

Counting the Cost:

The State of Freedom of Expression and Information in Mexico

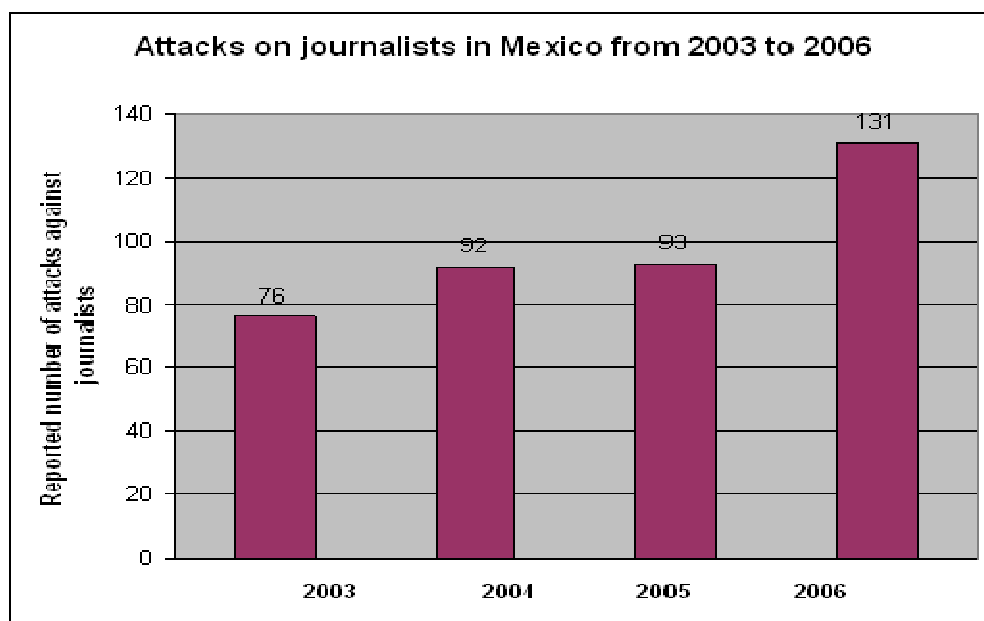
ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN MEXICO IN 2006¹

Veronica Trinidad Martínez / Martha Soto / Omar Raúl Martínez²

“After every killing follows the news... Then comes the impunity. So, as long as this absence of justice will continue, we will be in danger. Due to the absence of justice the heinous murderers remain unpunished. In fact, most of the journalists’ investigations into murder cases go far beyond any others carried out by state or federal agents. In many cases we know and have published a great deal on who are, or could be the perpetrators. But the police remain silent.”³

2006 was one of the worst years on record for the Mexican press with the greatest number of attacks on journalists and press freedom in the last 8 years. Unlike the first 2 years of President Fox’s government during which a large number of repressive, yet “non-violent” actions were reported – for instance, many journalists being summoned to Court – there was widespread violence against individual media workers and the information and media system, highlighting the extreme polarization of Mexican society and politics in this election year, and politicians’ pressures on the media and the information system.

There was a significant increase in attacks against journalists from 2003 onwards. In 2003, a total of 76 cases were reported, followed by 92 in 2004. The situation remained stable in 2005 with 93 cases; in 2006 the figures dramatically increased again to 131 cases.

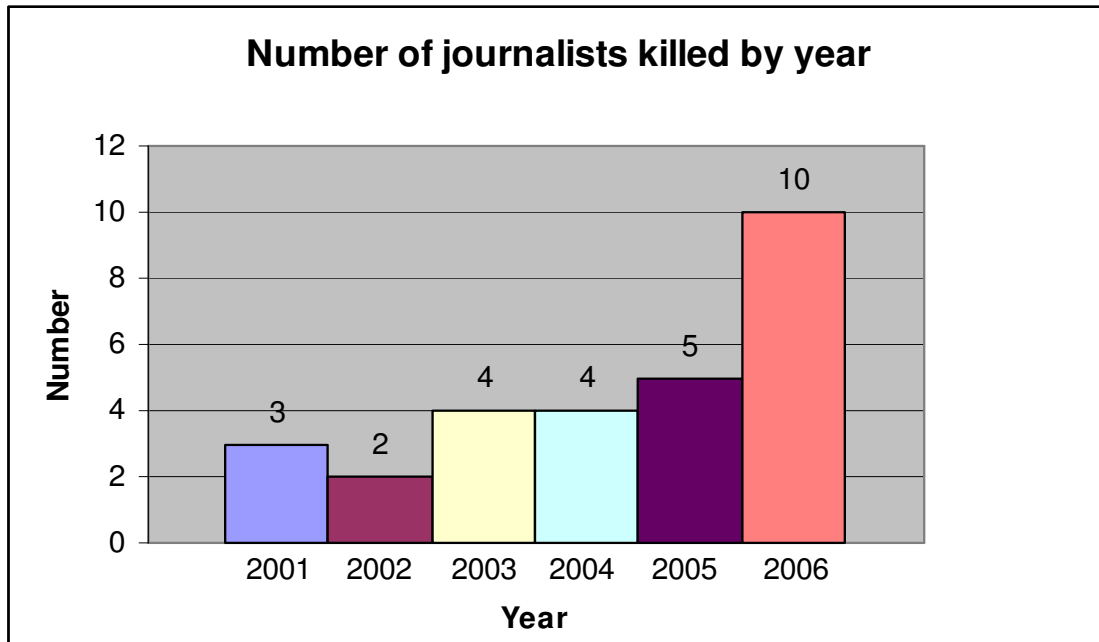


¹ This report is based on a report published in Spanish and entitled: “*Recuento de danos a la libertades de expresion y informacion durante 2006*”. It was translated into English by Mafalda Marchioro and edited by Agnes Callamard who also developed and included the graphs and tables.

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³ Jesús Blancornelas, speech delivered during the National Journalism Prize’s Ceremony at the *World Trade Center* on the 3rd of May 2006.

The most worrying figures concern the number of murders. While between 2001 and 2003 7 journalists were murdered, between 2004 and 2006 this rate has increased to 20 murders. Of these 20 murders, 10 took place in 2006, this being the highest such figure in the last 15 years.



