



REGIONAL SECURITY REVIEW

MEXICO, LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

OCTOBER 18, 2011

MEXICO REGIONAL SECURITY MAP

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RISK RATINGS

LEVEL 5 – HIGH RISK: SECURITY PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE REVIEWED FOR PERSONNEL VISITING OR WORKING IN THE AREA. NPS RECOMMENDS SECURITY TEAM INCLUDING SECURITY AGENT, SECURITY DRIVER AND VEHICLE. TRAVEL SHOULD BE USED FOR TRAVEL OF PERSONNEL. TRAVEL SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO DAYLIGHT TRAVEL ONLY. LOW PROFILE SECURITY TEAM AND VEHICLE SHOULD BE USED IN THE AREA DEPENDANT ON RISK PROFILE OF VISITOR OR EMPLOYEE.

LEVEL 4 – MODERATE RISK: SECURITY PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE REVIEWED FOR PERSONNEL VISITING OR WORKING IN THE AREA. NPS RECOMMENDS SECURITY DRIVER AND SECURITY VEHICLE DEPENDANT ON STATUS OF VISITORS OR EMPLOYEES WORKING IN THE AREA. HIGHER RISK INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY SECURITY TEAM INCLUDING SECURITY AGENT, SECURITY DRIVER AND VEHICLE. SECURITY VEHICLE DEPENDANT ON RISK PROFILE OF VISITOR OR EMPLOYEE

LEVEL 3 – MEDIUM RISK: SECURITY PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE REVIEWED FOR PERSONNEL VISITING OR WORKING IN THE AREA. NPS RECOMMENDS SECURITY DRIVER AND SECURITY VEHICLE DEPENDANT ON STATUS OF VISITORS OR EMPLOYEES WORKING IN THE AREA. HIGHER RISK INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY SECURITY TEAM INCLUDING SECURITY AGENT, SECURITY DRIVER AND VEHICLE. SECURITY VEHICLE DEPENDANT ON RISK PROFILE OF VISITOR OR EMPLOYEE

LEVEL 2 – STANDARD RISK: SECURITY PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE REVIEWED FOR PERSONNEL VISITING OR WORKING IN THE AREA. NPS RECOMMENDS THAT SECURITY AWARENESS BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES. TRAVEL SHOULD BE IN DAYLIGHT HOURS ONLY.

LEVEL 1 – LOW RISK: SECURITY PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE REVIEWED FOR PERSONNEL VISITING OR WORKING IN THE AREA. NPS RECOMMENDS THAT SECURITY AWARENESS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.

ALL NORTHERN BORDER CITIES AND ENTRY POINTS ARE RATED LEVEL 4-5 DUE TO CONTINUING NARCOTICS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Aguascalientes

- Located in the central part of the country
- Security level: 4
- Area in dispute between the Cartel de Sinaloa and the Los Zetas

Baja California

- Located in the northwestern part of the country
- Security level: 2
- This territory is in control of the Tijuana Cartel and it is not being disputed by other cartels, so the violence has been kept in control.

Baja California Sur

- Located in the south tip of the Baja peninsula
- Security level: 1
- This is one of the safest states in the country. Incidents in the area are local street crime and crimes of opportunity. Organized crime by passes this area when transporting drugs to the US.

Campeche

- Located in the south part of the country
- Security level: 3
- This territory sees Los Zetas cartel presence. Due to many oil installations, there is a heavy federal forces presence, so violence is kept under control

Coahuila

- Located in the northern part of the country
- Security level: 5
- This territory faces gun fire in the middle of the day in many towns. It is being disputed by the Cartel del Gulf and the Los Zetas Cartel. Recently there has been continued cartel activity in Torreon and capital Saltillo. 30 persons were found held in the town of Piedras Negras to be used as slave labor for the Los Zetas Cartel.

Colima

- Located in the west side of the country
- Security level: 3
- This territory is under control by the Sinaloa cartel. So the fact that it is not in dispute, keeps the violence controlled.

Chiapas

- Located on the south of the country
- Security level: 2
- This territory is not under dispute. The Cartel de Sinaloa and the Los Zetas cartel have an active presence here. Their main core business is human trafficking. A heavy human rights watch presence keeps violence under control.

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Chihuahua

- Located in the north of the country
- Security level: 5
- This is one of the most dangerous territories in the country. 3 cartels have this are under dispute: Sinaloa, Gulf and Los Zetas. Ciudad Juarez is one of the most dangerous cities the Western Hemisphere right now.

Durango

- Located in the northern central part of the country
- Security level: 4
- This territory is under Cartel de Sinaloa control. It helps as the buffer zone to stop the Los Zetas expansion to the pacific. It sees sporadic spikes in violence

Estado de México

- Located in the central part of the country, at the outskirts of Mexico city
- Security level: 2
- This territory being next to Mexico City has done great in keeping violence out of its boundaries. Despite that it is in the Beltran Leyva Cartel are of jurisdiction. There have been attempts by the Cartel de Sinaloa to enter through small splinter groups as the Mano con Ojos group. The Mano con Ojos (“Hands with Eyes”) recently left two decapitated heads in front of a military base outside of Mexico City.

