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Mexico Intelligence Report for September 2018

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Overview

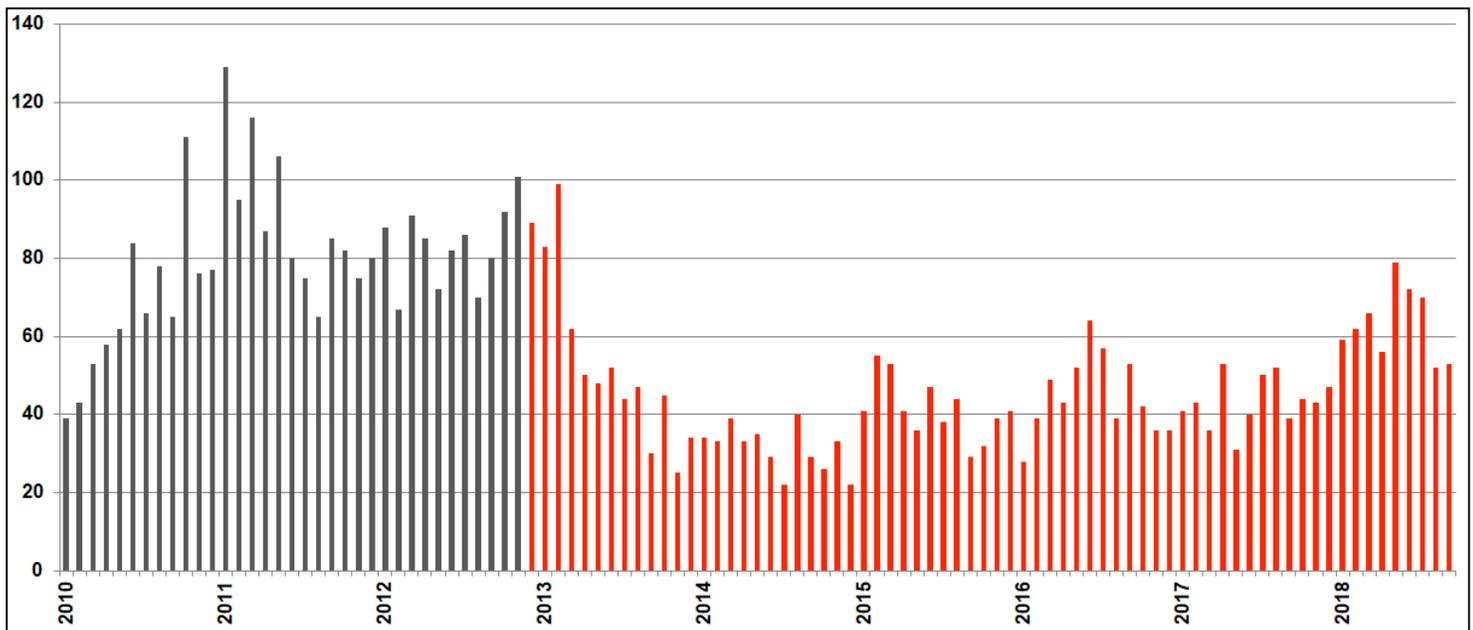
In a bit of good news, there appears to have been a slight improvement in public safety this month. While the number of attacks directed against governmental authorities matched the previous two months, there was a notable drop in the frequency of street battles this month. Also, attacks against civilians in public venues, fatal extortion-related incidents, and kidnap-executions appear to have dropped this month. However, the number of media reports about kidnapping incidents remained constant this month; at a level that is higher than most of 2017.

Attacks against Governmental Authority

Overall, there were 53 attacks directed at governmental authorities reported during September. This figure is similar to August and is close to the monthly average for 2017. More importantly, August and September mark a significant drop from May-July this year. With regard to political assassinations, seven were reported this month. Among the victims was the mayor-elect (PRI) in Nopalucan, Puebla. A municipal treasurer was assassinated in Nezahualc6yotl, Edomex. A city council member was assassinated in San Sebasti6n Tlacotepec, Puebla. A former city council member was gunned down along with his son in Papantla, Veracruz. A judge who worked at the notorious Almoloya de Ju6rez prison was murdered near Atlacomulco, Edomex. The president of the *Confederaci6n Patronal de la Rep6blica Mexicana* (Coparmex) was assassinated in Parral, Chihuahua. The leader of an indigenous rights group (Wirikuta Security Council) was murdered in Aguamilpa, Nayarit.