Of the 131 cases of violations of freedom of the press in Mexico in 2006:

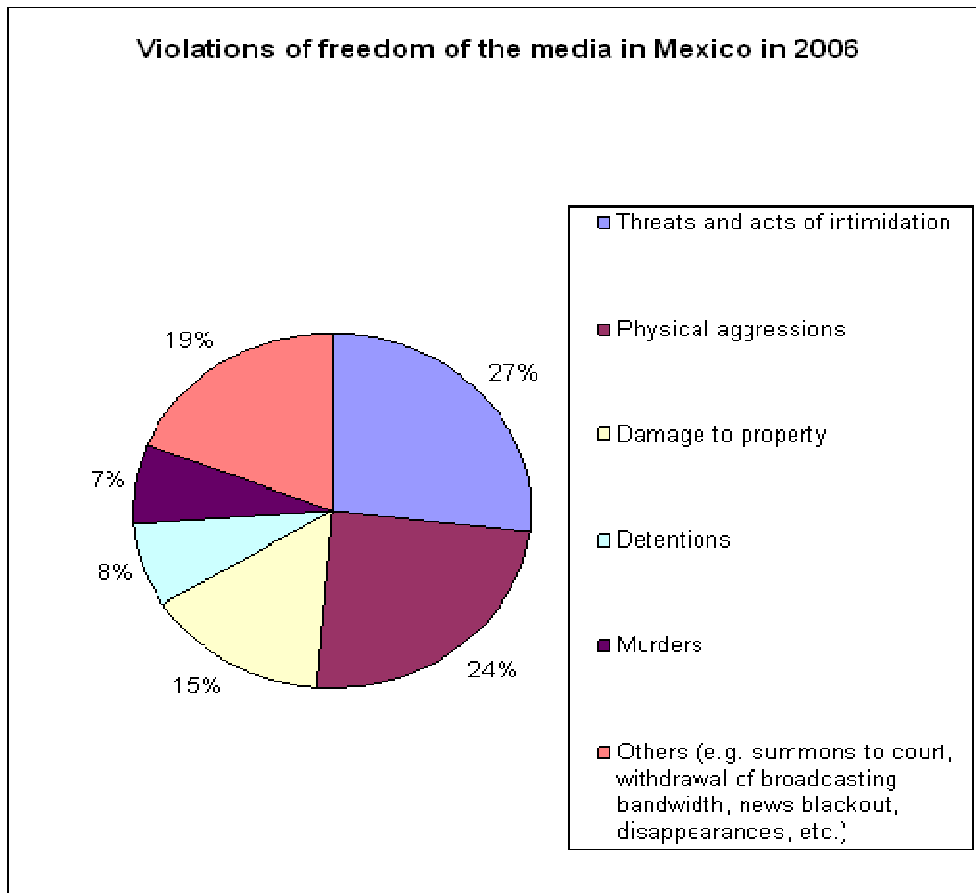
- 27% were threats and acts of intimidation,
- 24% were physical attacks,
- 15% damage to property⁴,
- 8% detentions, and
- 7% murders.

A lower percentage concerns summons to court, withdrawal of broadcasting bandwidth, news blackout, disappearances etc.

Of the total number of cases against journalists reported during the full six years of President Vicente Fox administration (618), physical attacks (24%), and threatening and intimidating acts (20%) were the most common actions⁵. The non-violent actions against media workers, such as summons to court, complaints or reports against journalists, amounted to 25% of all cases.

⁴ During the previous 5 years, attacks on properties represented on average 7% of the total number of attacks against the media, whereas in 2006 this increased to 15%.

⁵ 44% of the cases concerned those who were responsible for covering the news, such as reporters, photo-journalists and special correspondents, especially those covering the Political news (46%) and the Police news (29%), and at a lower percentage General Information (12%).

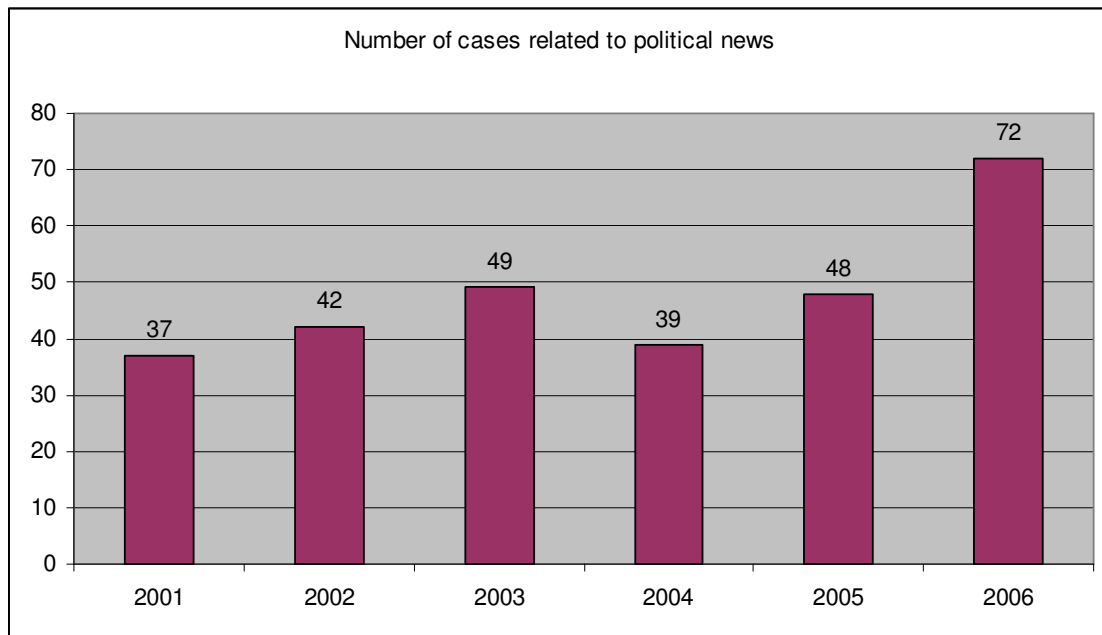


The number of “non-violent” restrictions on journalists and of journalists summoned to court diminished substantially as compared to 2005, but remains a problem. Some examples of this include: the DF (Distrito Federal) Supreme Court of Justice’s decision to charge Olga Wornat and the publisher, *Grijalbo* of damaging public morality and insulting Manuel Briebesca Sahagun (in spite of remaining without effect in mid-May, this sentence represents a precedent for the restriction of freedom of expression); the withdrawal of advertisement contracts for the weekly *Proceso*, organized by the Presidential House following the lawsuit against the magazine which started months ago; the criminal defamation case against the *El Imparcial* of Sonora brought by the governor Eduardo Bours, regarding an article in which his transparency over non-governmental organizations funding was questioned; or the arrest and detention of Mario Ksherato, journalist for the newspapers *Cuarto Poder* and *El Orbe*, both from the region of Chiapas, owing to a questionable trial which started in 2004.

News reporters continue to be most frequently targeted, especially when they are actively reporting on location. This has been apparent during the Teachers’ Conflict in Oaxaca, where journalists were repeatedly put under pressures and harassed. Figures show that the actions affected mostly reporters (23%), photo reporters (10%), directors (8%), and correspondents (7%).

