Negative Brief: Mexico II – Military Aid

By Kirstin Erickson and “Coach Vance” Trefethen

***Resolved: The United States federal government should considerably decrease its military commitments.***

Plan eliminates military aid to Mexico.

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As of Feb 2021 (most recent evidence in the round?): 1) 80% of US/Mexico military aid has been cut (from $500 million in 2010 to $100 million today) 2) Some of that $100 million isn’t even for the military (includes police, judicial system) 3) Biden isn’t committed to the $100 million and it’s not clear how much of it will actually be delivered 3

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Negative: Mexico Military AID

TOPICALITY

1. No commitment in Status Quo, so no way to do any topical plan on Mexico military aid

As of Feb 2021 (most recent evidence in the round?):   
1) 80% of US/Mexico military aid has been cut (from $500 million in 2010 to $100 million today)   
2) Some of that $100 million isn’t even for the military (includes police, judicial system)  
3) Biden isn’t committed to the $100 million and it’s not clear how much of it will actually be delivered

*Adam Isacson and Stephanie Brewer* 2021 (*Isacson is the Director for Defense Oversight at the* [*Washington Office on Latin America*](http://www.wola.org/) *(WOLA). Brewer is WOLA’s Director for Mexico and Migrant Rights.* ) 9 Feb 2021 Moving On from Military Cooperation <https://www.mexicoviolence.org/post/moving-on-from-military-cooperation> (brackets added)

Today, WOLA estimates that U.S. assistance to Mexico’s security forces totals a bit more than $100 million, of an overall annual package of perhaps $210 million. Of that, two aid accounts matter most.

The State Department’s International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement program, which can pay for military and police aid as well as judicial or other civilian aid, is channeling $100 million in [appropriations](https://docs.house.gov/billsthisweek/20201221/BILLS-116RCP68-JES-DIVISION-K.pdf) into Mexico aid in 2021. About one-third to one-half of that is likely to assist Mexican police forces and the INM, [National Migration Institute] with a small amount probably benefiting military units. (~~Mexico’s new National Guard has not been getting U.S. aid, though~~ [~~conversations~~](https://www.gob.mx/guardianacional/prensa/guardia-nacional-fortalece-cooperacion-bilateral-en-materia-de-seguridad-con-autoridades-de-estados-unidos?idiom=es) ~~are ongoing.)~~

The other main account is the Defense Department’s authority to train and equip foreign security forces, known as “[Section 333](https://www.dsca.mil/section-333-authority-build-capacity).” This very untransparent funding source provided $55.3 million in aid to Mexican military and police units in 2019, [according](https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R42917) to the Congressional Research Service. This is the main channel for assisting SEMAR and SEDENA.  
$100 million is a much smaller package than Colombia’s military and police will get in 2021 ~~(about $250 million)~~ and a fraction of what Mexico’s forces got in 2010, at the outset of the Mérida Initiative (about $500 million). And it’s not clear even how much of 2021’s $100 million might get delivered, considering all of the bumps in the relationship between the Biden and López Obrador administrations.

Violation #1: No commitment means topical plan is impossible

If there is no commitment, there’s nothing to reduce, so no plan on Mexico military aid is topical. What happened here is the Affirmative mis-heard the resolution. They thought it said “decrease something related to the military,” when in fact it said “decrease military commitments.” Since we’re not committed to giving military aid to Mexico, reducing that aid is irrelevant to this resolution.

Violation #2: If there were a commitment, it is to reducing aid

Since the Status Quo policy is reducing aid by 80%, if Status Quo policy is the so-called “commitment,” then the only way to reduce a commitment to reducing aid would be to increase aid. Their plan doesn’t do that, so it’s not topical.

Impact: No Affirmative team means Negative ballot

No one showed up in the debate to affirm the actual terms of the resolution, so there are 2 Negative teams in the round. No matter who wins, you should vote Negative.

