



HX- HARARY SECURITY

MEXICO INTELLIGENCE REPORT FOR JUNE 2020

Date of Report: July 14, 2020

Overview

It has become apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted public safety across many areas of Mexico. Some measures point to improved conditions, primarily because of business closures. Recent data released by the *Secretaría de Gobernación* (SEGOB) suggest declines in several measures of criminality. That said, the overall levels of violence and the propensity with which criminals prey on other residents are still quite high. Indeed, most organized crime groups have no qualms about injuring or killing women and children, and they do so with great frequency each month; June was no exception. Also, despite the pandemic, Mexico's oil infrastructure continues to be targeted, especially in Guanajuato. In late June, a vehicle containing 12 explosive devices were left near the *Ing. Antonio M. Amor Refinery* in Salamanca, Guanajuato.

Attacks against Governmental Authority

The media reported 39 attacks directed against governmental authorities during June. Perhaps, the most noteworthy incident occurred when *sicarios* of the *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación* (CJNG) attacked an armored vehicle transporting the chief of police of Mexico City. The chief was injured, and two bodyguards and an innocent bystander were killed in the brazen attack. The total number of attacks occurring during June matches May but is lower than the average for 2019 and early 2020 (Figure 1). Among these incidents were five assassinations of current or former ranking government officials. For example, Gunmen killed a federal judge and his wife in their home in Colima, Colima. The judge was hearing a case concerning Rubén Oseguera González "*El Menchito*" (a son of "*El Mencho*," the leader of the *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación*). A municipal official was executed in Magdalena Atlapac, Edomex. A former mayor was gunned down in Taxco de Alarcón, Guerrero. A former mayoral candidate was gunned down in Abasolo, Guanajuato. He had recently penned a Facebook letter addressed to *El Marro*, asking him not to attack the innocent residents of Guanajuato. Also, an indigenous rights leader was killed in Bocoyna, Chihuahua. In another case, a municipal official was kidnapped in Chihuahua, Chihuahua. Shots were also fired at the home of a former mayor in Acayucan, Veracruz.

At least 49 police officers or military personnel were killed in attacks this month. This is the highest number since February 2013. One of the victims was a chief of police who was intercepted and killed in Ciudad Isla, Veracruz. The chief of police and a shift commander were ambushed and killed in Zamora, Michoacán. Also, a gunman attempted to kill the chief of police in Jalostotitlán, Jalisco. The assailant was killed by the chief's bodyguard. □

The media reported two attacks on army patrols this month. Both of these incidents occurred in Chihuahua. Five *Guardia Nacional* patrols were attacked across Guanajuato, Jalisco, Michoacán, Sonora, and Tamaulipas. Two officers were killed in Tamaulipas, one in Guanajuato, and one in Jalisco. Also, gunmen attacked a combined *Guardia Nacional* and marine patrol in Chinicuila, Michoacán. A marine and a police officer were killed in that attack.

Assailants attacked seven state police patrols. These incidents occurred in Edomex, Guerrero, Nuevo León, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz. Eight state police officers were killed during an attack on their patrol near Taxco de Alarcón, Guerrero. Seven state police officers were killed, and five were injured during an attack on their patrol elsewhere in Guerrero. One officer was killed and eight injured in an ambush near Temascaltepec (San Mateo Almololoa), Edomex. Approximately 150 people, including dozens of taxi drivers working under orders from *La Familia Michoacana*, blocked a highway near Valle de Bravo, Edomex. They prevented state police from passing, attacked the police, resulting in one fatality, and various injured officers.

Two municipal police patrols were attacked in Guanajuato. In one incident, gunmen killed three municipal police officers and two bystanders in Silao, Guanajuato. There were also several attacks directed at fixed government targets. For example, gunmen fired at the offices of the *Ministerio Público* in Villagrán, Guanajuato. An explosive device was discovered under a vehicle in the police station parking lot in León, Guanajuato. Assailants set fire to the offices of the PRI party in Oaxaca, Oaxaca.