There were several incidents in which the official was not killed. For example, the mayor-elect was injured by gunmen in G6mez Far6as, Chihuahua. The mayor and the municipal director of the public works department were kidnapped in Valle Hermoso, Tamaulipas. They were released several hours later. The local leader of the *Cooperativa de Pescadores Escollera Playa Norte* was kidnapped in Veracruz.

Figure 1: Attacks against Authorities by Month[‡]



‡ Note: These figures should be considered minimum counts as the media or government officials do not report numerous incidents.



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^λ *President Peña Nieto took office on December 1, 2012 (columns in red).*

There was a notable increase in armed attacks against police patrols this month; seven were reported across Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Oaxaca, and Veracruz. For example, four municipal police officers were killed in an ambush in Tonalá, Jalisco. The following day, two more municipal police officers were ambushed and killed in nearby Zapopan. Elsewhere, two municipal police officers were killed in an ambush in Coacalco, Edomex. Two municipal police officers were gunned down while on patrol in Tultitlán, Edomex. Another attack was directed at police in Eduardo Neri, Guerrero. A short time later another police officer was killed in nearby Leónardo Bravo, Guerrero. The chief of police was executed in Santa María Zacatepec, Oaxaca. Fixed targets were also attacked. In one case, two municipal employees were killed when gunmen attacked the municipal palace in Atenango del Río, Guerrero.

There were also numerous attacks on state police, rolling gun battles, and *narcobloqueos* (illegal street blockades) in central Guerrero. In one of the incidents, a state police officer was killed and several were injured during an ambush near Xochipala, Guerrero. A state police investigator was gunned down in front of the police station in Chilapa de Álvarez, Guerrero. Other attacks occurred elsewhere. A state police officer was ambushed and killed in Miguel Auza, Zacatecas. Four state police officers were killed in an ambush in Bocoyna, Chihuahua. A state police officer was executed the same day in Ecatepec, Edomex. A state police unit commander and his bodyguard were intercepted and killed in Apaseo el Alto, Guanajuato. Two state police officers were killed in an attack in Villagrán, Guanajuato. Overall, 11 state police patrols were attacked across Chihuahua, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Sonora, Veracruz, and Zacatecas.

There was just one media report of an attack on a federal police patrol. In the incident, two federal police officers were injured when shots were fired into their vehicle in Celaya, Guanajuato. Two army or marine patrols were attacked in Michoacán and Tamaulipas. Two marines were killed during an ambush in Buenavista Tomatlán, Michoacán.

Finally, several dozen additional attacks occurred across ten states. For example, the deputy chief of the municipal police was injured by gunmen in a gym in Guaymas, Sonora. A psychologist who worked for the *Tribunal Superior de Justicia del Estado* was executed in Chihuahua, Chihuahua. The former chief of police was killed in San Pedro Tututepec, Oaxaca. Two police officers were executed in *Unidad Habitacional Adolfo López Mateos* of Mexico City. A former state police commander was killed by gunmen in the *Ciudad Universitaria* of Culiacán, Sinaloa. A former deputy chief of police was gunned down in Jalapa de Díaz, Oaxaca. A federal police officer was shot and killed in a café in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca. A police commander was killed in Tlajomulco de Zúñiga, Jalisco. A state police investigator was gunned down in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. A state police officer was killed in Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca. An officer of the PGJCDMX was shot and killed in Delegación Miguel Hidalgo of Mexico City. Two marines were kidnapped and executed in Cancún, Quintana Roo. In all these incidents, at least 52 police and military personnel were killed.

