at the scene of the crash.

Mexico drug traffickers corrupt politics
The cult-like La Familia Michoacana has contaminated city halls across one state, federal officials say. It sometimes decides who runs and who doesn't, who lives and who dies.

Detention of local officials marks shift in anti-drug efforts
Calderon had been focused on a military offensive targeting drug figures and corrupt police. Now officials are being questioned to see how far the cartels have penetrated ‘local political elites.’
10 mayors, other Mexico officials detained
The sweep targets local officials in the state of Michoacan, home to La Familia, a fast-growing group of drug traffickers.

Mexico senator takes leave amid scandal
Senator Ricardo Monreal of Zacatecas steps down temporarily to clear his name after an official acknowledges an investigation into a family property where tons of marijuana were found.

Mexico jail break video shows "inside job"
Reforma newspaper publishes surveillance video showing guards apparently helping drug suspects escape from a prison in Zacatecas state.

Reputed up-and-coming cartel figure held
Rodolfo Lopez Ibarra and 12 other people with him are seized by soldiers when he steps from a plane in Monterrey, where he allegedly was assigned to take over cartel operations.

Mexico sees inside job in prison break
An armada of 17 vehicles, backed by a helicopter, sweeps down on a prison holding drug convicts. The warden and two top guards are arrested and another 40 are questioned in what authorities say was an "inside job."

4 Southern California residents slain in Tijuana
The bodies of two men and two women, bearing 'signs of violence,' were found over the weekend in a car. The circumstances are being investigated.

Pursuing smugglers, border agents become trackers
New fencing and high-tech devices make it difficult for drug traffickers to cross the border. So smugglers hoist packs and take to the desert on foot. Agents use century-old tracking skills to follow.

A trip to Mexico’s museum of drugs
Mexico displays confiscated guns and gadgets from its struggles against narcotics traffickers. Just don’t call it the Narcomuseum.

Sinaloa cartel may resort to deadly force in U.S.
Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, Mexico's most wanted man, reportedly meets with his lieutenants near the Mexico-Arizona border and tells them to meet force with force north of the border.

Army needs oversight, Human Rights Watch says
Report lists 17 allegations of serious human rights abuse by the Mexican army, including torture and murder.

7 police officers die in Tijuana attacks
The bold assaults by heavily armed gunmen are said to have been aimed at intimidating the force.
Police officers die in Tijuana attacks

Drug cartels keep Catholic officials in fear

In one case, Archbishop Hector Gonzalez calls attention to a drug trafficker in his neighborhood and accuses the government of ignoring the situation. The prelate later apologizes for his comments.

General battles Tijuana drug traffickers

General Alfonso Duarte Mugica is held up as a model in the army effort to stem drug violence and take on the cartels. He says there’s nothing personal in his hunt for one of Mexico’s most wanted.

Mayors on front line of the drug war

Mayors say they are the ones personally confronting the toll of drug violence on the streets. Yet they lack any meaningful role in the federal government’s battle against organized crime.

On the borderline of good and bad

Starr County, Texas had two consecutive sheriffs tied to drug trafficking from neighboring Mexico. The county finds itself wedged between a relentless supply of drugs to the south, and an insatiable appetite for them to the north.

Mexico arrests suspected No. 2 in Juarez drug cartel

Vicente Carrillo Leyva, son of the late kingpin Amado Carrillo Fuentes, is arrested in Mexico City. His capture comes as top U.S. law enforcement officials meet in Cuernavaca.

Napolitano promises more agents at San Diego-area checkpoints

The homeland security secretary visits the Southwest border for the first time since the Obama administration announced a new anti-smuggling strategy.

Senators hear testimony on border danger

John Kerry and others on the Foreign Relations Committee are told Mexico is not in danger of becoming a failed state.

Hillary Clinton wraps up Mexico visit, calls drug violence 'intolerable'

The secretary of State tours a high-tech police facility in Mexico City and meets with university students in Monterrey.

