

HX-HARARY SECURITY

MEXICO SECURITY & RISK ANALYSIS

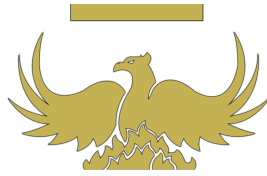
JUNE 2025

DATE OF REPORT: JULY 8, 2025

General Overview

June 2025 was a month of profound security challenges and complex criminal dynamics in Mexico. The country experienced a surge in violence, high-profile attacks, and evolving cartel strategies that tested the resilience of governmental institutions and the safety of the population. The following topics represent the most significant and impactful developments during the month:

1. **Escalation of Mass Violence and High-Impact Incidents:** Multiple states recorded unprecedented levels of homicides, mass killings, and attacks on civilians and officials. Sinaloa*, Guanajuato, Michoacán*, and Jalisco were among the most affected, with several incidents involving double-digit fatalities and public displays of violence.
2. **Fragmentation and Evolution of Cartel Structures:** The ongoing conflict between major cartel factions, especially within the Sinaloa Cartel, led to new levels of violence. The use of advanced weaponry, armored vehicles, and drones by criminal groups highlighted their growing operational capacity and technological sophistication.
3. **Attacks on Governmental Authority and Institutional Weaknesses:** Public officials, police, and military personnel were frequent targets of lethal attacks. Corruption and collusion within security forces continued to undermine state authority, with several high-profile arrests of officials for criminal collaboration.
4. **Governmental Response and Strategic Operations:** Authorities launched several large-scale operations, resulting in the arrest of key cartel figures and the dismantling of major criminal networks. Despite these efforts, the overall impact on violence levels remained limited, as criminal groups adapted quickly to leadership losses.
5. **Economic, Social, and International Dimensions of Crime:** Extortion, kidnapping, and armed robbery continued to affect businesses, professionals, and ordinary citizens. The crisis of disappearances and mass graves persisted, while U.S. government alerts and the use of digital platforms for crime underscored the international and technological aspects of Mexico's security challenges.
6. **Judicial Reform:** Elections were held to implement judicial reform, introducing direct elections by popular vote for the selection of judges. The reform aims to promote greater accountability and increase the efficiency of the judicial system. While the reform seeks to enhance transparency and public trust, concerns remain about the possible politicization of the judicial selection process.



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Comprehensive Violence Analysis

National Trends and Regional Hotspots

June 2025 saw a dramatic increase in violence across Mexico. Sinaloa* experienced one of its deadliest days, with 30 homicides recorded on June 30, including the discovery of 20 bodies, some decapitated and hung from a bridge, accompanied by narcomantas (narco-banners) threatening the "Chapitos" faction of the Sinaloa Cartel. This event was part of an ongoing war between the "Chapitos" and "Mayos" factions, resulting in over 1,500 deaths and 1,800 disappearances since September 2024, with violence concentrated in Culiacán and rural areas.

Guanajuato remained one of the most violent states, with mass shootings in Irapuato, Celaya, and Yuriria resulting in dozens of deaths and injuries. In Irapuato, an armed group attacked a religious celebration, killing 11 people and injuring at least 20. The state's homicide rate continued to be among the highest in the country.

Morelos was the scene of a major forensic scandal, with the exhumation of more than 60 bodies, including at least 10 infants, from a mass grave in Jojutla. The discovery reignited national debate over the state's handling of disappearances and the lack of proper forensic protocols.

Jalisco authorities uncovered a mass grave in Zapopan containing 34 bodies and 169 bags of human remains, highlighting the scale of disappearances and the capacity challenges faced by forensic services. In Sonora, 11 bodies were found in a clandestine grave in Ciudad Obregón, while in Chihuahua, 383 bodies were recovered from a crematorium in Ciudad Juárez.

The use of military-grade weapons, explosives, and armored vehicles by criminal groups, as well as the targeting of minors for recruitment, reflected a deepening crisis of violence and impunity. The proliferation of drones, armored vehicles, and heavy firearms raised the stakes of confrontations, often resulting in collateral damage to civilians and infrastructure.

Mass Killings and Public Displays

In Zacatecas*, a major confrontation between police and presumed CJNG gunmen in Villanueva left 13 suspects dead. The battle, which lasted over two hours and involved helicopter gunships, was broadcast live by journalists caught in the crossfire. Zacatecas* remains a key battleground in the struggle between the Sinaloa Cartel and CJNG, with frequent ambushes, roadblocks, and mass killings.