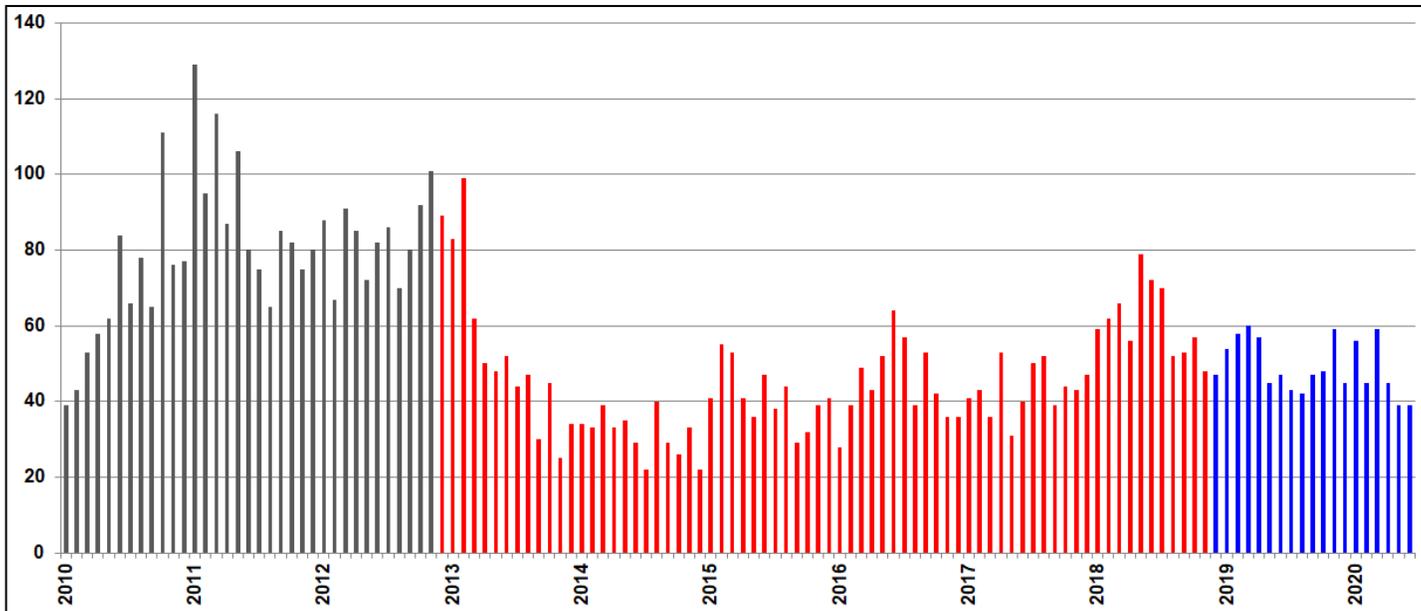
There were ten additional fatal attacks reported in June. For example, the aforementioned attack on Mexico City's chief of police. Elsewhere, an official with the *Comisión Nacional de Seguridad* was gunned down in Tonalá, Jalisco. The interim director of the Puente Grande prison was gunned down in El Salto, Jalisco. Additional officers were killed in Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero,



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Tabasco and Veracruz. Finally, ten state police officers were kidnapped in late May in Cuautitlán de García Barragán, Jalisco. Three of them were released in early June. The bodies of the remaining officers were discovered soon after.

Figure 1: Attacks against Authorities by Month[‡] ^λ



[‡] Note: These figures should be considered minimum counts as numerous incidents are not reported by the media or government officials.

^λ President López Obrador took office on December 1, 2018 (columns in blue).

Geographic Pattern of Attacks

Attacks against governmental authorities occurred across 13 states, which is lower than the monthly average for 2019 and early 2020. These incidents occurred in Chihuahua, Colima, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Mexico City, Michoacán, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz).

Table 1: States Hit Hardest by Attacks on Authorities

State	Number of Attacks
Guanajuato	7
Veracruz	5
Chihuahua	4
Edomex	4
Guerrero	4
Jalisco	4

Governmental Operations

Authorities reported the capture of four regional leaders of the major criminal organizations. This figure is on par with most of 2019 and 2020. In one instance, Noé Israel Lara Belman “El Puma”, a key leader of the *Cártel de Santa Rosa de Lima* and at one time considered to be the right-hand man of José Antonio Yépez Ortiz “El Marro”, was captured in San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí. Gregorio N. “Wester”, a regional leader of the *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación* (CJNG), was apprehended in Olmeaca, Veracruz. Jesus Adalberto Gonzalez Avitia “Chuy Lavadas”, a regional leader of the Gulf Cartel, was captured in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas. Abraham Emilio Mendiola Sánchez “El Raveli”, a regional leader of *Los Rojos*, was captured in Cuernavaca, Morelos.



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In other cases, governmental personnel were arrested and/or charged for a variety of crimes. In one case, authorities charged the mayor of Zacualpan (Edomex) as he stands accused of orchestrating the assassination of a regional prosecutor. Two soldiers were arrested on kidnapping charges in Córdoba, Veracruz.