INHERENCY

1. A/T “Mexican Pres. Obrador doesn’t want US military aid”

Then we should sanction his country until they wake up and realize how wrong he is and then we can rebuild military cooperation

Vanda Felbab-Brown 2021. (*Director of the Initiative on Nonstate Armed Actors and a Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution) written 9 Feb 2021, updated 22 March 2021 “*The Chilling of Security Collaboration” https://www.mexicoviolence.org/post/the-chilling-of-security-collaboration

Finally, the United States should keep at the ready two powerful tools: ***designating Mexican drug trafficking groups as terrorist organizations*** and ***decertifying Mexico*** for failing to collaborate with U.S. counternarcotics efforts. Both are fraught, blunt, and outright problematic tools that are normally best avoided. But if the López Obrador administration exhibits little willingness to build meaningful security cooperation, then the United States may have no other option. Even so, it may be only when the Mexican people start demanding accountability from the López Obrador administration (or a future Mexican government) for the devastating levels of violence in Mexico and persistent infiltration of organized crime into highest levels of Mexican institutions that the United States and Mexico can move toward rebuilding meaningful security collaboration serving the interests of the people of both countries.

2. Biden’s new policy is already demilitarizing

Biden changes everything: He’s shifting the policy, respecting and cooperating with Mexican leaders, and de-escalating the drug war

Prof. Gema Kloppe-Santamaria 2021. (*assistant professor of Latin American history at Loyola University, Chicago*) 9 Feb 2021 “Beyond the War on Drugs” https://www.mexicoviolence.org/post/beyond-the-war-on-drugs

The arrival of President Joseph Biden to power this past January, however, offers the opportunity to shift security cooperation efforts from a defensive and all-out-war approach to one focused on targeted integral responses that address the institutional and social determinants of criminal violence. President Biden has expressed his willingness to enhance more respectful and coordinated forms of cooperation between the two countries and to advance a security cooperation agenda that incorporates more humane and integral responses to the drug problem and to the humanitarian challenges posed by undocumented migration. AMLO has thus the opportunity to go back to some of his initial promises and demonstrate the extent to which his government is willing to go beyond a vague rhetoric of “abrazos, no balazos” (hugs, not bullets) as well as beyond a defensive and nationalist position, in order to push for concrete strategies to address the several threats impacting citizens’ security and wellbeing.

3. A/T “Mexico economy growing”

Actually, no. Mexico’s economy was already in poor shape, then Covid made it a lot worse. Recovery is uncertain

Dr. Daniel Zaga, Alessandra Ortiz and Jesus Leal Trujillo 2020. (Zaga – Economic Analysis leader at Deloitte Mexico. PhD in development economics from the Graduate Institute of Geneva; worked for both the Mexican and Argentine governments for more than 10 years, in the areas of macroeconomics, competitiveness, and finance. Ortiz - senior economist at Deloitte Mexico. Trujillo - manager and data scientist working for Research & Insights at Deloitte Services LP ) 21 Dec 2020 “Mexico – Rocky road to recovery” https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/economy/americas/mexico-economic-outlook.html

THE global pandemic came at a time when the Mexican economy had contracted for five straight quarters due to a variety of factors such as deceleration in investment and private consumption and uncertainty around the free trade agreement with the United States and Canada. The COVID-19 crisis accelerated this trend, resulting in the largest contraction since the Great Depression of 1929. The forecast for GDP growth this year is -9.0% annually. [**END QUOTE**]The economy saw a steep decline of 17.0% from the first quarter to the second, followed by a partial recovery of 12.1% in the third quarter (figure 1). However, the output level is still 8.6% lower than the previous year. The pandemic has also had a substantial effect on the Mexican labor market. Between April and May this year, 12.5 million people left the labor force and unemployment rose to 4.5%, up from 3.3% in March. The pandemic shrunk the size of the economically active population from 60.5% in February to 47.5% in April. [**THEY GO ON LATER IN THE CONTEXT QUOTE:**] By now, partial recovery of the Mexican economy has helped bring 10.2 million back to work while nearly 2.3 million workers have yet to return (figure 2). Nevertheless, there are other factors to consider. The vast majority of those who are reintegrating with the labor force are joining the informal market. Besides, the number of people working part-time hours had doubled to 15.7% in October compared to 7.5% in January. This exemplifies how, despite the recovery, working conditions have become more precarious in the country. The sharp fall in the economy observed this year will have a smaller carry-forward effect in 2021—a year the world will be excited to see the arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, but also one that faces great challenges. Above all, due to the lack of fiscal support and the resurgence of COVID-19 cases, which will affect production and employment once again, the road to recovery will be fraught with uncertainty.