The reporters most affected were those covering political news (55%) and police news (32%). Data also documents an increase in the number of attacks by politicians.⁶

An important trend since 2001 is the increase of the number of actions to prevent the communication of political news. During the first year of Fox's presidency a total number of 37 cases were reported, whereas there were 72 such cases in 2006.

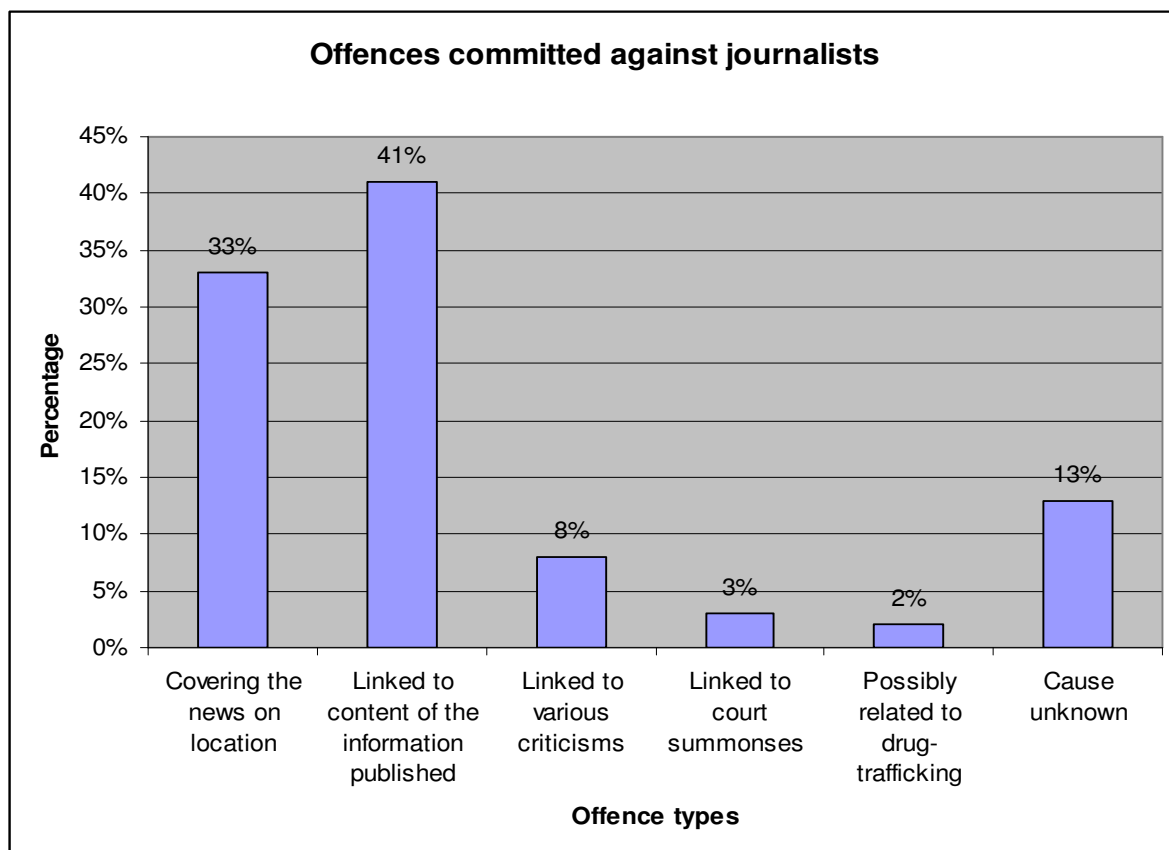


Journalists in the print media were the most affected by the offences (55% of the total cases reported) while television and radio workers amounted to 25% of the total. Electronic media workers have been increasingly targeted: from 15% of the total number in 2002, to 25% in 2006.⁷

33% of the various offences against journalists were committed while they were covering the news on location, 41% was linked to content published or broadcasted, or that was about to be published or broadcasted; 13% causes remain unknown, 8% linked to criticisms of various kinds, 4% linked to reports to the police/complaints and 2% to possible links with drug-trafficking (although the figure may be under-estimated – see below).

⁶ In 2004, political news amounted to 42%. In 2005 it amounted to 52% and in 2006 it reached 55%.

⁷ In 2002, the percentage of written press affected by the attack was 75%, whereas the figure for electronic media was 15%. In 2003 it was, respectively, 68% and 16%, in 2004, 62% and 16%, in 2005, 64% and 23%, and in 2006, 55% and 25%.



The alleged perpetrators

State authorities remain the main perpetrator (42% of all cases) including: police (24%), government employees (12%), police officials (3%) and government institutions (2%), although the figure in relative terms has decreased in recent years (the absolute number of state perpetrated offences remains stable).

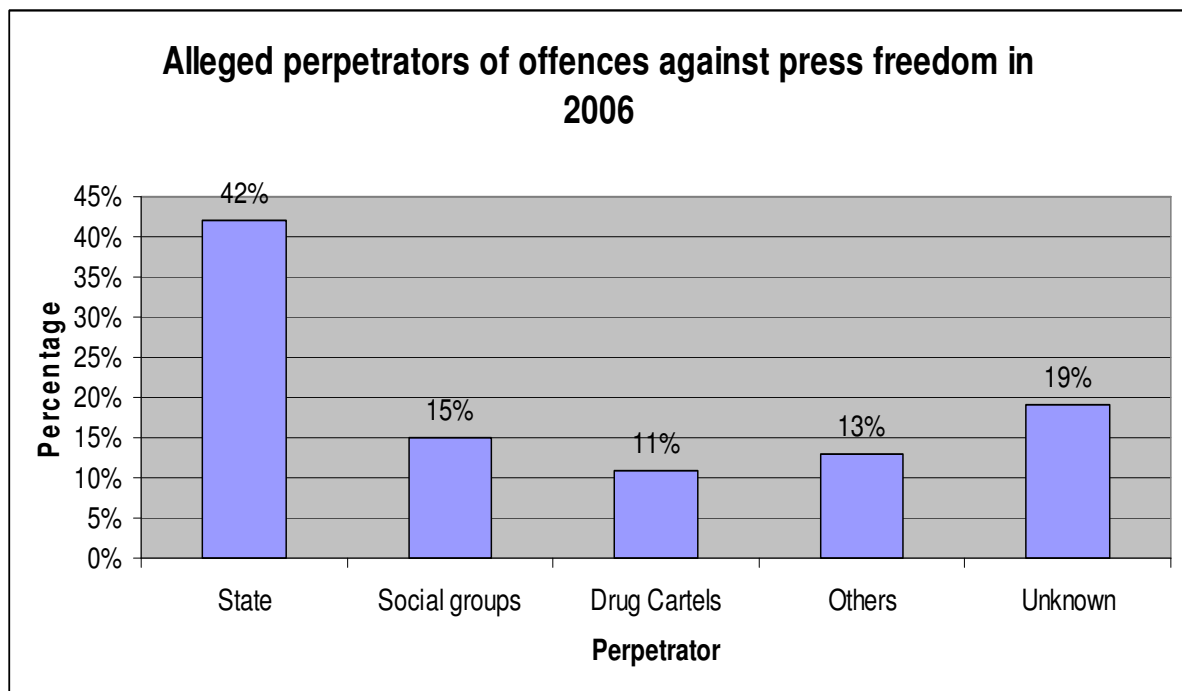
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
State alleged responsibility in number of cases	51 cases	53	79	54	55
State Responsibility in percentage of the cases	54%	69%	48%	60%	42%