Mexican state and federal authorities seized numerous weapons following several battles and in other operations. These seizures occurred in four locations across Sinaloa, Sonora, and Tamaulipas. Numerous rifles, a Barrett 50-caliber sniper rifle, a Minimi belt-fed machine gun, and 10,000 rounds of ammunition were seized following a battle in Sinaloa. State police seized 54 rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition at a site in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Also, a U.S. citizen was arrested while transporting more than 30,000 rounds of ammunition across the border at Nogales, Sonora.

Street Battles (*Enfrentamientos*)

Thirty-three street battles were reported by the media during June. While still too many, this is the lowest number since February and significantly less than the monthly average for 2019 (see Figure 2). These incidents occurred in 12 states (Chihuahua, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Mexico City, Michoacán, Morelos, Nuevo León, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz). Most of the incidents occurred in Guanajuato.

Assailants burned numerous vehicles and businesses in response to the arrest of 26 members of the *Cártel de Santa Rosa de Lima* in Guanajuato. These particular incidents occurred in Celaya, Salvatierra, San Luis de la Paz, Juventino Rosas, and San José Iturbide.

Figure 2: Major Street Battles Reported by the Media

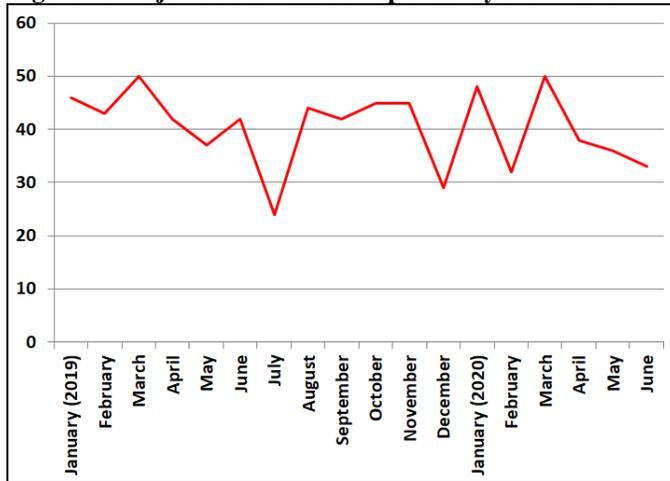


Table 2: States Hit Hardest by Street Battles

State	Number of Battles
Guanajuato	6
Michoacán	4
Sinaloa	4
Veracruz	4

Hazardous Overland Travel

There were several reports of violent incidents occurring on overland roads. For example, a businessman of Chinese ancestry was robbed and killed while driving along Highway 15 near La Marquesa, Edomex. Gunmen intercepted and killed a driver on Highway 134 near Temascaltepec, Edomex. Two people were killed when gunmen intercepted their vehicle near Las Choapas, Veracruz. Three people were shot while driving along Highway 127 near Pánuco, Veracruz. An 8-year-old girl was killed in the incident. There has also been an increase in reported robberies of travelers along Highway 40D between Monterrey and Reynosa.



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Bus passengers also fell victim to robberies, assaults, and murders. In one case, a 60-year-old woman was shot by assailants on a bus in Cancún, Quintana Roo. Four people were murdered in a rural transport vehicle in Bacalar, Quintana Roo. Elsewhere, a passenger shot and killed two robbers on a bus in the alcaldía Tláhuac of Mexico City.

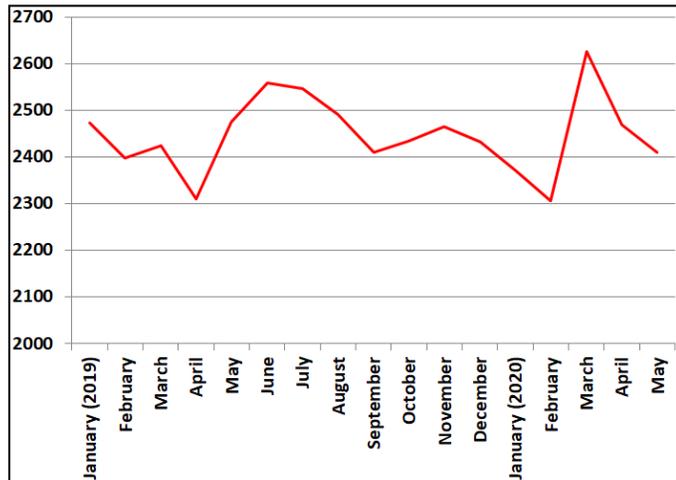
Narcobloqueos (Illegal Street Blockades)