Violence Against Vulnerable Groups

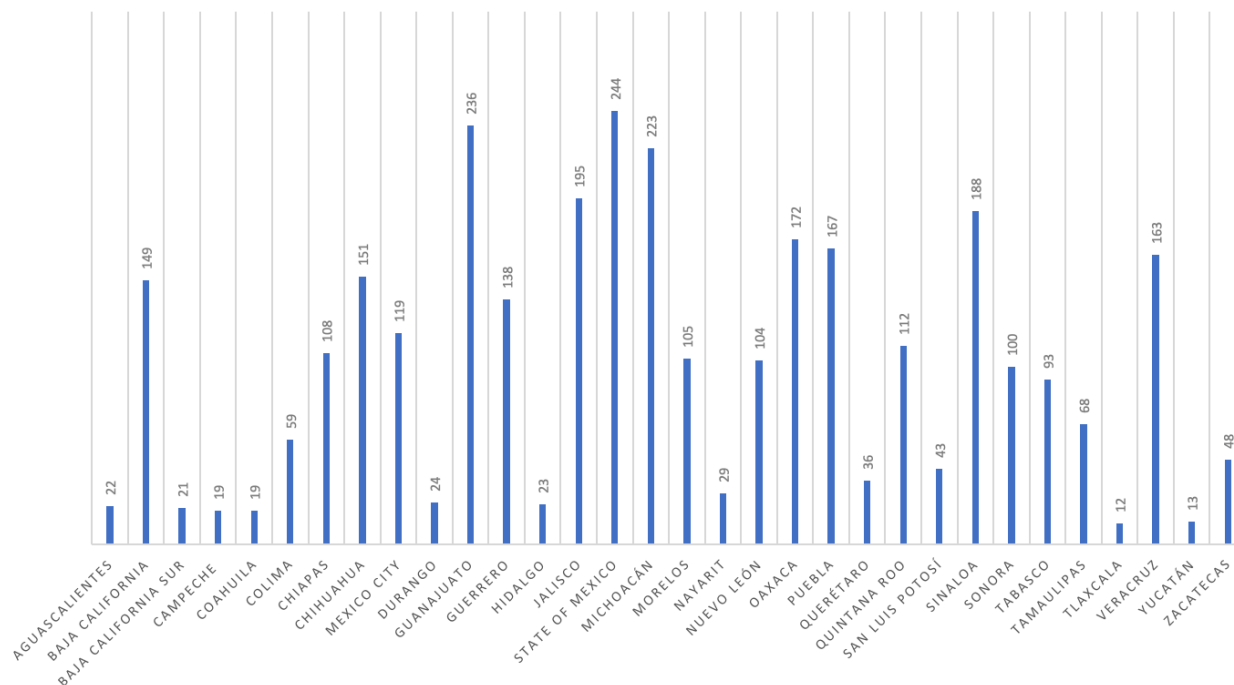
Violence against women and feminicides remained a critical issue. Morelos, Chiapas, and Veracruz reported multiple cases of women found murdered, often with signs of torture and sexual violence. In Morelos, the number of feminicides reached 50 for the year, placing the state among the highest in the country.

The abduction and murder of activists and searchers, such as the case of José Francisco Arias Mendoza ("Don Panchito") in Guanajuato, and the continued targeting of musicians and journalists, reinforced the climate of fear and impunity that prevails in many regions.



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HOMICIDES MAY 2025



Source: www.gob.mx

Detailed Cartel Dynamics and Organizational Structures

Sinaloa Cartel: Internal War and Fragmentation

The ongoing fragmentation and evolution of cartel structures shaped the security landscape in June 2025. The Sinaloa Cartel was embroiled in a violent internal conflict between the "Chapitos" and "Mayos" factions, leading to mass killings and public displays of brutality. The arrest of several cartel operatives, including minors, highlighted the increasing recruitment of youth by criminal groups.

The "Chapitos" and "Mayos" factions have been engaged in a brutal war since September 2024, resulting in over 1,500 deaths and 1,800 disappearances. The violence has been concentrated in Culiacán and rural areas, with both sides employing advanced weaponry, armored vehicles, and drones.