The emergence of new perpetrators is significant and in keeping with the emerging trend of the last 2 years. Groups involved in social conflicts – such as the Popular Assembly of Oaxaca – perpetrated 15% of the total number of offences in 2006 (19 cases in total, as opposed to 5 in 2005).

Drug cartels were allegedly responsible for 11% of the attacks in 2006 (14 cases), again confirming a trend that had emerged the previous year: drug cartels have become in the last 4

years one of the most frequent perpetrators of murders and attacks against media workers, especially in the north of the country.

Another worrying figure, highlighting the inability of the judicial authorities to investigate and bring to justice those responsible, is that the perpetrators remain unknown in 19% of the cases. This figure has been increasing and has reached its highest point in the last 10 years⁸.



States distribution

Finally, in 2006, (as opposed to previous years) the Federal District (Mexico City) has ceased to be the area with the highest number of attacks on journalists, while the state of Oaxaca experienced an escalation of violence. The overall rates of attacks and violence in the Federal District nevertheless remained high when compared to the previous years.

The attacks were spread across the states as follow:

- Oaxaca: 30%,
- Federal District: 15%
- Chiapas: 8%
- Guerrero: 7%.

60% of the cases therefore took place in only 4 states.

Other cases were reported in Veracruz (5%), Chihuahua (4%), Michoacán (4%), Quintana Roo (4%), Tamaulipas (4%), Puebla (3%), among others.⁹

⁸ No perpetrators were identified for 14% of the cases over a six year period. This trend increased from 2003 onwards.

⁹ See the table at the end of this report.

In Mexico City, the most frequent types of attacks included threats and acts of intimidation (30%), and physical violence (25%). There were also detentions (10%), harassment (10%) and information blackouts (10%), among other offences recorded.

A few steps forward

The President in power at the time of this investigation, Vicente Fox, faced national and international pressure to take action following the attack against the newspaper *El Mañana* at the beginning of February 2006. He created an ad hoc institution: the Special Prosecution Office for the Investigation of Crimes Against Journalists (FEADP) attached to the General Prosecutor's Office (PGR). The new body was then headed by lawyer and human rights advocate David Vega Vera, who received 72 cases of harassment, intimidation and assault against journalists. But with little resources and insufficient institutional, technical and human support, the FEADP has yield little result.

2006 saw some small advances for freedom of the media, including new laws on the protection of sources and on the decriminalization of defamation at the federal district level. The federal chamber of deputies approved amendments to the criminal code on 18 April (already passed by the senate) recognising the right of journalists not to reveal their sources and decriminalising press offences¹⁰.

Despite the positive changes in the federal legislation, legal experts still highlight gaps in the legislation which could lead to misinterpretation and general lack of clarity. Moreover the decriminalization of defamation and the protection of sources have not been carried out in all the Mexican states. For instance, with regard to criminal defamation, outside the Federal District, prison sentences are still allowed.¹¹

¹⁰ The initiative, waiting for the Senate's approval since the 18th of April, was on the verge of failure as the new members of the legislative body tried to repeal the changes and, even worse, tried to increase the penalties of the Criminal Code. Fortunately they were not successful.

¹¹ See Perla Gómez Gallardo, "Legislative News", in *Revista Mexicana de Comunicación* n. 104, April-May 2007.

MURDERED AND DISAPPEARED JOURNALISTS 2000-2007

<p>1.- Luis Roberto Cruz Miranda Reporter Revista Multicosas Reynosa, Tamaulipas</p> <p>2. Pablo Pineda Gaucín La Opinión Matamoros. Tamaulipas 09-04-00</p> <p>3. José Ramírez Puente Noticiero Juárez Hoy. Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua 28-04-00</p> <p>4.- Hugo Sánchez Eustaquio Diario La Verdad Atizapan de Zaragoza, Edo de México 19-07-2000</p> <p>5.- Humberto Méndez Rendón Reporter. Canal 9 de Televisión Gómez Palacios. Durango 9-02-2001</p> <p>6. José Luis Ortega Mata Seminario de Ojinaga Chihuahua 19- 02-01</p> <p>7. José Barbosa Bejarano Revista Alerta Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua 09-03 -01</p> <p>8. Saúl Antonio Martínez Gutiérrez El Imparcial Matamoros, Tamaulipas - 03 -01</p> <p>9. Félix Alfonso Fernández García Revista Nueva Opción Miguel Alemán, Tamaulipas 17 -01 -02</p> <p>10. José Miranda virgen el sur de Veracruz Veracruz</p>	<p>19. Julio César Pérez Martínez Revista México Matamoros, Tamaulipas 24 -10 -05</p> <p>20. Hugo Barragán Ortiz Periódico la Crónica de la Cuenca Veracruz 01 -11 -05</p> <p>21. Jaime Arturo Olvera Bravo Ex corresponsal, Periódico La voz de Michoacán 09 -03 -06</p> <p>22. Ramiro Téllez Contreras Exa 95. 7 Nuevo Laredo. Tamaulipas 10 -03 -06</p> <p>23. Rosendo Pardo Ozuna Periódico La voz del Sureste Tuxtla, Gutiérrez, Chiapas 29 -03 -06</p> <p>24. Enrique Pera Quintanilla Revista Dos caras, una verdad Chihuahua 10 -08- 06</p> <p>25. Bradley Will Indymedia Oaxaca -10 -06</p> <p>26. Misael Tamayo Hernández Despertad de la Costa Zihuatanejo, Ixtapa. Gro. 10 -11 -06</p> <p>27. José Manuel Sánchez Navarro Excélsior Distrito Federal 16 -11 -06</p> <p>28. Marco Roberto García Revista Testimonio 22 -11- 06</p>
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<p>16 -10- 02</p> <p>11. Roberto Javier Mora García El Mañana Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas 19 -03- 04</p> <p>12. Francisco Ortiz Franco Semanario Zeta Tijuana, B.C. -06- 04</p> <p>13. Francisco Arriatia Saldierna Periódicos El Imparcial y El Regional de Motamoros, Tamaulipas 31- 08 -04</p> <p>14. Leodegario Aguilera Lucas Revista Mundo Político Acapulco, Gro. 09 -09 -04</p> <p>15. Gregorio Rodríguez Hernández Periódico El debate de Mazatlán Mazatlán, Sinaloa 29 -11 -04</p> <p>16. Guadalupe Escamilla Estéreo 91 Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas 05 -04 -05</p> <p>17. Raúl Gibb Guerrero La Opinión Poza Rica, Veracruz. 08 -04 -05</p> <p>18. José reyes Brambila Vallarta Milenio Jalisco 18 -09 -05</p>	<p>29.- Adolfo Sánchez Guzmán Corresp de Televisa Veracruz y Estéreo 99.3 Orizaba. Veracruz 30-11-2006</p> <p>30.- Raúl Marcial Pérez Columnista Diario El Gráfico Oaxaca 08 -12 -06</p> <p>31.- Amado Ramírez Corresponsal de Televisa, noticiero Al Tanto. Acapulco, Gro 06-04-07</p> <p>32.- Saúl Noé Martínez Interdiario de Agua Prieta Sonora 17-04-07</p> <p>DISAPPEARED JOURNALISTS</p> <p>1.- Rodolfo Rincón Taracena Tabasco Hoy 20-01-2007</p> <p>2.- José Antonio García Apac Director, diario Ecos de la Cuenca 20.11-2006</p> <p>3.- Rafael Ortiz Martínez Zócalo de Monclova, Coahuila 08-07-2006</p> <p>4.- Alfredo Jiménez Mota El Imparcial 02 -04 -05 (Desaparecido)</p> <p>5.- José de Jesús Mejía Conductor del noticiario A Primera Hora Martínez de la Torre, Ver. 10-07-2003</p>
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THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF THREATS TO JOURNALISM IN MEXICO