As has been the pattern in the past, the families of government officials were attacked as well. For example, the son of a municipal official was murdered in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz. The victim's wife was also killed in the attack. The sister of a PAN party deputy was gunned down in Ciudad Mante, Tamaulipas. The son-in-law of a municipal official was kidnapped in Sayula de Alemán, Veracruz. The son of a former mayor was gunned down in Pénjamo, Guanajuato. A family member of a local deputy was murdered in Tepic, Nayarit.

Attacks on journalists and the media continued as well. This month, assailants murdered a reporter in Taxco, Guerrero. A reporter with the *Heraldo de Chiapas* was executed in Yajalón, Chiapas. Also, the son of a well-known local journalist was murdered near Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca.



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Geographic Pattern of Attacks

Attacks against governmental authorities occurred across 16 states (Chihuahua, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico City, Michoacán, Nayarit, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Zacatecas). The number of states impacted is similar to the previous four months.

Table 1: States Hit Hardest by Attacks on Authorities

State	Number of Attacks
Veracruz	7
Oaxaca	6
Edomex	5
Jalisco	5
Guanajuato	5
Guerrero	5

Progress?

Mexican authorities announced the capture of six regional leaders of the major criminal organizations during September. This figure is similar to most months of the last two years. Among those captured was Mario “*El Carpintero*,” a regional leader of the *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación* (CJNG), who was arrested in Jojutla, Morelos. Gregorio Pelayo Chavez “*El Camaron*,” another key leader of the CJNG was arrested in El Arenal, Jalisco. Julio Cesar G. “*El Pando*,” a regional leader of the CJNG was also captured in Chavinda, Michoacán. Gabriel G. “*El Rambo*,” another regional leader of the CJNG, was apprehended in Michoacán. “*El Comandante Cejas*,” a regional leader of the same cartel, was arrested in Santa Lucía del Camino, Oaxaca. Finally, Leónel Salgueiro “*El Cuate*,” a regional leader of the *Gente Nueva* (Sinaloa Cartel), was arrested in Parral, Chihuahua.

Furthermore, Erick Samuel Deraz González “*Güero Canesten*,” a regional leader of the CJNG, was killed by assailants in Tijuana, Baja California. In a similar incident, Alfonso Lira Sotelo “*El Atlante*,” a regional leader of the Sinaloa Cartel in Tijuana, was gunned down in Culiacán, Sinaloa. A decapitated head was found at a monument in the middle of a traffic circle in Jacona, Michoacán. The victim was the brother of “*El Canadá*,” a regional leader of *Los Viagras*.

Law enforcement and government officials were also arrested on various charges. For example, marines surrounded municipal police stations in Acapulco and disarmed 700 municipal officers on suspicion that their ranks have been infiltrated by organized crime. While the officers are being assessed, state police will be responsible for public safety in the city. Elsewhere, a commander of the *Secretaría de Seguridad Pública* was charged for leading kidnapping operations in Acatzingo, Veracruz. Four other individuals were arrested in the incident. Fifteen state police officers were arrested for homicides conducted in 2016 in Cosamaloapan, Veracruz. A state police officer in uniform killed a tourist from Mexico City inside a bar in Acapulco. The dispute was reportedly concerning a woman.

Mexican authorities seized weapons, munitions, and vehicles at 11 sites across Sinaloa, Sonora, and Tamaulipas (8 locations). Twenty-five firearms and several thousand rounds of ammunition were discovered in Cruillas (Tamaulipas) in a truck traveling from Laredo (Texas) to Aguascalientes. Several dozen rifles, and two 50-caliber belt-fed machine guns, and more than 1000 rounds of ammunition were seized in Reynosa. Approximately 7000 rounds of ammunition and several firearms were seized in Mazatlán, Sinaloa. Several dozen rifles, a Barrett 50-caliber sniper rifle, and thousands of rounds of ammunition were seized in Nogales, Sonora. Sixteen rifles and ammunition were discovered at a site in Río Bravo, Tamaulipas. A dozen rifles and a fragmentation grenade were seized in San Fernando, Tamaulipas. A fragmentation grenade was seized in Reynosa. Nine rifles, plus a Barrett 50-caliber sniper rifle were seized in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. Another Barrett was seized in Nuevo Laredo following a battle. In addition to a dozen rifles and a Barrett 50-caliber sniper rifle, authorities seized several armored vehicles in Reynosa.