SOLVENCY

1. A/T “Reduces US debt”

Response #1: You’ll need a microscope to see it

Link: US military aid to Mexico is $100 million

Cross apply Topicality card from Isacson & Brewer in 2021

Link: 2021 federal deficit will be $2.3 trillion

Congressional Budget Office 2021. “The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2021 to 2031” 11 Feb 2021 https://www.cbo.gov/publication/56970

If current laws governing taxes and spending generally remain unchanged, CBO projects, in 2021, the federal budget deficit will total $2.3 trillion, federal debt will reach 102 percent of GDP, and real GDP will grow by 3.7 percent.

Do the math: $100 million divided by $2.3 trillion = 0.004% reduction in this year’s deficit

Wow, an hour and a half of debating so we can get a 0.004% reduction. Surely you had better things to do with your time. And think of the real dent we could have made in the deficit if we had debated something significant instead!

Response #2: No impact

Affirmative never tells you how you would benefit from a 0.004% reduction in the deficit

It’s not an advantage until it benefits someone. Right now, it’s just a number on someone’s computer screen, until they can prove with evidence that your life would be better off with that 0.004% reduction. Maybe the deficit stimulates the economy and helps people get back to work. They have to prove reducing the deficit is a good thing and who benefits from it, if they want to claim it as an advantage.

2. A/T “Solving US responsibility for Mexican military misdeeds”

Response #1: Falsely assumes aid means donor has responsibility for every action of the recipient

If you accept this in principle, it creates an endless chain of culpability we could never escape. Some welfare recipients spend some of their money on drugs. Therefore, every taxpayer is culpable until you either refuse to pay taxes and go to jail or else flee the country. You gave a birthday present to your nephew and he disobeyed his mom by not eating his broccoli the next day. You’re guilty! A contractor for the Air Force misused some funds. The Air Force is guilty, we need to de-fund it. If you don’t like these absurd conclusions, don’t accept the premise that led to them.

Response #2: Still guilty through other forms of aid

Since the Affirmative doesn’t cancel “ALL” US aid to Mexico (which they can’t under this resolution), if aid=guilt then we’re still guilty. You don’t become innocent of bank robbery by cutting down from robbing 2 banks per week to robbing only 1 a week. If we’re guilty, we remain guilty until we cut the very last dollar of any form of aid whatsoever.

Example: U.S. Development Finance Corporation got $241 million from Congress for solar power in Mexico (more than double the military aid!)

Peter Meyer and Rachel Martin 2020. (Meyer – Specialist in Latin American Affairs. Martin – Research assistant. Both are with Congressional Research Service) 4 Sept 2020 U.S. Foreign Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean: FY2021 Appropriations “https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/2020-09-04\_R46514\_ffcc05e7e83261ce2adb564f747ce218b1122a7f.pdf

Despite those limitations, the DFC Board of Directors approved more than $1 billion of commitments for projects in Latin American and Caribbean countries in March and June 2020. These commitments include $100 million in political risk insurance to support marine conservation in St. Lucia, a loan of up to $150 million to expand lending to women-owned and - led businesses in Ecuador, and a loan of up to $241 million to support the development and construction of four solar power plants in Mexico.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Decreased public safety and violence in Mexico

Mex. President Obrador said he wanted to withdraw from the aid program, but rapidly canceling military aid leads to more violence and undermines public safety

Dr. Aileen Teague 2019. (PhD; postdoctoral fellow at Brown University’s Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs) 18 Nov 2019 WASHINGTON POST “Why abruptly abandoning the drug war is a bad idea for Mexico” https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/11/18/why-abruptly-abandoning-drug-war-is-bad-idea-mexico/

López Obrador’s relationship to the Mérida Initiative is a reflection of his larger security dilemma. Earlier this year, he indicated he wanted to withdraw Mexico from the agreement as part of his demilitarization strategy to eschew U.S. military resources and instead [focus on the economic development of Mexico and Central America](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/05/17/mexico-wants-scrap-mrida-initiative-that-would-be-terrible-mistake/?itid=lk_inline_manual_24). López Obrador is especially committed to creating an initiative akin to the Marshall Plan for Central America that would reduce poverty and discourage migration northward. But the president’s development policies, while admirable, would also take years to produce results and allow violence to undermine public safety in the meantime, as recent events demonstrate.