Darío Ramírez Salazar / Ricardo González Bernal¹²

The global outlook for press freedom is ominous. Recent events worldwide show that being a journalist is likely to result in threats, arrests, attacks and, in the worst possible case, death. Such outrages have been reported from everywhere in the world; among others there is the murder of Anna Politkovskaya – a tragic example of the gravity of the situation – and also the growing numbers of journalists killed in Iraq. Sadly, Mexico is typical of this violent media environment, and this highlights the fact that there is still a long way to go to ensure the full exercise of freedom of expression.

Freedom of expression and information are the cornerstones of a free and democratic society, and undoubtedly play a fundamental role in the strengthening of freedoms and rights. Freedom of expression refers not only to the right to express ideas, but also the right to access information of public interest; it defines the negative duty of the state not to obstruct or restrict the exercise of this right, but also the positive duty to publish and facilitate access to information held by public institutions. Finally, to complete the exercise of freedom of expression, there must be a vibrant, pluralistic and independent media, to act as the interface between the public and state, both informing and giving voice to the electorate.

2006 saw the highest ever number of murders of journalists worldwide¹³. Considering the situation in Mexico in previous years, an escalation of violence could be easily forecast. Between 2000 and 2006, 30 journalists were murdered in Mexico, and 2 were murdered during the first months of Calderon's government.¹⁴

Murder is the most abhorrent repression of freedom of expression, and in Mexico rates of murder are alarming. The impunity of those who attack Mexican journalists is undermining the protective measures taken by the Fox government, and also those taken by the new Calderon government.¹⁵ Experience during the last 6 years proves that the creation of *ad hoc* institutions and policies is not in itself a solution, even though properly functioning institutions and laws could help.

Last December, the United Nations Security Council¹⁶ strongly condemned attacks against journalists in a UN Resolution. The document includes a series of recommendations addressed to every state in the framework of international humanitarian law. These address the dire state of protection of the media in Mexico, and the resolution lists the actions that have to be undertaken by the state to effectively protect journalists.

Two fronts

¹² Respectively director and program officer of ARTICLE 19 Mexico

¹³ Annual report 2007, Reporters sans Frontières

¹⁴ According to the Mexican Network for the Protection of Journalists and Media, from 2000 to April 2007, 30 journalists have been killed, 5 media workers have disappeared, there have been 52 lawsuits against journalists, 44 journalists were summoned to court and 34 were detained (are detained)

¹⁵ The Special Prosecution Office for the Investigation on crimes against journalists (FEADP) was created by the General Attorney's Office through the agreement A/031/06 of the 15th of February 2006.

¹⁶ Resolution 1738 (2006) of the United Nation Security Council.

The creation of the Special Prosecution Office for the Investigation of Crimes Against Journalists (FEADP) is a step forward. However, it lacks effectiveness due to its limited autonomy and the lack of resources at its disposal. The Special Prosecution Office is limited on two fronts: firstly, every investigation connected to organised crime – which constitutes a large number of the cases – has to be undertaken by the Organized Crime Unit at the General Attorney's Office; secondly, the Special Prosecution Office is unable to investigate cases within local jurisdictions. It is therefore clear that institutions are not enough. Political will must be garnered to empower the Special Prosecution Office with greater autonomy and more resources.

Local and international civil society groups have repeatedly stressed the many faults in the Mexican judicial system.¹⁷ Many human rights violations, including these attacks on journalists, go unpunished by the courts – there is certainly no effective justice available. Thus, the prevention of violence against journalists, and the investigation and punishment of such incidents, especially murders, is a fundamental step towards greater respect for human rights in Mexico.

Murder is only the tip of the iceberg in a long series of threats against journalists in Mexico. According to the Mexican Network for the Protection of Journalists and the Media, 525¹⁸ attacks on journalists have been recorded up to December 2006, among which: 27 were murders, 5 were disappearances and 52 were lawsuits. Moreover, 44 journalists were summoned to court and 34 were detained.¹⁹

Journalists and the media can create a bridge between citizens and the state and are indispensable for the full exercise of freedom of expression. Mexico is now facing many challenges to its democratic credentials, and it needs a media environment which is stable and supports ethical and independent journalism.

The Fox government had to face many challenges, such as the open conflict among organised crime 'cartels', the confrontation between the authorities and the population of San Salvador Atenco and the popular unrest in Oaxaca. Nevertheless, visible signs of democracy also emerged during Fox's tenure, and the need for the free circulation of ideas and information had become clear after the polarisation of public debate in the lead-up to his election.