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Street Battles (*Enfrentamientos*)

There were 44 street battles reported this month. This figure is a notable drop from the previous month, but it is still similar to most months of 2017. These incidents occurred across 11 states (Chihuahua, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Michoacán, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz). During a prolonged battle, gunmen set fire to several vehicles forming a *narcobloqueo* on Highway 45D near Apaseo el Grande, Guanajuato. Two bystanders were injured by gunfire during a battle in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. A street vendor was killed by a stray bullet during a street battle between authorities and *sicarios* (cartel gunmen) in Reynosa. A bystander was hit by stray gunfire during a separate battle in Reynosa.

Table 2: States Hit Hardest by Street Battles

State	Number of Battles
Tamaulipas	16
Veracruz	8
Guanajuato	4
Guerrero	4

Hazardous Overland Travel

Attacks on motorists have continued unabated. For example, assailants fired shots into a vehicle transporting two teachers near Coetzala, Veracruz. The victims were able to get away from their attackers. Two women were killed when shots were fired into their vehicle in Tlajomulco de Zúñiga, Jalisco. Assailants intercepted a truck transporting supervisors with the Grupo Beta San Miguel facilities near Esperanza, Puebla. The victims were killed in the attack. A woman was the victim of a carjacking in central Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Two women were carjacked while driving along Highway 2 near Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas. Two couples were intercepted while driving near Santa Teresa, San Luis Potosí. The assailants robbed and beat the victims, and sexually assaulted the two females. One person was killed when shots were fired into a vehicle as it traveled along Highway 150 near Orizaba, Veracruz. Two people were killed when gunmen intercepted their vehicle on a busy intersection in Colonia San Lorenzo la Cebada in Delegación Xochimilco of Mexico City. A female passenger was injured in the attack. An oil refinery worker was killed when shots were fired into his vehicle near Salamanca, Guanajuato. Two federal deputies were robbed as they traveled along Highway 150D between Mexico City and Puebla. They reported that debris on the road had damaged their tires, and upon stopping, they were assaulted.

Gunmen operated a temporary roadblock on Bulevar Luis Donaldo Colosio in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. They were demanding 500 U.S. dollars or merchandise from travelers heading back to Monterrey from the United States. Federal police also issued a recent alert concerning an increase in highway robbers along Highway 40D between Monterrey and Ciudad Victoria.

Several passenger buses were assaulted as well. For example, gunmen robbed 25 passengers on a bus in Córdoba, Veracruz. Two robbers were shot and killed by a passenger during an attempted robbery on a bus in Naucalpan, Edomex. A female university student was injured by a gunshot to the chest when five robbers boarded a bus near Coscomatepec, Veracruz. Gunmen robbed passengers on a bus in Delegación Iztapalapa of Mexico City. A man was killed by three armed robbers on a small bus near the Indios Verdes Metro station in Mexico City. A bus driver was beaten and tied into his vehicle in Chilpancingo, Guerrero. Police apprehended four individuals who had just robbed bus passengers in Delegación Gustavo A. Madero of Mexico City. Gunmen operating a false police roadblock fired on an ADO bus as it traveled along Highway 150 near Ciudad Mendoza, Veracruz. The gunmen had robbed several other travelers at this location prior to this incident.

Narcobloqueos (Illegal Street Blockades)

- September 5 - Tlacotepec, Guerrero
- September 5 - Xochipala, Guerrero
- September 29 - Apaseo el Grande, Guanajuato



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Violence

Attacks on public venues, kidnap-executions, and attacks on families and women declined somewhat this month. However, each of these occurred with some frequency. Perhaps the most notorious incident occurred when gunmen dressed as mariachis opened fire in Plaza Garibaldi of Mexico City. Four people were killed, and seven people were injured during the attack. Six gunmen opened fire in a bar in Monterrey; killing four people. In all, there were 37 attacks against civilians in public venues reported this month; resulting in 60 fatalities and numerous injured. The number of incidents and fatalities were both lower than August, but they are on par with most months of 2017. These incidents occurred across 13 states (Baja California, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Mexico City, Michoacán, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Veracruz). By far most of the attacks were on patrons in bars, but also restaurants, and stores.