Authorities reported the arrest of several cartel operatives, including six presumed CJNG gunmen (three of them minors) in Culiacán, along with the seizure of weapons, tactical gear, and precursor chemicals for synthetic drugs. The arrest of minors highlights the increasing recruitment of youth by criminal groups and the challenges of addressing the social roots of organized crime.



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CJNG and Regional Conflicts

In Michoacán*, the CJNG and La Familia Michoacana engaged in prolonged gun battles, with incidents such as the burning of vehicles and businesses in Zitácuaro and the tragic death of a five-year-old child caught in crossfire. The city of Zitácuaro experienced narcobloqueos and violent confrontations, while Uruapan authorities discovered a narco training camp and responded to multiple armed confrontations involving explosives.

In Colima*, a major operation resulted in the arrest of 15 presumed CJNG members and the deaths of three more, reflecting ongoing efforts to dismantle cartel structures in the Pacific corridor.

Militarization and Technological Sophistication

The federal government reported the destruction of 15 "monstruo" armored vehicles in Tamaulipas*, a sign of the militarization of cartel conflicts in the northeast.

Criminal organizations continued to display their operational capacity and technological sophistication. In Chiapas, authorities announced the acquisition of armed drones to combat cartels, while in Michoacán* and Guerrero*, the use of drones to drop explosives on rivals and civilians became increasingly common.

The use of advanced technology, including anti-drone systems and encrypted communications, further complicates the security landscape. Cartel groups rapidly adapted to government operations, replacing lost leadership and maintaining control over key territories.

Cartel Alliances and Rivalries

The ongoing fragmentation of major cartels, particularly in Sinaloa* and Michoacán*, has led to increased violence, displacement of thousands, and a climate of fear in affected communities.

In Baja California, Pablo Edwin Huerta Nuño, alias "El Flaquito," a principal operator for the Arellano Félix cartel, was captured in Tijuana along with three associates. Abraham "N," alias "El Doble Cero" or "El Fénix," a leader of the CJNG, was arrested in Chiapas.

It was reported that "Los Chapitos" allied with the CJNG exclusively in Sinaloa* to combat "Los Mayos" in their internal war within the Sinaloa Cartel. Videos and some arrests of CJNG hitmen in the state could confirm this alliance.

Governmental Authority and Institutional Challenges

Attacks on Officials and Law Enforcement

Attacks on governmental authority continued to be a critical concern in June 2025. At least six public officials, including mayors and police chiefs, were assassinated during the month. In Michoacán*, the mayors of Tacámbaro and Tepalcatepec were killed in separate incidents, both linked to organized crime. The secretary of government in Linares, Nuevo León, was shot dead outside his home, and the secretary of the Ayuntamiento in Yécora, Sonora, was also murdered.

In Guerrero*, a commando ambushed and killed four municipal police officers in Iqualapa, including the subdirector of public security. In Sinaloa*, multiple police officers were executed in Culiacán and Navolato, contributing to a grim tally of 28 police officers killed in the state in 2025 alone.

An armed group executed the mayor of San Mateo Piñas, Oaxaca inside the Municipal Palace.

The Director of Public Security for the municipality of Tocumbo, Michoacán*, was murdered while at a gas station.



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The assassination of municipal presidents in Michoacán* and Oaxaca, both in direct, daylight attacks, underscores the extreme risks faced by local authorities, particularly in regions contested by organized crime.

Corruption and Collusion

Corruption and collusion within security forces remained a critical issue. In Puebla, six members of the Guardia Nacional were arrested for allegedly facilitating the escape of jailed criminals.

In Oaxaca, the director of the C2 surveillance center in Juchitán has been detained for allegedly leaking real-time camera footage to criminal organizations. The entire Municipal Police force is currently under investigation. The municipality is temporarily without a police force, as all 218 officers will undergo rigorous control and trust evaluations due to suspected connections with organized crime. Security responsibilities have been transferred to the Secretariat of Security and Citizen Protection (SSPC), the National Guard (GN), the Navy (Semar), and the Army (Sedena) to ensure public safety during this period.

The persistence of corruption and collusion within security forces continued to erode public trust in law enforcement. The resignation of the municipal police director in Culiacán, following the arrest of seven officers accused of protecting a wounded criminal, further illustrated the deep-seated issues of corruption and infiltration within security forces.

In Guanajuato, the federal government is investigating multiple officials for alleged ties to drug cartels, reflecting the deep penetration of criminal networks into local governance structures.

Institutional Weaknesses

The lack of effective law enforcement presence on major routes has contributed to a climate of impunity and fear among travelers.

