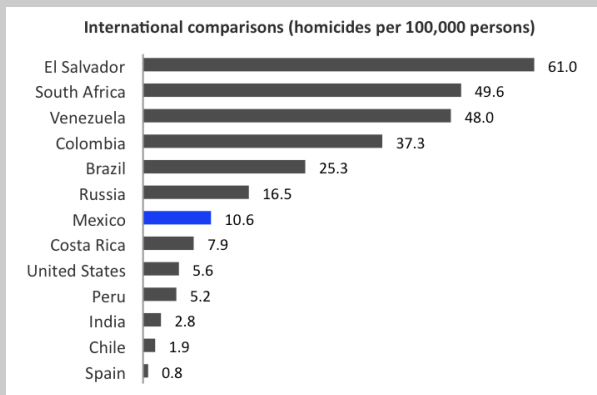


Alan Stoga, President
Daniel Wilson, Managing Director and Editor

Study

Murder rates in perspective

The CIDAC think tank published an analysis of Mexico's crime statistics, with a focus on homicides—the crime least likely to be underreported. For 2008, the national **homicide rate** was 10.6 per 100,000 persons. Of the total, organized crime related killings had a rate of 4.9, and all other homicides a rate of 5.7. The total rate is one-third below the 1997 peak. Chihuahua had the highest murder rate (47.1), followed by Sinaloa (29.5). Fourteen of the 32 states had homicide rates lower than the U.S. average of 5.6. While Mexico's overall rate is double the U.S. rate, it is substantially below the levels in Brazil (25.3), Colombia (37.3), and Venezuela (48.0). (consulta.com.mx)



Key Dates

12/15: Likely end of congressional session
12/31: Terms end for President of Banco de México, and two Supreme Court ministers
2/1/10: Start of new congressional session
5/16: Yucatán elections
7/4: Elections in 9 states
10/3: Chiapas elections

President reaffirms reform agenda

Speaking to an invited audience at the National Palace, President **Felipe Calderón** reaffirmed his 10-point 'Agenda for Change,' as he marked the start of the second half of his government. His most extensive remarks were devoted to the need to strengthen public finances. He said that despite addressing the immediate shortfalls in the 2010 budget, "the truth is that we are very far away from a solution to the structural problems that confront the Mexican State." He called again for a broad debate on fiscal reform and a second round of energy sector reforms. He also repeated his call for a political reform "to generate the conditions that will enable us to overcome the institutional paralysis that has blocked the country from reaching agreements on fundamental issues." ([Presidencia 11/28](#), [Universal 11/29](#))

Congress fails to back legal challenge to closing Luz y Fuerza

Efforts by the PRD and PT in Congress to challenge the liquidation of **Luz y Fuerza** on constitutional grounds fell well short. Only 132 Deputies of the required 250 signed the resolution, as the PRI stood aside. If the resolution had passed, it would have obliged the Supreme Court to review the liquidation decree. After the motion failed, Labor Secretary **Javier Lozano** promptly reopened the centers for former employees to sign up for the buyout payments. The second round of buyouts will provide only 70% of the amount that was available in the first round, and will be available until December 23. ([Universal 11/25](#), [11/26](#))

Supreme Court declares SCT regulations for granting radio and TV concessions unconstitutional

The Supreme Court, by a vote of 8-2, declared that the SCT regulations issued in January 2009 by **President Calderón** were unconstitutional. These regulations gave the Secretary of Communications and Transportation the exclusive power to award, extend, or revoke radio and TV concessions. The Court found that this power belonged to Cofetel, the telecommunications regulator, and could not be assigned to the Secretary (though Cofetel is part of the SCT). Columnist **Miguel Ángel Granados Chapa** wrote: "This counterfeit introduces yet another conflictive element in the topsy-turvy panorama of radio and TV, where the competitors are constantly litigating to avoid the application of norms that are disadvantageous to them." ([Universal 11/23](#), [Reforma 11/28](#))

Juanito tries to come back as Iztapalapa borough president

Rafael Acosta, aka **Juanito**, declared he would take over as borough president of Iztapalapa in Mexico City, after a 59-day leave of absence, reviving an intense embarrassment for the PRD. Juanito and his supporters seized the borough offices and camped out overnight. **Clara Brugada**, the acting borough chief, said Acosta was "mentally ill." The Federal District Government Secretary **José Ángel Ávila Pérez** promised a rapid solution "to guarantee the governability of the borough and the delivery of services." A two-thirds vote by the DF's legislative assembly could remove Juanito. ([Reforma 11/28](#), [Universal 11/30](#))

AMLO starts prepping for 2012

Andrés Manuel López Obrador celebrated three years as the country's "legitimate president" with a rally in Mexico City's Zócalo a week prior to President Calderón's commemoration. AMLO was prominently accompanied by **Martín Esparza**, the defrocked head of the **Luz y Fuerza** electrical workers' union. AMLO said he had completed his pilgrimage to all 2,430 municipalities across Mexico and was refounding his movement. "Thinking of the transformation of the country, and looking toward 2012, we need to develop a new Alternative Project for the Nation," he said. AMLO clearly believes his principal opponent in 2012 will be Mexico State governor **Enrique Peña Nieto**. ([Excelsior 11/23](#))