Serious omissions

The international community has strongly criticised the self-censorship which many journalists and media have had to use as a form of protection due to the Mexican government's failure to properly defend their right to freedom of expression. There are many other threats to freedom of expression that also require consideration.

For example, the law which amends the Federal Law of Telecommunications and the Federal Law of Radio and TV, contains serious omissions and makes community radios very vulnerable. The lack of legal recognition for community radio stations has put them in a critical situation, and

¹⁷ Report on access to justice for indigenous people in Mexico, Mexican office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2007. *Violated rights, legal violations: human rights during the six-years period 2000-2006*, Human Rights Centre Miguel Agustín pro Juárez, A.C> 2007.

¹⁸ Until April 2006

¹⁹ Magazine Zocalo, n.80, 2006

this is exacerbated by the restrictive technological harmonisation of radio services required by the same law.²⁰

Only profitable media services could access the technological harmonisation services required by this law which would grant them a wider broadcasting power without any regulations. This will lead to more concentration, inequality and discrimination in the official media.

Freedom of expression is fundamental for the exercise of other rights, thus the measures taken by the government and society as a whole to defend this right affect other human rights. Obstructing the free and safe exchange of ideas and information through independent media denies citizens the forum for communication and debate which is key to social cohesion, participation and solidarity.

The new television law further diminishes the plurality and diversity of the Mexican media and constitutes a clear attack on freedom of expression and access to information. It undermines the transition towards democracy and the consolidation of a human rights culture in Mexico.

Redefinition

There has been a general trend recently towards the establishment of “left-leaning” governments in Latin America. Even though this is not the case with Mexico, it is worth noting that, irrespective of the political outcomes, many Latin American states are now redefining their relationship with the media. The specific features of this changed relationship may differ from country to country, ranging from attempted alliance and co-optation as in the case of Mexico and Brazil to an open confrontation as is the case in Venezuela.²¹

This relationship with the media will play an important role in the political and economic development of the region. In Mexico, as long as those who order and commit the murders of journalists are not brought to justice, it will not be possible to fully understand the causes of violence in the country.

A number of non-state actors can be included in the list of possible perpetrators. For example, in the case of the disappeared reporter Saúl Martínez Ortega, who covered the criminal news for the magazine *Interdiario* and wrote for the *Diario de Agua Prieta*, the evidence states that, “a group of armed people forced him out of his car”.²² Or, in the video of the *Indymedia* reporter, Brad Will, who was shot during a rally of APPO²³ members on the 27th of October 2006, a group of people in plain clothes can be seen shooting randomly at the crowd. There is a need for analysis of the new ways in which the practice of journalism and human rights are threatened by non-state actors, including organised crime and drug trafficking. It is clear that these powers (also called parallel powers) are very strong and undermine social and political stability.

Many governments, including the Mexican government, hide behind the increase in organised crime in order to cover their failure to deliver protection for human rights. States have to be held

²⁰ Participants to the World Summit on the Information Society have expressed their concern that the process of technological update should lead to democratization of the media and not to an increased nationalization.

²¹ During the last 15 years, some corporations have managed to control the market, especially in television. Grupo Cisneros in Venezuela, Televisa in Mexico, Globo in Brazil and Grupo Clarín in Argentina.

²² Members of IFEX campaign against parallel powers; reporter murdered. 24 April, IFEX

²³ Asamblea Popular de los Pueblos de Oaxaca (Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca)

responsible for implementing their international obligations to human rights; if they do not comply with them, civil society has the duty to report them to the competent institutions.

According to international law, the state is responsible for protecting human rights. The Interamerican Commission for Human Rights has pointed out that the state is responsible for providing the necessary protection to journalists so that they can practice their profession. The Mexican government is clearly failing to meet its duty on that front.

The Interamerican Commission of Human Rights (CIDH) has repeatedly stated that violence against journalists and, in particular, murder of journalists or any other person, with the intention or effect of restricting the right to freedom of expression, violates not only the right to life and physical integrity, but also the right of society as a whole to freedom of expression and information. The Interamerican Commission has also stated that it is the state's duty to prevent, investigate and punish those responsible for the murders and other violent acts that have been carried out with the intention of restricting freedom of expression.²⁴

The threat represented by organised criminals and drug traffickers has been clearly described in a series of reports. The CIDH quoted the *General Report on the Human Rights Situation in Mexico*, which states that, "the ultimate goal of the attacks against journalists is to silence them, and these attacks constitute a violation of the society's right of access to information". In this regard, the American Convention protects the right to obtain and receive information. Regarding disappearances, the Court and the Commission have ruled that it is the duty of the state to locate the people who have disappeared.²⁵ The Mexican state is not fulfilling this duty in the case of the journalist Alfredo Jiménez Mota, of the magazine *El Imparcial*. Again, the government commits a gross violation of rights by not producing periodic reports on attacks, disappearances and murders of journalists.

Until now, the Mexican public has not been provided with any information about these cases. Self-censorship and the fragility of right to information seriously undermine the right to truth. The commission, in developing the concept of right to truth, believes that it is a right which belongs to the victims as well as to their relatives and society in general. According to this interpretation, the right to truth is not only based on Article 25, but also on Articles 1(1), 8 and 13 of the Interamerican Convention.

Legislative steps forward have been taken at a federal level in matters of protection of professional sources and the decriminalisation of defamation, libel and slander²⁶. Nevertheless, there are still 30 state criminal codes that still need amendment.

In conclusion, it is worth emphasising the importance of civil society organisations in the protection of journalists, which seek to empower the victims of these attacks, and seek justice and reparation from national and international authorities. Despite all efforts, there are still huge gaps

²⁴ The Article 9 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression states: "The murder, kidnapping, threat to social workers, as well as material destruction of communication media, violates the fundamental rights of people and seriously endanger the freedom of expression. It is a duty of the states to prevent and investigate these acts, punish the perpetrators and provide victims with the adequate reparation."

²⁵ Case 10.480, report N. 1/99, EL Salvador, Lucio Parada Cea, Héctor Joaquín Miranda Marroquín, Fausto García funes, André Hernández Carpio, José Catalina Meléndez y Carlos Antonio Martínez, 27th January 1999.

²⁶ Decriminalization approved on the 6th of March 2007, by the Senate of the Republic. Professional Secrecy published in the Official Gazette, June 2006.

in the documentation of such cases in Mexico, thus resulting in the invisibility of many human rights violations. It is time for non-governmental organisations, civil society, the media and journalists associations to renew their efforts so that violations of freedom of expression and information are better documented. They should also lobby the government to ensure that the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression are put into practice.

PENDING ISSUES FOR THE FOX ADMINISTRATION

Brisa Maya Solís Ventura

The escalation of murders, threats and disappearances of journalists which took place at the end of the Fox government is one of the most striking problems for freedom of expression both for having remained unsolved and for the lack of an adequate judicial response.