Families continue to be attacked inside their homes. This practice has become especially commonplace in Tamaulipas where gunmen enter homes in the middle of the night and execute their intended victims. For example, a man and woman were gunned down inside their home by assailants in Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. In a separate incident, another man and woman were killed by masked gunmen inside their home in Ciudad Victoria. Assailants entered a residence and killed three women in Temoac, Morelos. Reports indicate that the victims were relatives of the local mayor. Three people (including a woman) were killed inside their home in Monterrey. A man and woman were killed by assailants in their home in Pénjamo, Guanajuato. A man and woman were killed inside their home in Paso de Ovejas, Veracruz. An 8-year-old boy was killed when gunmen attacked his home in Tecolutla, Veracruz. Also, three bodies (including a woman) were found shot in a pickup hauling hay in Valencianita, Guanajuato. A 6-month-old baby was found in the vehicle uninjured.

Several small communities were also attacked. For example, gunmen fired into several homes near Cosamaloapan, Veracruz. Two people were killed, and a home was burned by assailants in a small community in Heliodoro Castillo, Guerrero. Also, as a result of increased violence, the municipal president of Parácuaro (Michoacán) asked residents of Antúnez to seek refuge in one of the shelters that the municipality has provided for them.

There were numerous fatalities of women this month; 87 murders were reported across 18 states (Baja California, Chihuahua, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Mexico City, Michoacán, Morelos, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz). In one incident, the bodies of six women who had been kidnapped from a restaurant on August 31 were found a few days later near Ciudad Victoria. A woman was gunned down by assailants on a street corner in Acapulco. Another woman was shot and killed on a busy street in Ecatepec, Edomex. A similar incident resulted in a woman's death in Xalapa, Veracruz. Another woman was gunned down on a street in Acámbaro (Guanajuato) three days after arriving from the United States. Another woman was gunned down on a busy street in Casacuarcán, Guanajuato. A woman was executed inside her home in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca. A teacher and her husband were gunned down in Orizaba, Veracruz.

Other victims this month included a leader of a local Pentecostal church who was beaten to death by several assailants in Nejapa de Madero, Oaxaca. A university professor was murdered in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca. A prominent cattle rancher was executed in Jesús Carranza, Veracruz. *Sicarios* in the process of killing an individual noticed that they were being video recorded by several teenage bystanders, and executed them as well in Apaseo El Alto, Guanajuato. Gunmen entered a hospital and kidnapped an individual, who was later found dead, in Totonacapan, Veracruz.

The bodies of at least 272 victims were found in mass deposits this month. There were 108 such sites, a significant decline from the previous month. These sites were located across 21 states (Aguascalientes, Baja California, Chihuahua, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico City, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Puebla, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz).



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At least 59 of these victims had been decapitated or dismembered. For example, the severed arms of a woman were found in a vehicle in Colonia Santa Lucia of Delegación Azcapotzalco in Mexico City. Seven heads were found inside an ice chest on a street in Bacum, Sonora. A dismembered body was left with a sign reading “*Esto les pasa por robar las empresas Baltazar y Tizayuca*” in Ecatepec, Edomex. Dismembered bodies were found at 44 sites

across 14 states (Baja California, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico City, Michoacán, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sonora, Veracruz, and Zacatecas).

In addition to the abovementioned victims, Jorge Winckler Ortiz, the *Fiscal General* of Veracruz, reported that during August and early September 166 skulls were found in mass graves sites in Alvarado, Veracruz. Aside from skulls, the sites also contained 114 ID cards and more than 200 items of clothing. Some of the victims also appear to be children. The victims of these mass graves are not included in our tabulation of bodies encountered during September. The *Fiscalía General de Justicia de Veracruz* has launched an investigation into the relationship between these murders and state police under the direction of the former governor, Javier Duarte.

Indeed, Central Veracruz has become a virtual graveyard due to the high volume of kidnap-executions in the region since the 1990s, and in particular since 2014. For example, 295 bodies were found in Colinas de Santa Fe in 2016. Fifty-nine bodies were found in Veracruz City a few months later. Forty-seven bodies were found in Alvarado in early 2017.