Abrupt cutoff of military aid would make security in Mexico worse and strengthen criminal organizations

Dr. Aileen Teague 2019. (PhD; postdoctoral fellow at Brown University’s Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs) 18 Nov 2019 WASHINGTON POST “Why abruptly abandoning the drug war is a bad idea for Mexico” https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/11/18/why-abruptly-abandoning-drug-war-is-bad-idea-mexico/

Rather than taking on the cartels directly like his predecessors did, the president has focused on reducing violence and organized crime by tackling the socioeconomic roots of insecurity. He is [one of many politicians worldwide](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/11/philippine-vice-president-duterte-critic-takes-drug-war-post-191106234821606.html) who have denounced the war on drugs in favor of alternatives to militarized drug and crime policing. But abruptly terminating drug-war-related policies, at least in the near term, is not the answer to López Obrador’s security dilemma. The long and violent history of “fighting” drugs and crime in Mexico runs too deep. Hurried demilitarization risks worsening an already-precarious public security situation and ceding additional control to powerful criminal organizations.

Turn: We should be INCREASING military involvement, because that’s the only way to stop violent groups in northern Mexico, and Mexican people would welcome it

Joel Rose 2019 (journalist for National Public Radio) 13 Dec 2019 “This Grieving Family Wants The U.S. To Designate Mexican Cartels As Terrorists https://www.kpbs.org/news/2019/dec/13/this-grieving-family-wants-the-us-to-designate/

It's been a month since the brutal massacre of nine women and children in northern Mexico. They were all dual U.S.-Mexican citizens and members of the extended LeBaron family. Since then, that family has been on a mission: Urging the U.S. government to get more involved in the fight against drug cartels, which have been blamed for gruesome violence across Mexico — including the attack on the LeBaron family. "It's hard for the Mexican government to compete with that kind of finance, that kind of firepower," said Bryan LeBaron, a cousin of the victims who lives in Utah. "This is going to take an international response or we have no hope."  
**END QUOTE. HE GOES ON TO SAY LATER IN THE ARTICLE QUOTE**:  
Still, the LeBaron family argues that the Mexican people would welcome U.S. assistance in the fight against the cartels. "Our No. 1 position is that the sovereignty of Mexico must be respected," Bryan LeBaron said. "But I absolutely would welcome military aid, special ops especially, special missions. We need that to be able to go after these guys. It has been proven over and over that Mexico cannot handle this issue alone. It's an international crisis, and it will absolutely require an international solution."

2. Losing North American stability & security

Link: North American “neighborhood” security and stability depend on maintaining the Status Quo, including US/Mexico military cooperation. Brink: Security vulnerabilities are deepening right now,

Dr. Abelardo Rodríguez Sumano and Dr. Richard J. Kilroy 2020. (Sumano - Ph.D. Professor, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City. Kilroy - Ph.D. Nonresident Scholar, Center for the United States and Mexico, Baker Institute; Associate Professor, Coastal Carolina Univ.) Avoiding Conflict? United States and Mexico Future Security and Defense Scenarios, Aug 2020 https://www.bakerinstitute.org/media/files/files/ff8a9e1b/usmx-pub-mx-defense-073120.pdf

The baseline future for U.S.-Mexico security relations is that despite the political changes occurring in both, it is likely (55-80% probability) that traditional bilateral security relationships will continue. In other words, institutions and interests will likely trump identity politics, although the erosion of trust between the two countries will make security cooperation more difficult. Cross-border security cooperation will likely continue to focus on drug, human, and arms trafficking, and the Mérida Initiative (although it may have a different name) will likely continue to provide military aid and training of Mexico’s security forces (although perhaps in a more limited capacity). **[END QUOTE**] The building of a border wall is unlikely to significantly impede the sharing of law enforcement information or military cooperation between the two countries. While the baseline future is a trajectory, it does recognize that both countries do face significant domestic challenges that create a level of vulnerability for the leadership in each nation. [**THEY GO ON LATER IN THE SAME CONTEXT QUOTE**:] At stake is the construction of the North American “neighborhood;” the protection of shared interests ranging from commerce to the land border; access to an exclusive economic zone; telecommunications, air, and satellite security; and ports, customs, and strategic facilities. Mexico, as the southern flank of a superpower, holds a strategic position within the Pacific Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and Central America in terms of trade, energy, maritime and air security, cultural relations, and best practices in a regional, hemispheric, and global context. All of this must be part of the ongoing dialogue in North America that should be pursued through diplomacy, information sharing, and military cooperation by both Mexico and the United States. Statesmanship is key in pursuing these security concerns due to the deepening of vulnerabilities that increase insecurity in the region.