Exercising freedom of expression is one of the criteria of a democratic system, as it enables the debate of ideas and dialogues which are fundamental for the diversity and pluralism of modern societies.

From December 2000 to December 2007 there have been 30 murders of media workers in Mexico. This figure shows how freedom of expression is in danger and puts into question the consolidation of the democratic political system in Mexico.

In recent years there has been a growing number of reports and surveys on human rights in Mexico²⁷; news of threats, disappearances and murderers of journalists is proof that there is an unresolved problem for free expression and that it is worsening²⁸. In addition to the aggression against media workers, violent acts against media facilities are also taking place, and most of them still remain unpunished. It is clear that in Mexico, the practice of journalism has become a high risk activity.

This worsening environment signals a deterioration of the rule of law. Thus, lawlessness does not provide journalists with the protection required to practice their profession. It also reflects the inadequacy of the judicial system in Mexico, given that very few people have been brought to justice for these crimes.

The state has the duty to guarantee a risk-free environment for journalists and punish those responsible for breaking the rules. At the root of the right to free expression is the task of disseminating information which can bring new ideas to the public space, where the debate on ideas, opinions, future developments and interests can take place.

The public space is “where mass media find their *raison d’être* and where democracy has played a fundamental role for their development. Mass media have been adapting to new historical processes and have been evolving so that today they constitute one of the core elements of modern societies”²⁹. In this context, the media have decided to play a role as actors with political and economic interests, assuming enterprise-like features and creating strong ties with groups of power.

²⁷ There have been many reports on attacks against media workers: National Commission for Human Rights, Civil society organizations: FELAP, CENCOS, Article 19-México, Fundar, Limac, Cimac, Journalists Trade Union, Amarc. At the international level, ARTICLE 19, Reporters sans Frontières, IFEX, Human Rights Watch.

²⁸ According to the Mexican Network for the Protection of Journalists and Media in 2000 4 journalists were murdered; in 2001 there were 3 murders. In 2003, there is no record of murder; In 2004, there were 5; and in 2006, 10. 2 journalists have been murdered so far in 2007.

²⁹ Solís, Brisa Maya. *La Discriminación en los Contenidos de los Medios Electrónicos de Comunicación*. CONAPRED. 2006. Pp.17

Communication media do not only reflect debate but also influence it and the media's everyday work is to express each and every voice of public opinion.³⁰ It is public opinion which creates the basis for the acceptance of legitimacy of government or for the rejection of the political and economic events.

Media and Power

The murders of journalists constitute an attack on the right to freedom of expression, but they also represent a conflict between the so-called "parallel powers" of government, the 4th estate, civil society and others, and the various interests of these groups.

The role played by the "parallel powers" is of high importance in order to understand the Mexican situation. The "parallel powers" are located in informal spaces where groups holding power interact: these power groups are located in the media, in organised crime networks, in religious groups, in monopoly enterprises and political groups. They can exert pressure against each other as they are usually somehow connected or linked to state power.

The journalists' murders send a message not only to the journalism unions but also to the communication industry as a whole. In brief, journalists and media workers are made aware of the new power, the "parallel power" of organised crime, which has its own ideas on the management of information, especially with reference to crime.³¹

Targeting reporters, those who lack social security guarantees and those who work long hours or freelance and earn very little, means that organised crime is targeting the most vulnerable part of the media.

For example Brad Will, a foreign reporter, was murdered in the middle of a social conflict, in front of the cameras and yet the perpetrators have not been punished. Saúl Martínez Ortega³² disappeared at the entrance of the police station in Agua Prieta and his body was found one week later. This is a clear signal from the authorities to the criminals that perpetrators will not be prosecuted.

During recent years the escalation of violence and organised corruption has become clear. The escalation is caused by the impunity of the perpetrators. The inadequacy of the government's response is clear, along with the weakness of the journalism unions and civil society in Mexico, whose request for justice and for punishing those responsible has been ineffective.

The challenges

Each section of the society is facing its own challenges:

³⁰ Woldenberg, José, Consolidación Democrática y Cultura Política, Revista Etcétera, Mexico, n. 23, September 2002.

³¹ Alemán, Ricardo. Amado Ramírez, killed for reporting on drug-trafficking in Guerrero. How many more have to die so that the government plays its role? El Universal. Itinerario Político. 8th of April 2007.

³² *The right of freedom of thought and freedom of expression in Mexico. Informe: a six years balance 2000-2006.* AMARC, ARTICLE 19 -Mexico, CENCOS, CIMAC, Fundación Manuel Buendía, Fundar, LIMAC, Journalists Trade Union, Association for Transparency and Mexican Network for the Protection of Journalists and Media April 2007.

a) Civil Society

How might civil society follow up on recent initiatives such as the report on the state of freedom of expression during/before the visit of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression of the Interamerican Commission of Human Rights, before the next hearing period? How should it react to each murder and each attack on journalists and media workers? These are some of the questions for which an answer is urgently needed. Civil society organisations need to react strongly. Despite reports, public stances and speeches demanding justice and fighting impunity, wider spaces for discussion are necessary to better understand the issue. More awareness is needed at the international level.

b) Journalists

How can journalists and media workers make their voices heard? A thorough understanding of journalists' rights is imperative in this context. Protection measures have to be taken and civil society organisations have to defend journalists by denouncing the threats and the aggressive activities. Media organisations themselves have to be held responsible for the security of their employees.

c) Media

The journalist Amado Ramirez, lead reporter of the local newspaper *Novedades* and correspondent for *Televisa* was shot dead. Why doesn't the media organisation demand justice? Why do media owners not raise their voice and demand a halt to all aggression? It is clear that the media themselves are a power, but it is their responsibility to ensure that it is safe for their employees to practice journalism. Attacks, murders and disappearances have to be reported not only as single episodes but in the context of something which affects society as a whole. Failure to react highlights the lack of engagement with, and the lack of interest in safeguarding freedom of expression.

d) State

How many murders, attacks, intimidations, disappearances have to take place until the government enacts some effective measures? There is a clear lack of protective measures for journalists. It is therefore necessary to create the right mechanisms to enable the full exercise of freedom of expression. The executive, legislative and judicial powers are all involved. The executive needs to take a clear stance on this matter. Its position has not been sufficiently explicit despite the two murders in 2007. The 2004 Interamerican Commission's recommendations have not been followed yet. The Special Commission for the Prosecution of the Aggression Against Journalists and Media has to urge the Special Prosecution Office for the Investigation of Crimes Against Journalists to issue public reports. There is also a need for more effective investigations. Finally, the judicial power has to enable the Special Prosecution Office for the Investigation of Crimes Against Journalists to inform the public about the investigations and their developments, as well as punish the perpetrators of attacks, disappearances and murders.