Governmental Response and Strategic Interventions

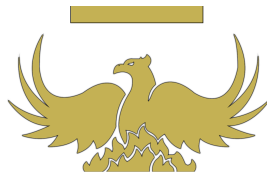
High-Profile Arrests and Operations

June 2025 witnessed several high-profile arrests and operations targeting criminal organizations. Among the most significant was the dismantling of a major fuel theft network ("huachicol") operating in the State of Mexico, Mexico City, Hidalgo, and Querétaro. Authorities arrested 32 individuals, including the alleged leaders Cirio Sergio "N" and Luis Miguel "N" ("El Flaco de Oro"), as well as key financial and logistical operators. The operation resulted in the seizure of 16 million pesos, dozens of vehicles, weapons, drugs, and even exotic animals.

In Baja California, Pablo Edwin Huerta Nuño, alias "El Flaquito," a principal operator for the Arellano Félix cartel, was captured in Tijuana along with three associates. Abraham "N," alias "El Doble Cero" or "El Fénix," a leader of the CJNG, was arrested in Chiapas. In Jalisco, a major arms supplier, Walter "N," was arrested with a cache of military-grade weapons and explosives.

In Sinaloa*, coordinated raids led to the arrest of 17 individuals, including 10 linked to "Los Mayos," with significant seizures of weapons, explosives, and vehicles. A tunnel connecting two houses in Culiacán was discovered, used for storing up to 200 firearms, including machine guns and rocket launchers.

In Oaxaca, the "Operación Sable" continued to yield results, with the arrest of key members of the "Comandante Cromo" cell, responsible for extortion, arson, and attacks on businesses and public transport. The operation also led to the detention of the director of the C2 surveillance center for collusion with criminal groups.



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Despite these efforts, the overall impact on violence levels remained limited, as criminal groups rapidly adapted and replaced lost leadership.

The deployment of over 1,600 federal and military personnel to Sinaloa* in response to escalating violence between factions of the Sinaloa Cartel, was a notable development.

Economic and Social Dimensions of Crime

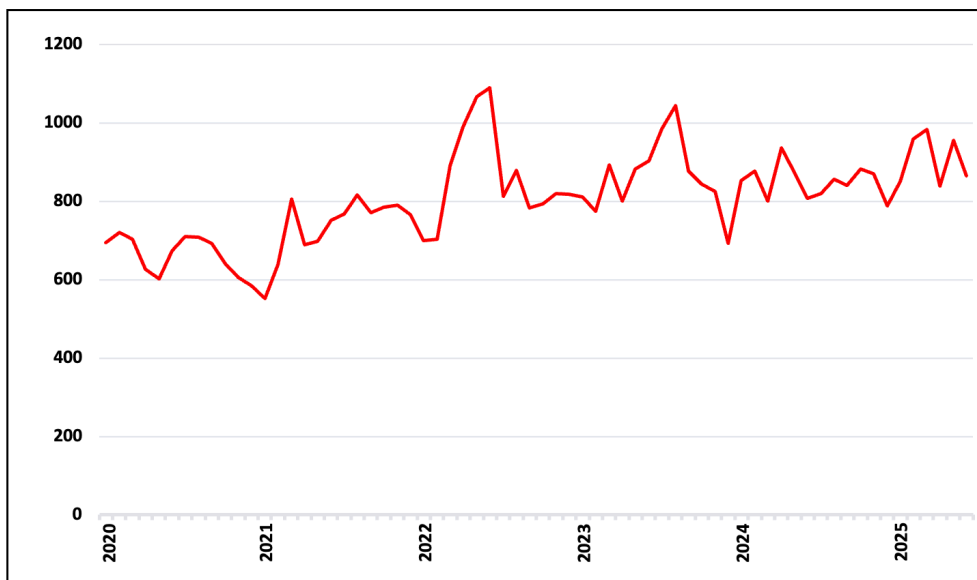
Extortion

Extortion remained a pervasive threat in June 2025, affecting businesses, transport operators, and ordinary citizens across multiple states. In Oaxaca, criminal groups targeted businesses and public transport in Juchitán, demanding "derecho de piso" payments and resorting to arson and violence against those who refused to comply. The burning of two OXXO stores and attacks on buses led to the suspension of public transport and widespread fear among residents.