U.S. shares blame for Mexico drug violence, Clinton says

A voracious appetite for illegal narcotics and liberal gun-sale rules are funding and arming smugglers locked in a drug war south of the border, the secretary of state says on her first visit to Mexico.

White House unveils plan to fight border drug cartels

The $700-million multi-agency plan targets drug and human trafficking and money laundering and
Headline

White House unveils plan to fight border drug cartels

Family members allegedly ran heroin smuggling ring

An extended family of immigrants from Oaxaca is charged with running a heroin empire that relied on an obscure indigenous language and transactions in public places.

Mexico offers $2 million rewards for top drug suspects

The rewards are for information leading to the capture of the 24 most-wanted, including Joaquin 'Shorty' Guzman and Ismael Zambada, leaders of the so-called Sinaloa cartel.

Drug cartels raise the stakes on human smuggling

Drug-smuggling gangs appear to be muscling in on the brisk business of smuggling illegal immigrants across the U.S. border.

Abuse allegations rise against army

Since President Calderon’s deployment of troops in the war against drug trafficking, allegations of illegal searches and arrests, rape and torture have risen, rights groups say.

In Tijuana, opera offers a refuge from violence

Drug cartels' new weaponry means war

Narcotics traffickers are acquiring firepower more appropriate to an army -- including grenade launchers.
Headline
launchers and anti-tank rockets -- and the police are feeling outgunned.**Drug cartels' new weaponry means war**

**The barrio gets behind the cartels**
The Gulf cartel showed its pull in the impoverished neighborhoods around Mexico's richest city, calling them to the streets. Protests spread to border and port cities.**The barrio gets behind the cartels**

**U.S. may deploy troops if Mexico border violence escalates**
Homeland Security official tells Congress that National Guard may be needed if security deteriorates at U.S.-Mexico border, a day after President Obama makes a similar suggestion about drug-related violence.**U.S. may deploy troops if Mexico border violence escalates**

**Dozens arrested in Tijuana raid**
A major army-led operation targets organized crime.**Dozens arrested in Tijuana raid**

**Rosarito Beach regulars won't stay away despite Mexico's drug war**
U.S. tourists who enjoy escaping to this seaside city are continuing to do so despite the recent travel warnings. 'Drug people are fighting the drug people,' goes the thinking. **Rosarito Beach regulars won't stay away despite Mexico's drug war**

**U.S. citizen beheaded in apparent drug hit**
A former Chula Vista resident is identified as one of three men who were found decapitated this week in Tijuana. **U.S. citizen beheaded in apparent drug hit**

**Tourists weigh Mexico drug violence**
Mexico's rampant drug violence has put the issue of safety front and center for would-be vacationers, and put the country's publicity-sensitive tourism promoters on the defensive. **Tourists weigh Mexico drug violence**

**20 killed in riot at Ciudad Juarez prison**
It takes forces nearly three hours to contain the gang unrest. Bodies are reportedly thrown from windows. **20 killed in riot at Ciudad Juarez prison**

**Mexico's drug war creates new class of refugees**
Business owners, law enforcement officers, journalists and other professionals are among those seeking asylum in the U.S. -- even when it means sitting in jail. **Mexico's drug war creates new class of refugees**

**Mexico sending more forces to Ciudad Juarez**
As violence spirals, Mexico dispatches another 1,000 federal police to the border city of Juarez, where 2,000 additional soldiers arrived earlier this week. More than 1,600 people died last year in drug-related violence in the city, across the border from El Paso, Texas. **Mexico sending more forces to Ciudad Juarez**

**Warning issued on Mexico trips**
The Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has taken the
unusual step of urging college students to avoid parts of northern Mexico during spring break.