At least 16 taxi drivers were reported murdered this month in Guanajuato, Guerrero (3 killed), Michoacán, Oaxaca (3 killed), Veracruz (8 killed). Also, a truck driver was shot and killed while traveling along Highway 150 near Córdoba, Veracruz. Another truck driver was murdered on Highway 45 between Salamanca and Celaya, Guanajuato. A bus driver was killed when shots were fired into his bus in Irapuato, Guanajuato. A bus driver was attacked by an assailant with a machete in the bus terminal of Veracruz, Veracruz.

Selected Vigilante Incidents

- September 1 - residents burned a man and woman alive thinking they were child kidnappers in Santa Ana Ahuehuepan, Hidalgo.
- September 2 - residents attempted to lynch three accused criminals in Papantla, Veracruz.
- September 4 - residents detained an accused thief in Altamira, Tamaulipas.
- September 5 - residents blocked the entrances to Coacotla (Veracruz), detained the secretary of the *ayuntamiento*, and demanded justice for the owner of a local store who had been murdered during an armed robbery.
- September 7 - residents intended to lynch three accused kidnappers in San Andrés Tenejapan, Veracruz.
- September 7 - residents detained two accused car thieves in Oaxaca, Oaxaca.
- September 7 - residents in Papantla (Veracruz) temporarily blocked roads and demanded that the marines provide better security for residents in the region. They also complained that police patrols often extort residents (*demanding money for food and gas to patrol the area*).
- September 7 - an accused thief was detained by merchants in the Central de Abastos of Oaxaca, Oaxaca.
- September 9 - a merchant detained an accused thief in Veracruz, Veracruz.
- September 10 - residents tied an accused thief to a post and placed branches and brush under her feet in San Pedro Atlapulco, Edomex. Although the brush was set alight, authorities intervened before she was burned alive.
- September 12 - residents attempted to lynch two accused thieves in Acultzingo, Veracruz.
- September 12 - residents detained and stripped two accused residential burglars in Tenosique de Pino Suárez, Tabasco.
- September 13 - residents detained and beat two individuals who had just assaulted a local woman in Delegación Iztapalapa of Mexico City.
- September 15 - protestors burned a state police vehicle in the Centro Histórico of Mexico City.
- September 17 - residents burned several municipal police vehicles during a protest in Nextlalpan, Edomex.



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- September 17 - a woman used a machete to chop off the arm of an individual who was sexually assaulting her daughter in Mecayapan, Veracruz.
- September 20 - residents attempted to lynch an accused thief in Reyes Mantecón, Oaxaca.
- September 21 - residents attempted to detain four accused thieves, but they escaped in Misantla, Veracruz
- September 22 - three accused extortionists were detained by residents in Espinal, Veracruz.
- September 22 - residents severely beat two accused thieves in Emiliano Zapata, Veracruz.

- September 22 - residents detained an individual accused of sexual assault in Soledad de Graciano, San Luis Potosí.
- September 22 - residents detained an individual who broke into a home in Salina Cruz, Oaxaca.
- September 24 – residents burned a vehicle belonging to an accused murderer in Veracruz, Veracruz.
- September 25 - residents beat an accused thief in San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí.
- September 28 - residents detained and beat an accused thief in Xalapa, Veracruz.

Extortion, Kidnapping, and Armed Robbery

Extortion

There were ten fatal extortion-related attacks reported during September. This figure represents a significant drop from August, and it is lower than the monthly average for 2017. The incidents this month occurred in Guanajuato, Mexico City, Oaxaca, and Veracruz (7 incidents). Among the victims were owners, managers, or employees of several restaurants, bars, and small stores. Also, the owner of a pharmacy was murdered in Oaxaca.

