

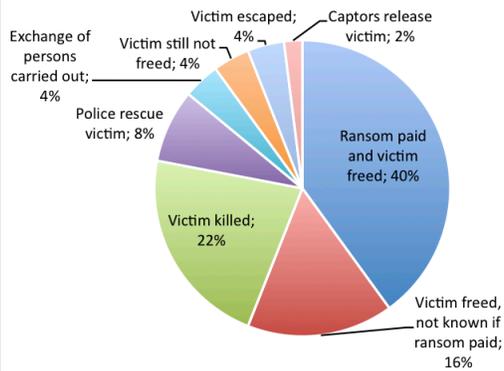
Alan Stoga, President
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Data

Poor track record in resolving kidnappings

Two specialists in kidnappings, **Max Morales** and **Jorge Carrillo Olea**, analyzed in *Reforma* fifty of Mexico's highest profile kidnappings since the 1970s. Of the 50 cases, only 17 resulted in the arrest of at least one of the kidnappers, and in only seven were the victims freed by action of the authorities. Two of these cases are still unresolved: **Diego Fernández de Cevallos**, who was kidnapped on May 14, 2010, and U.S. kidnap specialist **Felix Batista**, who has been missing since December 2008. Morales and Carrillo identify five phases of kidnapping over the past 40 years: political kidnappings during the Echeverria government; kidnappings of medium-size businessmen for moderate ransoms; kidnappings of large businessmen for mega-ransoms to finance insurgent groups; kidnappings as an industry, developed by gangster Daniel Arizmendi in the 1990s; and the fifth, since 1997, of heavy police involvement in kidnapping. "The problem of Mexico since 1997 is not organized crime, it is police who are organized in crime." According to Carrillo Olea, who was the first head of Mexico's security agency, CISEN, "Impunity is the prime motor in the proliferation of crime; if we want to reduce the proliferation of crime we have to make all criminal acts punishable and remember that in Mexico only 2% of crimes result in a sentence."

Disposition of 50 high profile kidnappings, 1970-2010



Key Dates

- 10/20, 10/31:** Deadlines for passing Revenue Law by Chamber, Senate
- 11/1:** Deadline for Congress to elect 3 new IFE board members
- 11/15:** Deadline for passing Expenditure Law
- 11/15:** 100th Anniversary of the Revolution
- 11/29-12/11:** UN Climate Change Conference (COP-16), Cancún
- 12/15:** End of Congressional session
- 7/3/11:** State of Mexico elections

SCT delivers wireless concessions to Televisa-Nextel consortium, but controversy continues

The Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT) sought to end the seemingly endless controversy surrounding the award of 30MHz of nationwide wireless spectrum to a Televisa-Nextel consortium by delivering the concession deeds immediately after a federal judge overturned an injunction blocking the move. Iusacell, controlled by TV magnate **Ricardo Salinas**, had filed some 69 suits trying to block the delivery of the concessions. SCT Secretary **Juan Molinar** denied that the concessions were being delivered "furtively," but the SCT clearly decided to act before any more injunctions could be issued. **President Calderón** spoke directly on the subject, saying, "I know that this is a controversial solution, but it is giving us a much clearer framework for the [telecommunications] sector and much greater competition." The conclusion by many commentators that the issue is not yet resolved was strengthened by the cautious statement issued by Televisa, saying that "discussions are ongoing ... as to whether certain closing conditions have been or can be satisfied." ([Universal 10/3](#), [10/8](#), [Televisa 10/4](#))

Calderón submits legislation to create unified police forces

Acting on a long proposed initiative, **President Calderón** sent to Congress the constitutional legislation to create 32 unified state-level police forces that would do away with most of the 2,000 municipal police forces and establish uniform standards for recruitment, training, and control. "It is necessary to make a sharp change in course in the model for police organizations that will permit the Mexican State to guarantee public safety across the entire country," he said. Municipalities would be able to keep their own police forces in some cases, if they demonstrated that their forces met the minimum standards. "On the day that, in addition to having a reliable, well-trained, and professional Federal Police to confront criminality, we also have in each of the 32 states reliable, well-trained, well-paid, well-armed police forces, that day we will be able to decisively close the space for criminality," he concluded. The 2011 budget proposal already includes Ps. 2.4 billion for funding the initiative. PRD Senator **Carlos Navarrete** cautioned that the legislation would be subject to "exhaustive analysis" and "modification if needed" in the Senate. Meanwhile, Aguascalientes became the first state to create on its own unified police force. The mayors of the 11 municipalities in the state signed the agreements to cede control of their police forces to the state's Secretary for Public Safety. ([Universal 10/7](#), [10/11](#), [Reforma 10/11](#))

PAN-PRD alliance in Mexico State moves forward; AMLO threatens to break with PRD

The PAN and PRD leaderships in Mexico State each approved a policy of alliances with the other to dethrone the PRI in next year's gubernatorial election. However, **Andrés Manuel López Obrador** attacked the prospective alliance in meetings across the state. AMLO said, "If an alliance between the PAN and PRD is imposed from above ... we will build our own alliance from below, of militants of the PRD, PT and Convergencia" and leave the PRD as "an empty shell." ([Reforma 9/27](#), [10/10](#), [Universal 10/3](#))

More Michoacán politicians released from custody

A judge ordered freed five persons who had been arrested in the Government's highest profile operation against political corruption linked to drug trafficking. Of the 35 who had been arrested in the May 2009 sweep in Michoacán, 34 have now been freed by judicial order. **Maria Luisa Calderón**, the President's sister and a potential PAN candidate for governor of Michoacán, said the judicial orders were the result of "pressures" against the judges and in no way an exoneration of those freed. Columnist **Ricardo Alemán** commented, "The *michoacanazo* [as the operation was called] is nothing more than a chain of events that show the citizens' lack of confidence in the entire process for imparting justice. ... Like it or not, it's a collective mess, shameful for everyone." ([Universal 9/29](#), [10/6](#), [Excelsior 9/30](#))