**Warning issued on Mexico trips**

Killings uncover seamier side of Cancun

The killing of a newly-hired security official, Gen. Mauro Enrique Tello, and two others raises questions about the drug trade's impact on the popular resort, especially with suspicions falling on then-police chief, Francisco Velasco. **Killings uncover seamier side of Cancun**

Mexico to send up to 5,000 more troops to Ciudad Juarez

The increase would triple the law enforcement presence in the border city, which has been racked by drug violence. Its police chief quit recently and its mayor has received threats. **Mexico to send up to 5,000 more troops to Ciudad Juarez**

Town fed up with violence turns to army

In the state of Zacatecas, residents of Villanueva demanded that the military take over. The soldiers came, but drug war violence got worse. **Town fed up with violence turns to army**

Hundreds arrested in U.S. probe of Mexican drug cartel

Fifty arrests in California and elsewhere are the latest among 730 targeting the Sinaloa cartel in a 21-month crackdown. **Hundreds arrested in U.S. probe of Mexican drug cartel**

Governor of Mexico's Chihuahua state downplays attack

Gov. Jose Reyes Baeza Terrazas says gunmen who fired on his convoy weren't aiming at him. **Governor of Mexico's Chihuahua state downplays attack**

Ciudad Juarez police chief quits after killings of officers, threats

Posted signs say a policeman would be killed every 48 hours unless Roberto Orduña Cruz resigned. **Ciudad Juarez police chief quits after killings of officers, threats**

Border drug war is too close for comfort

A quaint but quirky border town in New Mexico casts a wary glance at its neighbor over the border, fretting over whether drug-related violence will cross over to its streets. **Border drug war is too close for comfort**

Gunmen kill police officer, 10 relatives in Tabasco

Gunmen hit the homes of Carlos Reyes Lopez and his extended family; a 2-year-old nephew and five other children are among the dead. Reyes Lopez was a member of an elite agency tackling police corruption. **Gunmen kill police officer, 10 relatives in Tabasco**

Phoenix, kidnap-for-ransom capital

Juan Francisco Perez-Torres was abducted last month in front of his home and ransom demanded. Hundreds of such incidents occur each year in Phoenix, and Mexican drug-smuggling is usually involved. **Phoenix, kidnap-for-ransom capital**

Families want answers from man who says he dissolved 300 people

Santiago Meza Lopez, known as El Pozolero (the Stew Maker), says he stuffed bodies into barrels of lye for drug cartels. He may be a good source of information about missing loved ones. **Families**
want answers from man who says he dissolved 300 people

Openness is the new order in the courts

Closed-door, written trials give way to U.S.-style proceedings in Chihuahua state. The overhaul could help fight corruption and organized crime, analysts say. Openness is the new order in the courts

Ex-general, 2 others found shot to death near Cancun

Mauro Enrique Tello is one of the highest-ranking officials to be killed in the lawlessness fueled by drug trafficking and other gang crime. Elsewhere in Mexico, 14 people are reported killed. Ex-general, 2 others found shot to death near Cancun

Mexico drug bosses may have set truce

According to news reports, trafficking chiefs in the state of Sinaloa agreed last month to curb their bloody rivalry. Killings there have declined sharply. Mexico drug bosses may have set truce

Calderon seeks to dispel talk of 'failing state'

Two recent U.S. reports paint a dire picture of Mexico as its battle against drug crime grows more bloody, but Mexican officials say that though some cities are in trouble, the state itself is strong. Calderon seeks to dispel talk of 'failing state'

Mexico army nabs vats-of-lye suspect

The man arrested in Baja California is said to have dissolved hundreds of bodies as part of Tijuana's drug turf war. Mexico army nabs vats-of-lye suspect

Parents' quest helps identify remains in barrel

The LaPortes' search for their son ends when Mexican officials confirm the remains found in Rosarito are of their son Daniel. They also learn that he was apparently smuggling marijuana. Parents' quest helps identify remains in barrel

Reality check for U.S.-Mexico relations

Calderon must face facts in Mexico, and Obama may find the drug war a tough foreign policy issue. Reality check for U.S.-Mexico relations

Vatican suggests excommunicating Mexican drug traffickers

Vatican's second-ranking official suggests severe penalty for drug thugs responsible for thousands of deaths in Mexico. Vatican suggests excommunicating Mexican drug traffickers