- June 20 - Celaya, Guanajuato
- June 20 – Salvatierra, Guanajuato
- June 20 - Juventino Rosas, Guanajuato
- June 20 - San Luis de la Paz, Guanajuato
- June 20 - San José Iturbide, Guanajuato
- June 21 - Salamanca, Guanajuato

Violence

We continue to be troubled by the extremely high levels of violence across many areas of the county. Felony homicides, which spiked in March, declined somewhat during April and May (Figure 3). However, the figures are substantially higher than just a few years ago. Some of this violence is not related directly to organized crime and maybe more political in nature. For example, a conflict over a recent mayoral election resulted in 15 fatalities in San Mateo del Mar, Oaxaca. □

Figure 3: Felony Homicides by Month (Source: SEGOB)



Elsewhere, assailants launched at least ten attacks on civilians in public venues such as restaurants, bars, and small stores and shops. At least 40 people were killed in these attacks across Edomex, Guanajuato (6 incidents), and Veracruz (3 incidents). While the number of attacks is similar to May, the number of fatalities is the highest since October of last year. Ten people were executed inside a drug rehab center in Irapuato, Guanajuato. It is important to note that a similar attack occurred on July 1st in Irapuato, Guanajuato, resulting in 27 fatalities. Elsewhere, a 7-year-old girl was killed when gunmen attacked a rosary service in Tlalnepantla de Baz, Edomex. The child's mother was a police officer killed five days prior. Also, three people were kidnapped from a bar and murdered in Coacalco, Edomex.

During June the bodies of at least 295 victims were left in mass deposits. While these bodies were located at 77 different sites, the majority were in Guanajuato and Jalisco. In total, the sites were located across 18 states (Chihuahua, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacán, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Veracruz, and Zacatecas). In one case, twelve bodies were discovered in an old mine in Aquiles Serdán, Chihuahua. Also, a body was hung from a bridge in Celaya, Guanajuato. Another body was hung from a bridge in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz. At least 26 people were decapitated or dismembered this month across ten states (Edomex, Guanajuato, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Sonora, Veracruz, and Zacatecas). There were also numerous videos of victims being dismembered alive in Jalisco and elsewhere, which were uploaded to various blogs this month.



At least 55 women and girls were killed by assailants this month. These murders occurred across 16 states (Chihuahua, Colima, Edomex, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Michoacán, Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, San Luis Potosí, Sinaloa, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, and Veracruz). In one incident, a woman was gunned down by an assailant on a street in Tlalnepantla de Baz, Edomex. A medic was shot and killed in her car in Xalapa, Veracruz. The dean of the *Universidad y Colegio Valladolid* was gunned down in Emiliano Zapata, Veracruz. The bodies of three women were found at a grave site in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca.

In other cases, assailants attacked residents in their homes. For example, six people (including a pregnant woman and a child) were killed when gunmen attacked their home in Celaya, Guanajuato. Three people were murdered by gunmen who stormed their residence in Villahermosa, Tabasco. A 9-year-old girl and an 11-year-old girl were injured when shots were fired into their home in San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí. Five people were injured, and one was killed in an attack on their home near Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. Assailants hung four people from a tree at a residence in Purépero, Michoacán. Three women were among the victims. □

Other victims this month include an odontologist who was gunned down in his office in Ecatepec, Edomex. A physician was murdered in his clinic in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. A veterinarian was murdered in his business in Ciudad Isla, Veracruz. A digital journalist was murdered in Ciudad Obregón, Sonora. A reporter was injured by gunmen in Matías Romero, Oaxaca. A ranch manager was murdered in Pánuco, Veracruz. At least eight taxi drivers were murdered in Jalisco, Morelos, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, and Veracruz. Also, a bus fare collector was killed in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz.