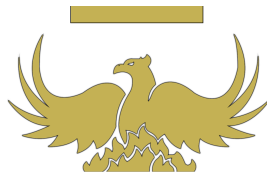
In Tabasco, the murder of a well-known entrepreneur was linked to his refusal to pay extortion demands. The killing followed previous attacks on his businesses, including arson and shootings, and highlighted the vulnerability of small business owners to criminal extortion.

Extortion schemes also targeted individuals through digital means. In Tamaulipas*, musicians and entertainers reported receiving extortion calls from presumed cartel members, demanding payments for "protection." The use of WhatsApp and other messaging platforms facilitated the spread of these schemes, often accompanied by threats of violence.

Reported Extortions by Month (Source: SEGOB)



Note: The figure for June 2025 is preliminary.



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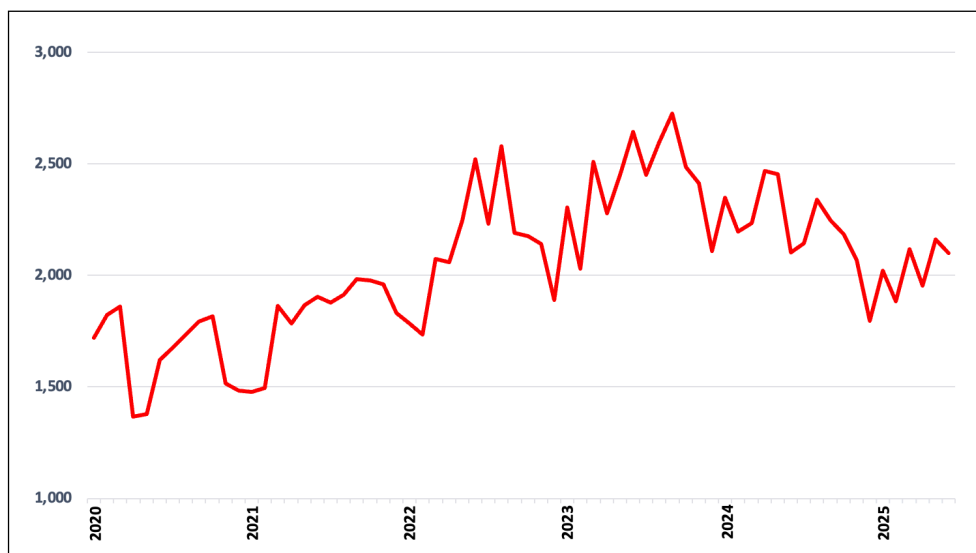
Kidnapping

Kidnapping continued to be a significant security threat, with cases reported across multiple states. In Veracruz, a prominent cardiologist was abducted in Coatzacoalcos, with his captors demanding a ransom of five million pesos. In Oaxaca, four merchants from the State of Mexico disappeared while traveling for business, with their families later receiving extortion calls. The lack of proof of life and the failure of authorities to locate the victims underscored the challenges of investigating and resolving kidnapping cases.

The U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara issued an alert regarding the risk of kidnappings in Puerto Vallarta and Nuevo Nayarit, particularly involving dating apps. Several U.S. citizens were reportedly abducted after meeting individuals through these platforms, with their families subsequently extorted for ransom payments.

The Secretary of Security of Reynosa had issued a warning to avoid traveling on the Monterrey-Reynosa highway at night due to disappearances. The warning was also issued by the U.S. Consulate.

Crimes against personal freedom (kidnapping, child trafficking, abduction, others) by Month (Source: SEGOB)