Obama, Calderon meet in Washington

Cooperation in drug war on agenda as Mexican president meets president-elect. Obama, Calderon meet in Washington

More U.S. funds freed for Mexico's drug fight

Washington releases an additional $99 million as part of an aid package to help security forces in their battle with drug cartels. More U.S. funds freed for Mexico's drug fight

Mexico arrests a founder of "Zetas" drug hitmen

Mexico has captured one of the founders of the Gulf drug cartel's brutal "Zetas" squad of hitmen
that is behind much of the country's bloodshed, the attorney general's office said. *Mexico arrests a founder of “Zetas” drug hitmen*

**Drug arrests mystify Covina neighborhood**

After two Mexican federal agents and two others were arrested in July on drug-related charges, little has emerged about the case and residents are puzzled. *Drug arrests mystify Covina neighborhood*

**Mistrust bedevils war on Mexican drug cartels**

The U.S. and Mexico agree that cartels have morphed into crime syndicates that pose an urgent security threat to the region. But working together has not been easy. *Mistrust bedevils war on Mexican drug cartels*

**Strategies for Mexico's drug war**

Experts and public figures in the U.S. and Latin America offer a range of views, from stepped-up policing to legalization. *Strategies for Mexico's drug war*

**In Sinaloa, the drug trade has infiltrated 'every corner of life'**

'Narcos' have made their way into government, business and culture in this Pacific state, where kids want to grow up to be traffickers. *In Sinaloa, the drug trade has infiltrated 'every corner of life'*

**Mexican beauty queen arrested with suspected drug gang members, guns and bullets**

Miss Sinaloa arrested in Zapopan, outside city of Guadalajara, in Jalisco state. *Mexican beauty queen arrested with suspected drug gang members, guns and bullets*

**Remains of 9 decapitated men found in Mexico**

The heads and bodies were found at separate places in the state of Guerrero, a hot spot in the country’s drug war. Local media say the victims may be Mexican soldiers. *Remains of 9 decapitated men found in Mexico*

**Drug crackdown has little effect on money laundering**

The network of money laundering in Mexico reaches from banks and exchange houses in the capital to a small soccer team in the western state of Michoacan. *Drug crackdown has little effect on money laundering*

**Drug violence puts Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on edge**

In a harrowing three-day visit, a reporter finds the social fabric badly frayed in Ciudad Juarez, a border city that has suffered the worst of the drug-related violence in Mexico. *Drug violence puts Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on edge*

**Mystery man blamed for gruesome Tijuana deaths**

Teodoro Garcia Simental is the best known but least identifiable suspects believed to be responsible for Tijuana's raging drug violence. His name alone inspires silence. *Mystery man blamed for gruesome Tijuana deaths*

**Less cocaine on U.S. streets, report says.**

Mexican trafficking organizations are expanding their control, but interdiction efforts have affected
Less cocaine on U.S. streets, report says.

Death toll in Mexico's drug war surges

Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora says 5,376 people have been killed so far in 2008, more than twice the toll for the first 11 months of 2007.

Corruption hurting Mexico's fight against crime, Calderon says

Mexican President Felipe Calderon says his government has made strides in combating graft. But police corruption remains a big problem in the battle against drug trafficking.

23 seconds of the Mexican drug war

When four people in a jewelry store were killed by gunmen who took nothing, few doubted it was a message sent in the drug war.

Some in Mexico want the death penalty reinstated

The increase in slayings and kidnappings related to the nation's war on drug traffickers has created a climate of fear. Legal experts see too many obstacles to restoring capital punishment.

Moments before eternity

The slayings of a Mexican police officer, his wife and two others occurred in Monterrey's busy business district.

Schools become latest targets in violence-plagued Ciudad Juarez

Anonymous threats warn of unspecified harm if teachers don't hand over their year-end bonuses.