Kidnapping

Mexican authorities reported the disruption of two kidnapping operations this month. These operations were located in Oaxaca and Tabasco. This number is lower than the previous months. However, aside from these disruptions of whole kidnapping operations, Mexican authorities were able to rescue kidnap victims at numerous additional sites this month. For example, federal police rescued 39 Cuban migrants from their kidnappers in Cancún, Quintana Roo. The kidnapped owner of a restaurant was rescued by state police in Santiago, Nuevo León. A businessman was rescued by municipal police in Omealca, Veracruz. After five days of captivity, federal police rescued an 11-month-old baby who had been kidnapped in Río Verde, San Luis Potosí. A kidnapped man was rescued in Ixhuatlancillo, Veracruz. Another victim was rescued by state police in Ciudad Madero, Tamaulipas. Two people were rescued from their kidnappers in Jalapa de Díaz, Oaxaca. A cattle rancher was rescued by state and federal police in Balancán, Tabasco. Two kidnapped boys were rescued by federal police and the army in Tenango, Oaxaca. Another victim was rescued by state police following a battle with the kidnappers in Córdoba, Veracruz. A female medical student was kidnapped from in front of her house in Boca del Río, Veracruz. Security video captured the incident. She was rescued by state police a few days later. Two kidnappers were arrested while attempting to collect ransom payments in Reynosa.

Also, a schoolteacher was released by his captors in Fortín De Las Flores, Veracruz. The director of a high school was kidnapped in Misantla, Veracruz. He was later able to escape his captors. In two separate incidents, schoolteachers were able to evade kidnapping attempts perpetrated against them in Rio Blanco, Veracruz. Schoolteachers are refusing to work following the kidnapping of six teachers in the last few months in Zongolica, Veracruz. Teachers in Acultzingo (Veracruz) also protested the kidnapping of two teachers in that community.

There were also several failed kidnapping attempts. For example, assailants attempted to kidnap a citrus farmer in Martínez de la Torre, Veracruz. A coworker frustrated the kidnapping. Assailants attempted to kidnap a man and woman from their ranch in Coatzintla, Veracruz. Nearby workers were able to frustrate the kidnapping. Municipal police arrested three individuals who had just attempted to kidnap a woman off a street in Tuxpan, Veracruz. The would-be kidnappers fled the scene after the unsuccessful attempt and authorities were able to intercept them a short time after. Four individuals accused of kidnapping were killed in a battle with state police in Hermosillo, Sonora. A man was killed while trying to prevent the kidnapping of his son in Tezonapa, Veracruz.



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There were many other cases of kidnapping in which the victims' condition remains unknown. For example, the *Secretario General del Sindicato del Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Zongolica* was kidnapped from a university parking lot in Tezonapa, Veracruz. A businessman was intercepted and kidnapped from his vehicle in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz. Three businessmen from Mexico City were reported missing in Uxpanapa, Veracruz. A businessman was kidnapped in Maltrata, Veracruz. Another businessman was kidnapped in Nogales, Veracruz. The owner of a restaurant was kidnapped in Santiago, Nuevo León. The owner of another restaurant was kidnapped in Martínez de la Torre, Veracruz. The manager of a bar was kidnapped in Ciudad Isla, Veracruz.

A worker with the *Caminos y Puentes Federales (CAPUFE)* was kidnapped by three assailants from his home in Coatzacoalcos. A citrus farmer was kidnapped in Martínez de la Torre, Veracruz. A few days later another citrus farmer was kidnapped in the same city. The daughter of a commercial farmer was kidnapped from a restaurant in Acayucan, Veracruz. The daughter of a petroleum workers' union was kidnapped in Agua Dulce, Veracruz. The principal of a kindergarten was kidnapped in Perote, Veracruz. Four people were kidnapped off a street in San Miguel Zacaola, Puebla.

Several kidnap victims were killed by their captors. For example, an engineer was kidnapped and murdered in Puebla. A woman was kidnapped and murdered in Tlajomulco de Zúñiga, Jalisco. The body of an Italian national was found in Puebla. He had been kidnapped a few days earlier.