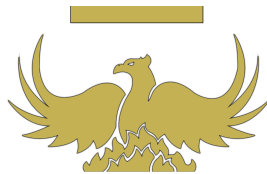


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Armed Robbery

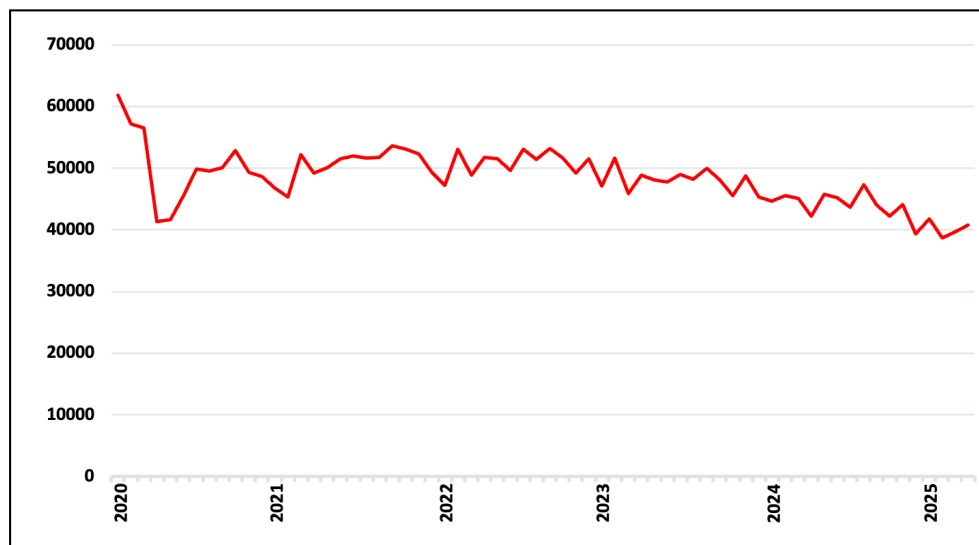
Armed robbery remained a widespread and persistent threat, affecting both urban and rural areas. Highway robberies and assaults on truck drivers continued to be reported in Veracruz, Puebla, and the State of Mexico, with criminal groups using cloned police vehicles and roadblocks to stop and rob motorists. In urban areas, armed robberies targeted businesses, public transport, and individuals.

In Mexico City, the arrest of "El Raider," leader of a major car theft and chop shop ring, highlighted the ongoing problem of vehicle theft and the sale of stolen auto parts.



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Total Reported Robberies by Month (Source: SEGOB)



Note: The figure for June 2025 is preliminary.

International Dimensions

U.S. Government Alerts and Cross-Border Impacts

The security crisis in Mexico continued to have significant international implications. U.S. government alerts regarding disappearances on highways and the risk of kidnappings emphasized the transnational dimension of Mexico's security challenges.

The displacement of thousands of people due to cartel violence, particularly in Sinaloa* and Michoacán*, had cross-border effects, with many seeking refuge in the United States and other countries. The persistence of mass killings, attacks on officials, and the discovery of clandestine graves continued to draw international attention to Mexico's security situation.

During a recent operation, the Mexican Pakal Immediate Reaction Force crossed into Guatemalan territory and killed four alleged criminals, including "El Tio Balde," a key founder and financier of the Chiapas and Guatemala Cartel (CCyG). The cross-border incursion sparked diplomatic tensions, with Guatemala demanding an explanation and Mexico issuing a formal apology. Both countries have since agreed to hold talks aimed at strengthening border security cooperation. In response to the incident, the Guatemalan Ministry of the Interior launched "Plan Mercury: Territorial Control in Border Areas of Huehuetenango" to reinforce security and maintain greater control along the Guatemala-Mexico border. These developments underscore ongoing efforts by both governments to address organized crime and enhance border management.

Solutions: Harary Security Services Recommendations

In light of the ongoing security challenges in Mexico, it is recommended to consider the following low-profile security services to mitigate risks and enhance safety:



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Risk Assessments: Harary Security offers comprehensive risk assessments to identify vulnerabilities and develop tailored security strategies for individuals and organizations operating in high-risk environments.

VIP Executive Protection: Discreet and effective personal security for executives, public officials, and other high-profile individuals facing elevated threats.

Security Seminars: Educational programs for staff and stakeholders on best practices for personal safety, situational awareness, and crisis response.

Kidnap for Ransom Services: Prevention training, negotiation support, and post-incident management to address the growing threat of abductions.

Crisis Management & Response: Rapid and coordinated action in the event of security incidents, minimizing harm and facilitating recovery.

Security Management Support: Ongoing guidance and oversight to maintain effective security protocols and adapt to evolving threats.

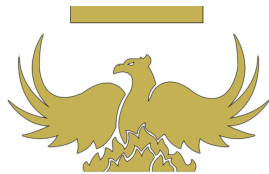
Intelligence Studies and Reports: Timely and actionable insights into emerging risks, criminal trends, and regional security developments.

Investigations: Assistance in uncovering criminal activity, supporting legal action, and enhancing organizational resilience.

These services are designed to support clients in navigating Mexico's complex security environment with discretion and professionalism, ensuring the highest standards of safety and preparedness.

** No travel states per U.S. State Department*

See map below



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Attacks on Authorities (June 2025)