Tijuana drug violence unabated

Despite a recent military offensive, at least 38 people have been killed in the city's drug wars since Saturday, nine of them decapitated.

Mexico drug suspects extradited at record pace

The new posture on extradition signals President Felipe Calderon's determination to combat violent smuggling groups through closer collaboration with U.S. authorities, officials and analysts say.

U.S. war on drugs has failed, report says

Former Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo calls for a U.S. effort to curb consumption and halt arms trafficking.

Mexico traffickers bribed former anti-drug chief, officials say

Noe Ramirez Mandujano, a prosecutor who resigned as head of the SIEDO organized crime unit in July, is arrested on suspicion of passing intelligence to Sinaloa drug gangsters.

Another bloody night in Sinaloa, Mexico

Five federal and state police agents are killed in an ambush in Culiacan as drug gangs try to fight off
a government crackdown. The day's toll is 10. Another bloody night in Sinaloa, Mexico
500 police officers replaced in Tijuana
Mexican federal agents and army troops are dispatched in a bid to rid the Tijuana police department of cops suspected of having links to drug traffickers. 500 police officers replaced in Tijuana

Mexico drug wars spill across the border
Few regions of the U.S. are immune to drug-trafficking organizations that have left a trail of death, kidnappings and other crimes.  Mexico drug wars spill across the border

Rosarito Beach losing tourists to crime fears
The mayor still pushes his seaside city as a cut-rate paradise. 'Tourists are not targeted,' he says. But violence linked to the drug war has made it a harder sell. Rosarito Beach losing tourists to crime fears

Citizen suspicion surrounds Mexico plane crash
A citizenry wearied by drug violence appears unwilling to rule out foul play in the crash that killed Mexico's interior minister, a former top anti-drug official and 12 others. Citizen suspicion surrounds Mexico plane crash

Two top state police officers slain in Mexico
One of the killings occurs in Mexico state, where 12 officers have been killed in five days, apparently by gangs seeking a foothold in areas near the capital. Two top state police officers slain in Mexico

Most-wanted Mexico drug trafficker is found everywhere
Rumored sightings of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman are legion, but Mexico's most-wanted trafficker remains at large. Most-wanted Mexico drug trafficker is found everywhere

Lions and tigers and drugs
A recent raid in Mexico City turns up a menagerie filled with big cats and a monkey, another case of an alleged cartel boss collecting rare exotic species. Lions and tigers and drugs

Mexico acknowledges drug gang infiltration of police
The arrest of 35 members of Mexico's elite organized-crime squad is another embarrassing setback in President Felipe Calderon's effort to root out drug trafficking. Mexico acknowledges drug gang infiltration of police

Police capture key drug suspect
Eduardo Arellano Felix, an original member of a notorious cartel, is nabbed after a shootout in Tijuana. Police capture key drug suspect

For Tijuana children, drug war gore is part of their school day
The biggest civilian casualty in Tijuana's raging drug war may be the psyche of children exposed to the carnage. For Tijuana children, drug war gore is part of their school day

Tijuana violence
Children frequently witness the gruesome aftermath of Tijuana's raging drug battles. Tijuana
Mexico arrests major drug-trafficking suspect

Jesus Zambada Garcia is captured after a gun battle in Mexico City. He commanded one of four branches of the Sinaloa cartel, officials say.

Culián, Mexico, feels the pain of a drug-induced recession

In Mexico's cradle of drug trafficking, residents feel the sting of recession as smugglers and their money become scarce.

U.S. drug czar John Walters reassures, sounds alarm on Mexico drug violence

In Mexico visit, anti-drug chief warns that violent cartels in Mexico "do not respect the border" and pose a threat to the United States.

Two held in Mexico in killings of 24

A municipal police commander is among the accused in connection with the two dozen bodies found in a wooded area outside Mexico City.

Recovering addict in Mexico talks about his addiction

Once just a transit nation for narcotics, Mexico now grapples with addiction.