Guanajuato

- Located in the Central valley of the country
- Security level: 2
- This territory is barely starting to get infiltrated by the cartel groups from the north. It is estimated that violence may spike.

Guerrero

- Located in the southwestern side of the country
- Security level: 5
- Violence has spiked recently. This area was under control of the Beltran Leyva Cartel, but other groups are starting to go in and they are fighting for control of the territory. There are have been numerous homicides in the city of Acapulco during the past few months as cartel groups fight for control of the cities drug trade.

Hidalgo

- Located in the central part of the country
- Security level: 2
- The Los Zetas cartel has started to enter this territory. So far violence is not that rampant, but it is estimated that violence could rise.

Jalisco

- Located in the southwestern side of the country
- Security Level: 4
- Analyst estimate Guadalajara is the next city to have similar cartel activity as the Monterrey area. This is because the federal forces took out Nacho Coronel, the head of the Cartel de Sinaloa who used to run that plaza. Now the Los Zetas Cartel may be entering the area to challenge the Cartel de Sinaloa. Also this area is one of the main transportation points for methamphetamine traffic into the southern border region of the United States.

Michoacán

- Located in the southwestern side of the country
- Security level: 4
- It is the site of the Familia Michoacán Cartel. Federal forces conduct have conducted many operations in the area, but still organized crime is rampant throughout the state. Random extortion calls to the entire country derived from this state.

Morelos

- Located in the central part of the country
- Security level: 2
- The main activity of organized crime used to be kidnapping. Federal forces have dismantled several local gangs, so incidents have been quelled down, but they have not disappeared.

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Nayarit

- Located on the west side of the country
- Security level: 3
- The entire state is under control of the Cartel de Sinaloa.

Nuevo León

- Located on the northern side of the country
- Security Level: 5
- The state is under dispute by 3 cartels: Los Zetas, Cartel del Gulf and Cartel de Juarez. This situation plus having the later end of the NAFTA highway to the US, makes the state a high prize for organized crime.

Oaxaca

- Located in the south part of the country
- Security Level: 2
- The main activity by the big organized crime groups in the state is the t it is a passage way for the human trafficking activities. The main security problem in the state is related to political turmoil.

Puebla

- Located in the central part of the country
- Security level: 3
- The main activity of organized crime is the high jacking of freight truck on the main highways. One of the most dangerous roads is the one which leads from the city of Puebla to Mexico City.

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Querétaro

- Located in the central part of the country
- Security level: 1
- Based on the geographical location of the state, it is used as a passage way for illegal activity. It is in the area of influence of one cartel: Beltran Leyva, so violence is not that prevalent. Two to three months prior the largest methamphetamine manufacturing facility in North America was found in the area.

Quintana Roo

- Located in the south part of the country in the Yucatan peninsula
- Security level: 4
- Federal forces have made it a point to safe guard the main tourist areas. This area of the country is under control of the Los Zetas cartel. There has been a lot of violence to extort money out of the established commercial areas.

San Luis Potosí

- Located in the central part of the country
- Security level: 3
- The area is in dispute by two cartels: The Los Zetas and the Cartel de Sinaloa. This has increased the level of violence in the state and it is expected to grow.

Sinaloa

- Located in the western part of the Country
- Security Level: 5
- This state is the head quarters of the Cartel de Sinaloa. It has received direct interference from the Los Zetas cartel and it is one of the most violent parts of the country.

Sonora

- Located in the north part of the country
- Security Level: 5
- This state is in dispute by 3 different cartels: Sinaloa, Beltran Leyva and the Los Zetas. Violence is very high in many parts of the territory.

Tabasco

- Located on the south side of the country
- Security Level: 3
- This state basically is only a passage way for human trafficking activities of organized crime.

Tamaulipas

- Located in the north of the country
- Security level: 5
- This state is the home state of Los Zetas Cartel. Criminal activity continues to be high in the area as the controlling factor of the Los Zetas is prevalent in the area.

Tlaxcala

- Located in the central part of the country
- Security level: 3
- This territory is controlled by the Los Zetas cartel. The main activity here is human trafficking and prostitution

Veracruz

- Located on the east side of the country by the gulf of Mexico
- Security level: 5
- It is a territory in dispute by the Los Zetas and the Gulf Cartel. Lately violence has spiked drastically. Including many body dumps. Over 75 bodies have been found murdered in the area during recent weeks.

Yucatán

- Located at the Yucatan peninsula.
- Security level: 1
- It is one of the safest territories in the country. The way public safety works at the three levels of government is an example for the rest of the country. The only type of crime they are facing is local common crime of opportunity.

Zacatecas

- Located in the north central part of the country
- Security level: 3
- The territory is controlled primarily by the Cartel de Sinaloa. The Z Cartel is starting to take a foot hold in the territory. Violence is expected to spike.

Mexico City:

- Located in the central part of the country
- It is the center of political and economic control of the country
- Security level: 3
- The city has not seen street shootings like northern part of the country. Recent security activity has included extortion, street robberies (including armed robberies) and acts of express kidnapping. Recently two female reporters were victims of homicide in the city. Initial reports are that the two reporters had issued articles regarding the narcotics trade in the area. It has also been reported that the two reporters also owned two cash exchange businesses at the international airport and that may have played a role in their deaths.



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