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Data

Narco scorecard

In March 2009, the Justice Ministry posted rewards for 37 of Mexico's most wanted drug traffickers. To date, 15 of the 37 have been captured, killed by security forces, or killed by other gangsters. *Nexos* magazine just published an evaluation of the drug war by **Eduardo Guerrero Gutiérrez** with its own statistics. According to his tally, the government has captured 134 first and second level traffickers during 2007-09, including gang leaders and key operational or logistics specialists. In addition, the authorities arrested 737 lower level operatives and 2,100 gunmen. ([Nexos 8/1](#))

Drug Gang Leadership Arrests

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | Total |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Sinaloa/Pacific Cartel | | | | |
| Leaders | | 1 | 1 | |
| Top Operators | 1 | 8 | 9 | 23 |
| Top Logistics | 1 | | 2 | |
| Gulf Cartel | | | | |
| Leaders | | | 1 | |
| Top Operators | 2 | 3 | 10 | 38 |
| Top Logistics | 8 | 6 | 8 | |
| Zetas | | | | |
| Leaders | | | 3 | |
| Top Operators | | | 6 | 29 |
| Top Logistics | 3 | 10 | 7 | |
| Beltran Leyva's | | | | |
| Leaders | | | 1 | |
| Top Operators | | | 4 | 10 |
| Top Logistics | | 2 | 3 | |
| La Familia | | | | |
| Leaders | | | 3 | |
| Top Operators | | | 3 | 13 |
| Top Logistics | | 1 | 6 | |
| Tijuana Cartel/Arellano Felix | | | | |
| Leaders | 1 | | | |
| Top Operators | 3 | 4 | | 8 |
| Top Logistics | | | | |
| Tijuana Cartel/Carrillo Fuentes | | | | |
| Leaders | | | 1 | |
| Top Operators | | 1 | | 13 |
| Top Logistics | 1 | 10 | | |
| Totals | 20 | 46 | 68 | 134 |

Key Dates

9/1: Presidential *Informe*; start of fall congressional session
9/15: 200th Anniversary of Independence
11/15: 100th Anniversary of the Revolution
11/29-12/11: UN Climate Change Conference (COP-16), Cancún

Army takes down drug kingpin

In a major breakthrough, the Army announced that **Ignacio "Nacho" Coronel**, one of the three top leaders of the **Sinaloa cartel**, was killed during an operation by Army special forces in the exclusive San Javier district of Guadalajara. Columnist **Raymundo Riva Palacio** called Coronel's death, "the most important blow by the government of **Felipe Calderón** in its 44-month long war against narco-trafficking. [Coronel] was responsible for the entire cocaine and methamphetamine operation along the southern Pacific coast. ... His unexpected death shakes up the leadership of the Sinaloa cartel, and profoundly damages the drug transit route that goes through Gómez Palacio and Torreón and ends in Ciudad Juárez." The Army said the operation began in May, when they began tracking Coronel's whereabouts. He was reportedly shot after he fired on the soldiers, killing one and wounding another. The Army also arrested **Irán Francisco Quiñones**, believed to be Coronel's principal deputy during the operation, and recovered US\$7 million in cash. The next day the Army tracked down and killed Coronel's nephew, **Mario Carrasco Coronel**, "El Gallo", using information retrieved from the drug kingpin's laptop. The Mexican government had offered Ps. 30 million and the U.S. government another US\$5 million reward for Coronel's arrest or conviction. ([Universal 7/29](#), [Excelsior 7/29](#), [Eje Central 7/30](#))

AMLO demonstrates star power

Andrés Manuel López Obrador filled the Zocalo in Mexico City with his supporters, in what was seen as a kickoff for the 2012 presidential race, and laid out his "Alternative Project for the Nation." AMLO blasted the tax privileges of 30 private sector 'potentates' he alleged controlled the country. He promised to make energy development the platform for economic development, while lowering the prices for electricity and gas. Columnist **Ricardo Alemán** said AMLO had lost his mind: "If we try for a smidgen of seriousness, no one sensible can give any credit to his messianic, contradictory, simplistic, dishonest speech – of half truths and complete lies. ... In the Zocalo we saw a politician still resentful for the loss in 2006, the Messiah who promises to change Mexico through 'love, happiness, and kisses.' Can anyone take this talk seriously?" AMLO defended his blatant electioneering in violation of legal restrictions on campaigning outside of prescribed dates by saying delay would be tantamount to delivering the presidency to Mexico State governor **Enrique Peña Nieto**. ([Universal 7/26](#), [7/27](#))

Blake reopens negotiations with electricians union

Government secretary **Francisco Blake Mora** made an about face and said the government would negotiate with the SME electrical workers union that is protesting the liquidation of **Luz y Fuerza**. Union leader **Martín Esparza** participated in the first meeting, and the parties laid out a framework for future negotiations. Blake has held out the possibility of giving formal recognition to the union leadership (which would give them control over Ps. 7 billion in union pension funds); in return the union called off the hunger strike of several workers, which was becoming a public relations liability for the government. ([Universal 7/27](#))

Two relatives of Chihuahua governor-elect assassinated

A cousin of Chihuahua governor-elect **César Duarte** (PRI) was assassinated, and becomes the second relative to be killed since Duarte was elected. Alberto Porras Duarte was shot eight times outside his law offices in Porras, Chihuahua. Two weeks earlier, Mario Humberto Medina Vela, Duarte's cousin, was killed during a botched kidnap attempt. ([Universal 7/27](#))