Brink: Despite tensions, but right now is critical opportunity to cooperate on security issues

Christine Clark 2019 (public relations, U.C.-San Diego) New Report Creates Roadmap for U.S.-Mexico Cooperation on Security, Drug and Border Policy 16 Apr 2019 <https://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/uc_san_diego_releases_roadmap_for_u.s_mexico_cooperation_on_security_drug_and_border_policy>

López Obrador, who assumed office in Dec. 2018, and U.S. President Donald Trump have divergent views on security policy priorities; however, both Mexico and the U.S. have shared security interests. **[END QUOTE**] López Obrador, for example, has declared an end to the war on drugs in Mexico. Meanwhile, Trump seeks to construct a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border, casting serious doubt on burgeoning security cooperation. **[SHE GOES ON LATER TO SAY QUOTE:]** “Despite these challenges, we see this as an opportunity to resume a dialogue at the highest level around bilateral security,” Fernández de Castro [director of the [Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies](https://usmex.ucsd.edu/)] added. “Our report offers concrete and implementable policy recommendations over the next six years of López Obrador’s presidency, ensuring policymakers are informed and prepared to continue cooperation efforts in a difficult phase in the bilateral relationship.”

Link & Impact: Stability & prosperity of the US and Mexico depend on security cooperation

Christine Clark 2019 (public relations, U.C.-San Diego) New Report Creates Roadmap for U.S.-Mexico Cooperation on Security, Drug and Border Policy 16 Apr 2019 <https://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/uc_san_diego_releases_roadmap_for_u.s_mexico_cooperation_on_security_drug_and_border_policy>

At the event, Mexican Ambassador to the United States Martha Bárcena Coqui delivered the keynote remarks and for the first time, spoke publicly on López Obrador’s security strategy. In her remarks, Bárcena noted, “cooperation between Mexico and the U.S. is fundamental for the stability and prosperity of both countries and the whole North American region. We have both been affected by the illegal trafficking of drugs, people, money and guns, which is why we will continue to work on the principle of shared responsibility.”

Link: US national security harmed without aid to Mexico. Cutting security aid to Mexico would harm US national security and global influence

Ana Quintana 2014 (Senior Policy Analyst, Latin America and the Western Hemisphere) 8 July 2014 “U.S. Foreign Assistance to Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador” https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/us-foreign-assistance-mexico-guatemala-honduras-and-el-salvador

In recent years, chronic insecurity in Mexico and Central America has threatened regional stability and U.S. security interests. This recent crisis on the southwest border has raised concerns about not only U.S. immigration policy and border security, but also the utility of foreign assistance. When used wisely, foreign aid is a key national security tool. It ensures U.S. partnerships, promotes like-minded democratic institutions, and provides the U.S. with leverage abroad. Congress should understand that as security conditions in the region continue to deteriorate, cutting foreign aid would undermine the U.S.’s security interests.

Impact: Big global impact if US security capabilities not upheld

Brook Manville 2018 (Principal of Brook Manville LLC, consulting on strategy and organization) Why A Crumbling World Order Urgently Needs U.S. Leadership 14 Oct 2018 <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brookmanville/2018/10/14/why-a-crumbling-world-order-urgently-needs-u-s-leadership/#7bafd4e12e61> (brackets added)

But most important, he [Robert Kagan, Senior Fellow at Brookings Institute] called for new American leadership that can rally tomorrow’s citizens around what our fathers’ generation collectively and intuitively knew—that the world is fundamentally dangerous; that peace and prosperity are not natural; that preserving an international liberal community depends critically on America’s political will to invest money and lives to keep open markets, and prevent violence against our allies and values. Kagan closed with a blend of pessimism and aspiration. “It’s very difficult to explain all this to the American people. Even the gifted FDR struggled with the challenge. But we need a president now who can convince Americans that preserving our global liberal system is absolutely worth doing. That the cost of letting it come undone will be so much more than saving it. We have to find leaders who can motivate tomorrow’s generation to join this cause, and do whatever it takes, so our nation can reassert our fundamentally benign—even if self-interested—hegemony in the world.”