Numerous women and girls were reportedly kidnapped as well this month. For example, a 17-year-old girl was kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and murdered in Tonalá, Jalisco. A woman was sexually assaulted and murdered in Tlapacoyan, Veracruz. A 15-year-old girl was kidnapped in Veracruz, Veracruz. Three men attempted to kidnap a 16-year-old girl from inside a small store in front of witnesses in Monterrey, Nuevo León. During the chaos, the victim was able to escape before they were able to place her in the trunk of their vehicle. Two people on motorcycles kidnapped a 4-year-old girl from in front of her home in Misantla, Veracruz. A woman was kidnapped from her vehicle in Nayarit. A 23-year-old woman was kidnapped and murdered in Chihuahua, Chihuahua. A 15-year-old girl was kidnapped and murdered in the same city the following day. A young woman was kidnapped, sexually assaulted, and her body mutilated in Ciénega de Flores, Nuevo León. A woman was kidnapped off a busy street in Matías Romero, Oaxaca. Her body was found along a nearby highway. Assailants intercepted a vehicle and kidnapped the female driver and her daughter in Carrillo Puerto, Veracruz. A woman and her daughter were kidnapped off a street in Agua Dulce, Veracruz. A 16-year-old girl was kidnapped and hacked to death with a machete in San Pedro Pochutla, Oaxaca. A teacher was kidnapped from her vehicle while driving near in Omealca, Veracruz.

Armed Robbery

A recent report by the *Cámara Nacional del Autotransporte de Carga (Canacar)* reveals that 43% of all highway robberies in Mexico occur along Highway 150 between Mexico City and Veracruz. Furthermore, the number of robberies has increased from 2015. Indeed, the states with the highest number of robberies are Edomex, Guanajuato, Nuevo León, Puebla, Querétaro, Tlaxcala, and Veracruz. Another report by the *Centro de Inteligencia SensiGuard* indicates that the products of particular interest during robberies are fuel, food and drinks, and construction materials because they are the easiest to resale. Other targeted items include chemicals, electronics, and auto parts. In this regard, there were numerous reports of cargo theft and truck hijackings this month. For example, seven vehicle transport trailers were hijacked near Paso del Toro, Veracruz. Authorities report that 70 vehicles were being transported by the trailers and they have launched an investigation. A fuel truck was hijacked on Highway 40D between Reynosa and Monterrey. A security guard was killed by assailants during an attempted robbery of a tractor-trailer hauling clothing along Highway 140 near Puente Nacional, Veracruz. Two truckers were killed, and approximately 20 cattle were stolen from a vehicle in Oaxaca. A battle erupted when federal police intervened when robbers were attempting to hijack two trailers hauling motorcycles in Quecholac, Puebla. Federal police rescued a truck driver who had been kidnapped in Fortín de las Flores, Veracruz.



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Armed robbers continue to assault stores, supermercados, and other businesses. Three robbers accidentally shot a female customer in the head during a robbery inside an Elektra store in Ecatepec, Edomex. She is reported to be in critical condition. Several gunmen robbed the ADO bus station in Lerdo de Tejada, Veracruz. One person was injured by gunfire when police arrested thieves in a restaurant in Colonia Condesa in Delegación Cuauhtémoc of Mexico City. Individuals dressed as workers with the *Comisión Federal de Electricidad* (CFE) attempted to rob a hotel in Las Choapas, Veracruz. Armed robbers assaulted the offices of the *Registro Civil* in Tehuantepec, Oaxaca.

At least three banks were reported robbed in Oaxaca and Veracruz. A security guard with an armored truck company was killed during a robbery in Tehuantepec, Oaxaca. Also, several bank customers were robbed in or near banks. Several of these incidents occurred in Coatzacoalcos, and elsewhere in Veracruz. ATM machines were stolen in Oaxaca.

Reports also indicate a surge of brazen robberies from moving vehicles in Delegación Miguel Hidalgo of Mexico City. The reports indicate that the perpetrators are teenage boys who call themselves the “*La banda de Los Diablitos*.” Elsewhere, two school teachers were killed during an attempted robbery in Zacualpan, Veracruz.

Armed robbers restrained several police officers and robbed payroll from the municipal palace in Matías Romero, Oaxaca. The same day, two security guards were killed when gunmen stole payroll from the municipal palace in Santo Domingo Tehuantepec, Oaxaca.