Reported Vigilante Incidents

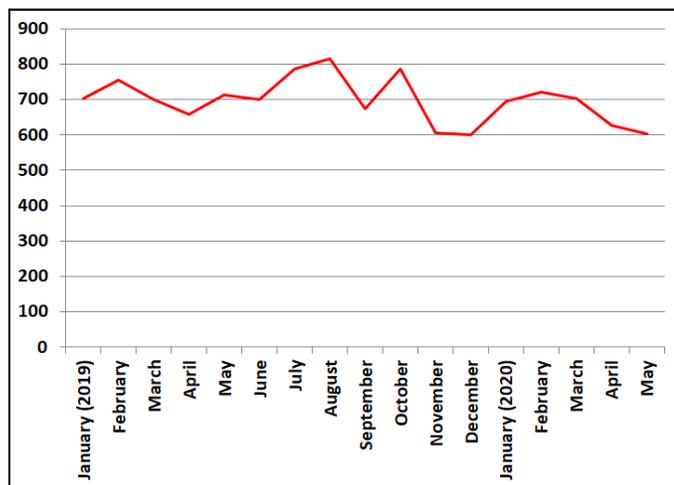
- June 3 - residents beat an accused thief in Veracruz, Veracruz.
- June 5 - residents in Solidaridad (Quintana Roo) attempted to lynch a woman they accused of killing a pregnant woman.
- June 19 - residents burned several trucks of the community guard unit in Cherán, Michoacán. They were demanding justice for an individual who had been picked up by the unit and who is now missing.
- June 23 - residents removed the hands of an accused criminal in Comalcalco, Tabasco. He died while en route to the hospital. □
- June 27 - bus passengers detained two accused robbers in Atizapan de Zaragoza, Edomex.

Extortion, Kidnapping, and Armed Robbery

Extortion

According to data published by SEGOB, the total number of reported extortions has declined since August 2019 (Figure 4). Despite this, there were at least twelve fatal attacks associated with extortion operations during June. At least 30 people were killed in these attacks, mostly in Guanajuato. This is the highest number of incidents since October 2019, and the highest number of fatalities in such attacks recorded. These incidents occurred in Guanajuato (5 incidents), Nuevo León, and Veracruz (6 incidents). These attacks occurred primarily in repair shops, but also impacted restaurants and small stores. Other attacks did not result in fatalities. For example, a funeral home was damaged by Molotov cocktails in Acayucan, Veracruz.

Figure 4: Reported Extortions by Month (Source: SEGOB)



Kidnapping

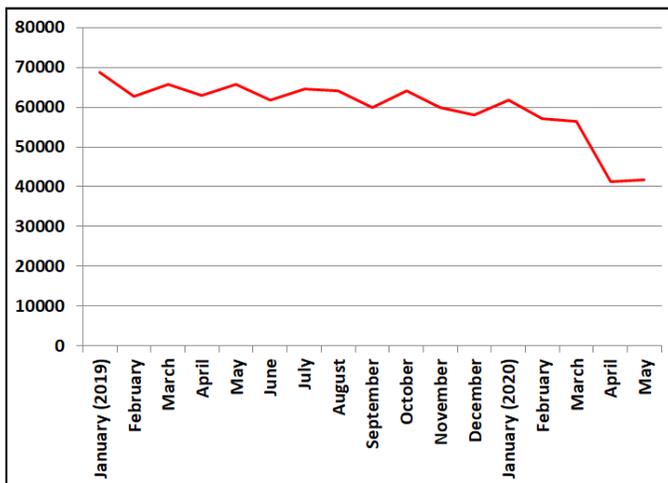
The media reported the disruption of five major kidnap operations during June. This figure is the highest since November 2019. These operations were located in Puebla, and Veracruz (4 operations). In addition to these operations, there were numerous reports of police rescues of kidnap victims. For example, a brigadier general was rescued after being kidnapped for 36 hours in Tepexco, Puebla. The kidnapers had demanded a ransom of 5 million pesos. Elsewhere, state police rescued four people in Tepalcatepec, Michoacán. State police rescued an individual in Xalapa, Veracruz. Two victims were rescued in Martínez de la Torre, Veracruz. Two women were rescued in San Andrés Tuxtla, Veracruz. Another woman was rescued in Orizaba, Veracruz. State police rescued eight people in Chapala, Jalisco. A biologist was rescued in Veracruz. Six people were rescued in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz. Assailants attempted to kidnap a woman from her vehicle in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz. □

In other cases, the condition of the victim is still unknown. For example, a physician was kidnapped in Mexico City. An individual was kidnapped off a street in Acayucan, Veracruz. Another person was kidnapped off a street in downtown Cuitláhuac, Veracruz. The niece of a former mayor was kidnapped in Copanatoyac, Guerrero.

Armed Robbery

As is the case with reported extortions, the total number of reported robberies has also declined, especially since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 5). Nevertheless, armed robbery is rampant across Mexico. Furthermore, customers continue to be robbed in the vicinity of banks. Several such incidents were reported in Veracruz. Three armored truck guards were killed during a robbery of 500,000 pesos in Jalisco. Also, a bank employee was forced to wear an explosive belt and told to rob 14 million pesos from a BBVA bank in Mexico City.

Figure 5: Total Robberies Reported by Month (Source: SEGOB)



See map below.

Attacks on Authorities (June 2020)