3. Crime & Violence in Mexico

Link: Cutting off aid to Mexico would: 1) reduce Mexican law enforcement 2) allow more immigrants from Central & South America 3) strengthen drug cartels

USA TODAY 2017 (journalist Donovan Slack) 27 Jan 2017 “U.S. provides aid worth $320 million a year to Mexico; experts say yanking it could hurt” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/26/us-aid-320-million-mexico-wall-trump-specialists-backfire/97103024/>

The largest chunk of U.S. aid goes toward law enforcement — including helping Mexican authorities capture drug lords — supporting improvements to the Mexican judicial system and security, including along Mexico’s southern border, helping stem the flow of immigrants from Central and South America. “If we cut off aid to Mexico, we strengthen the drug cartels, we make our border region a lot more lawless place, and we make it easier for undocumented immigrants from Central America to reach the U.S.-Mexico border,” said Mark Jones, a political science professor at Rice University who specializes in Latin America.

Brink: Mexican authorities can just barely stop the rush of migrants. Even with heavy police presence, they still rush the border and some get through

USA TODAY 2018. (journalist David Agren) 19 Oct 2018 Thousands of caravan migrants stopped at Mexico border with Guatemala clash with police <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/10/19/migrant-caravan-mexico-trump-guatemala-border/1696425002/>

The Associated Press initially reported that the thousands of migrants stopped about two blocks from the Guatemala-Mexican border crossing before turning around, saying they would wait another hour or so. The border post was guarded by a heavy security force and tall metal gates, reported the AP. On the Mexican side of a border bridge, the migrants were met by a phalanx of police with riot shields. About 50 managed to push their way through before officers unleashed pepper spray and the rest retreated.

Impact: Crime. Organized crime coming across the Mexico/Guatemala border

Eric Olson 2017. (associate director of the Latin American Program and senior advisor on security to the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center) THE MÉRIDA INITIATIVE AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY IN U.S.-MEXICO SECURITY RELATIONS, Winter 2017, WILSON QUARTERLY https://wilsonquarterly.com/quarterly/after-the-storm-in-u-s-mexico-relations/the-m-rida-initiative-and-shared-responsibility-in-u-s-mexico-security-relations/

 Increasing migrant flows and the relative ease with which organized crime groups can transit international boundaries such as the Guatemala-Mexico border has been a growing concern for U.S. policymakers for some time and reflects the increase in funding directed to southern Mexico.

Impact: Drug cartels. Most US aid to Mexico is for law enforcement. Canceling it will strengthen drug cartels

USA TODAY 2017. (journalist Donovan Slack) 27 Jan 2017 “U.S. provides aid worth $320 million a year to Mexico; experts say yanking it could hurt” https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/26/us-aid-320-million-mexico-wall-trump-specialists-backfire/97103024/

The largest chunk of U.S. aid goes toward law enforcement — including helping Mexican authorities capture drug lords — supporting improvements to the Mexican judicial system and security, including along Mexico’s southern border, helping stem the flow of immigrants from Central and South America. “If we cut off aid to Mexico, we strengthen the drug cartels, we make our border region a lot more lawless place, and we make it easier for undocumented immigrants from Central America to reach the U.S.-Mexico border,” said Mark Jones, a political science professor at Rice University who specializes in Latin America.

Impact: Violence. Immigrants trying to cross illegally into Mexico from Guatemala are violent and aggressive

Megan Keller 2018. (journalist) Mexico deploys hundreds of police to reinforce border with Guatemala THE HILL 30 Oct 2018 https://thehill.com/policy/international/413836-mexico-deploys-hundreds-of-police-to-reinforce-border-with-guatemala

Mexico has deployed hundreds of police, helicopters and boats to its southern border with Guatemala on Monday in an attempt to stop the approaching immigrant caravan from entering illegally. "Members of this group are much more violent and aggressive” than the earlier immigrants who are now crossing southern Mexico, the head of Mexico’s migration agency, Gerardo Elías García, [told The Wall Street Journal](https://www.wsj.com/articles/honduran-migrant-dies-in-clashes-at-mexicos-southern-border-1540793695).

Update: 2021, another surge is coming across the Guatemala border

Prof. Gema Kloppe-Santamaria 2021. (*assistant professor of Latin American history at Loyola University, Chicago*) 9 Feb 2021 “Beyond the War on Drugs” https://www.mexicoviolence.org/post/beyond-the-war-on-drugs

Lastly, both governments should work towards cooperation initiatives that address the socioeconomic and institutional drivers informing Central America’s current refugee and migration crisis. Just this past January, an estimated 7,000 Central American migrants, many of them from Honduras, tried to cross the Guatemalan border in order to continue their trip to Mexico and eventually to the United States.