Mexico grapples with drug addiction

Long a corridor for narcotics headed for the U.S., Mexico is now contending with its own addiction problem, as U.S. border controls push traffickers to look elsewhere.

Killing of Mexico mayor sends message

The slaying of a rising political star is ascribed to his refusal to have any contact with drug traffickers.

Tijuana killings may signal fall of Arellano Felix cartel

With dozens of bodies found in the last week, some in law enforcement see 'the tail end' of the organization. But others warn that elements of the ruthless cartel remain very much alive.

Mexico's President Calderon has few choices in drug war

Though an attack on civilians in Morelia has tested the public's stomach for the increasingly savage conflict, the president has little room to pull back from his crackdown.

12 bodies found near Mexico school

The grisly discovery capped four days of violence that has shaken the sprawling Tijuana metropolitan area and forced Baja California state officials to plead for more federal police to help control the city.

Morelia suspect tells of holding grenade
'I was hiding it in my hands and it made me shudder,' Juan Carlos Castro Galeana tells an interrogator in a videotaped session about the deadly attack in Mexico. 'I was desperate to get rid of it.'

Morelia suspect tells of holding grenade

An American is missing in Mexico, but his other life emerges

Daniel LaPorte went to Mexico and never came back. His parents didn't know of his drug involvement.

An American is missing in Mexico, but his other life emerges

Mexicans fear they are all targets now

In the wake of the deadly explosions in the capital of Michoacan state, Mexicans are forced to confront a new kind of victim in the drug wars: anyone.

Mexicans fear they are all targets now

DEA arrests 175 Mexican drug-trafficking suspects

The suspects, believed to have ties to Mexico's Gulf cartel, were arrested in raids this week in a dozen U.S. states.

DEA arrests 175 Mexican drug-trafficking suspects

Mexicali drug tunnel

Under a simple home in a typical Mexicali neighborhood, traffickers were busy for months excavating a sophisticated tunnel toward the United States, one of seven discovered this year along this part of the U.S. border.

Mexicali drug tunnel

Suspects in border tunnel charged, Mexico officials say

The eight men arrested in the house where the sophisticated tunnel began include a suspected L.A.-area gang member.

Suspects in border tunnel charged, Mexico officials say

Organized crime blamed for deadly Mexico blasts

At least seven people are killed by the two explosions in the capital of Michoacan state during Independence Day celebrations.

Organized crime blamed for deadly Mexico blasts

Reaction to Independence Day blast

Mexicans react to a hand-grenade blast during Independence Day celebrations in Michoacan.

Reaction to Independence Day blast

Mexican Independence Day celebration disrupted by grenade attack

Victim recounts deadly blast during Independence Day celebrations in Morelia, Michoacan.

Mexican Independence Day celebration disrupted by grenade attack

Mexico safety chief's tough job: policing the police

Drug money and corruption have long tainted law enforcement. But Genaro Garcia Luna, with President Calderon's backing and the aid of technology, may succeed in reforming the system, analysts say.

Mexico safety chief's tough job: policing the police

In Mexico, a police victory against smuggling brings deadly revenge

Juan Jose Soriano, deputy commander of the Tecate Police Department, helped U.S. authorities find a drug-smuggling tunnel. The next morning, gunmen shot him 45 times in his bedroom.

In Mexico, a police victory against smuggling brings deadly revenge

In Mexico, no police victory goes unpunished.
Headline
Juan Jose Soriano, the deputy commander of the Tecate Police Department, assisted U.S. authorities in a drug tunnel investigation, and paid with his life. *In Mexico, no police victory goes unpunished*

Calderon presents Mexico’s annual report in written form
A new law allows President Felipe Calderon to give his state of the nation report without having to appear before Congress, a move that avoids disturbances. *Calderon presents Mexico’s annual report in written form*

Fear of kidnapping grips Mexico
The number is rising, and the rich are not the only ones targeted. Criminals sometimes want as little as $500. *Fear of kidnapping grips Mexico*

Thousands of Mexicans rally to protest rising crime wave
'Enough' they say as they blame officials for failing to curb the rising violence caused by drug gangs. *Thousands of Mexicans rally to protest rising crime wave*

Drug war bodies are piling up in Mexico
The heap of 11 decapitated bodies found in Yucatan shows that the battle to control the multibillion-dollar drug trade knows no boundaries. *Drug war bodies are piling up in Mexico*

12 decapitated bodies found in Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula
The discovery is the first sign of a major outbreak of drug cartel violence in Yucatan. *12 decapitated bodies found in Mexico’s Yucatan peninsula*

Mexico moves to curb drug crime wave
President Calderon proposes new anti-kidnapping squads, special prisons, cellphone tracking and aid for local forces. *Mexico moves to curb drug crime wave*

In Chihuahua, Mexico, governor calls for tougher crackdown on crime
Gov. Jose Reyes Baeza calls on federal authorities to reform their strategy after 13 people are killed in a weekend shooting. *In Chihuahua, Mexico, governor calls for tougher crackdown on crime*

Mexico drug war’s costs, risks exported to U.S.
Officers and others wounded across the border are increasingly being transferred to an El Paso hospital. *Mexico drug war’s costs, risks exported to U.S.*

6 officers in Mexico crime unit arrested
The men are believed to have aided drug smugglers in Sinaloa state, officials say. *6 officers in Mexico crime unit arrested*

Mexico violence claims 6 more police officers
The victims include two top commanders in Michoacan, a senior investigator in Chihuahua and a deputy chief in Quintana Roo. *Mexico violence claims 6 more police officers*

U.S. guns arm Mexican drug cartels
Licensed weapons dealers are abundant near the border. 'Straw buyers' assist the traffickers. *U.S. guns arm Mexican drug cartels*
Headline
Mexico anti-drug general is ousted
Sergio Aponte Polito is relieved of duty in Baja California and Sonora states. He has won public praise for his effectiveness but also criticism from officials for accusations against them.

Mexican police linked to rising kidnappings
Many are afraid to contact authorities about abductions, fearing officers could be involved. The problem is an awkward one for President Felipe Calderon’s drug war.

Narcocorridos
As violence mounts, Mexico tries to mute the music dedicated to drug traffickers.

Muting the music of mayhem
As drug-related violence escalates, Tijuana is losing its taste for songs that glorify gangsters.

Drug war mayhem instills a new fear
Drug-related killings have taken thousands of lives, but now those uninvolved in the cartel battles are falling victim, even children.

Sinaloa rocked by soaring drug violence
At least 21 people are killed in five days as turf wars between splintered gangs appear to heat up.

12 slain in brazen Mexico attack
In daylight near the center of Sinaloa’s capital, gunmen kill nine at a shop and three pursuing officers.

Tijuana finds 11 dead in 3 days
The weekend tally pushes the city's death toll to more than 260, compared with about 152 homicides at this time last year, and underscores authorities’ difficulties curbing organized crime.

Reporters covering Mexico drug wars risk their lives
As violence has soared, more than 30 reporters have died or disappeared in Mexico since 2000, the group Reporters Without Borders says.

Macabre drug cartel messages in Mexico
Part threat and part boast, the hand-written messages left at the scene of drug killings have multiplied. The words are a warning to enemies, and to society at large.

U.S. a haven for Tijuana elite
Three years ago, gunmen tried to kidnap chef Javier Plascencia’s younger brother. A year later they tried again but, in a case of mistaken identity, snatched the wrong man.
Headline

**Army’s role in Mexico drug war seen as crucial yet risky**

Observers fear the deployment will hurt democracy and civil institutions, but they see no alternative. *Army’s role in Mexico drug war seen as crucial yet risky*

**Mexico vs. drug gangs: A deadly clash for control**

President Felipe Calderon says the violence is one measure of success: It shows that the cartels have been hurt badly and are now lashing out at the government and one another. *Mexico vs. drug gangs: A deadly clash for control*