List and description of attacks against journalists in 2006

Martha Soto Martínez/ Alexandra Jiménez / Verónica Martínez³³

JANUARY

13. The director of Chilpancingo's municipal police force, Artemio Mejía, pressed charges before the Public Prosecution Office against the editor of the weekly newspaper, *El Vocero* of Guerrero, Ulises Olivares for defamation and extortion. Artemio Mejía, former lieutenant of the Mexican Army declared that the journalist installed a loudspeaker on the vehicle and accused him of selling drugs and being a "harmful" person for the police force.

14. Julio César Ortega Quiroz, chief editor of the magazine *La Neta Times*, and collaborator for Radio Palacio, in Sonora, was intercepted by a municipal police patrol car, led by Commander Jesús Alberto Padilla Varela. He was forced out of his car under the pretext of a routine check. However, when Ortega Quiroz protested over abuse of authority, the police chief answered that he himself *abused of his authority* by speaking about him on the newspaper and radio. The journalist ascribed the aggression to his frequent reports about the complicity between the mayor's office in Caborca and some elements of the municipal police force involved in drug trafficking.

17. In Poza Rica, Veracruz, journalist Concepción Rodríguez Parra, was assaulted by two unknown men who threatened her, as she was on her way to the radio station Radio Lobo, frequency 790 on AM. Rodríguez Parra is well known for her broadcasting on the Municipal Sanitation Department and the Water Commission, irregular charges for trash pick-up, the impact on the work of the public sanitation, etc.

17. Journalist, writer and human rights defender, María Lydia Cacho Ribeiro, was acquitted of slander charges against businessman Kamel Nacif Borge, but her sentence for defamation was upheld. Lydia Cacho's attorney, Guillermo Cuen, said that Puebla's authorities, when pressured to opt for one of the offenses, "chose the one that turns out to be more threatening to a journalist".

FEBRUARY

4. The Chiapas columnist, Ángel Mario Ksheratto, accused of defamation of a public officer from the Chiapas School Construction Committee, was re-apprehended under order of a judge who revoked his parole.

6. Two armed men with assault rifles AR-15, AK-47 and fragmentation grenades, barged into the offices of newspaper *El Mañana* of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, where they repeatedly shot and detonated an explosive in the editorial area. Reporter Jaime Orozco Tey was injured. *El Mañana*'s director, Ramón Cantú Deándar, commented that they are unaware who could have been the author of the attack, but he suggested that it could have been related drug traffic.

8. Ezequiel Flores Contreras, reporter for the daily newspaper *El Sur* of Chilpancingo, Guerrero, pressed charges before the State's Attorney General, against the governor, Zeferino Torreblanca Galindo, for alleged defamation, after the governor accused him of slanting information referring to a document published on December 12th, 2005, where the journalist stated that the State's Education Ministry sold 16 tons of free school books as junk.

³³ Respectively: Analyst for the Freedom of Expression Unit for the Manuel Buendía Foundation, AC; Coordinator of the Information Unit for the Manuel Buendía Foundation, AC; Coordinator of the Freedom of Expression Unit for the Manuel Buendía Foundation, AC.

8. Los Mochis, Sinaloa: Javier Camacho, reporter for the weekly newspaper *La Gaceta*, pressed charges against then pre-candidate for the Federal House of Representatives, for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Rubén Félix Hays, for threats. Hays allegedly threatened the journalist after a press conference with the words: “you smell of blood”. During the press conference, the politician had been asked about alleged debts he had made with media outlets.

16. The Fourth Courthouse of the District in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua summoned journalists Nohemí Barraza, from the newspaper *Norte de Ciudad Juárez*; Javier Saucedo, from *El Diario*, and Jacinto Segura, from *El Mexicano*, to interrogate them regarding their article about the situation in the neighbourhood Lomas de Poleo. The inhabitants of the area are disputing their lands with the family of powerful businessmen Miguel and Pedro Zaragoza.

21. David Garibay, representative from the PRD, burst in violently, in a drunken state, and with a gun in his hand, into the building of newspaper *ABC* of Uruapan, Michoacán, and threatened the staff with death. The representative mentioned the name of one of the newspaper’s reporters with whom he wanted to “settle matters”. Directors of *ABC* pressed charges against the PRD representative.

28. Guadalupe Herrera Rábago, reporter from the daily newspaper *La Última Palabra* of Cadereyta, Nuevo León, reported that her life was threatened by Ramón Quintanilla Sáenz, ex-Secretary of the City Council, and then PRI’s pre-candidate for the municipal presidency of Cadereyta. The journalist indicated that she has repeatedly been threatened for publishing articles about the irregular handling of public funds in Cadereyta, in addition to questioning excessive expenses during Quintanilla’s campaign.

MARCH

2. In Puebla, Governor Mario Marin’s bodyguards assaulted Salvador Ríos, a reporter from *El Sol de Puebla*; Yocelín Santos, from *Al Portador*, and Francisco Rivas Zerón from *Reforma*, as well as the photographer José Castañares, from *La Jornada de Oriente*, who were trying to interview the officer from Puebla.

7. An anonymous email threat was sent to the journalist Yohanan Díaz Vargas, of Radio 13 News, and to the human rights advocate, Fernando Ruiz Canales, hinting that they would soon know “what a bullet felt like”. The warning demanded that they stop covering weekly themes on the section “Expediente 1290”, the journalist’s daily column to which Ruiz Canales collaborates. Amongst the subjects that they have investigated are telephone extortions from the prisons, corruption in the prisons and agencies of the Public Prosecutor’s Office, small-scale drug trafficking at the doors of the prisons, charges of corruption and crime in police forces, and the criminal group filtered into the police force known as “La Hermandad”.

7. Columnist Isabel Arvide from the newspaper *Milenio Diario*, received a sentence of one year prison and a fine of 200 thousand pesos, from penal judge Octavio Armando Rodríguez Gaytán in Chihuahua. She had been charged with defamation by former State Attorney of Chihuahua, José Jesús Solís Silva, following a 2001 article about alleged links between state officers and organized crime.

9. In the municipality of La Piedad, Reporter **Jaime Arturo Olvera Bravo**, former correspondent for the newspaper *La Voz de Michoacán*, was murdered by an unknown assailant who shot him in the neck. According to witnesses, the 39 year old reporter was attacked at seven in the morning by a man who was waiting for him at an urban public transportation stop. Olvera Bravo was taking his five year old son to school. The State’s Justice Attorney, Juan Antonio Magaña de la Mora, declared that there weren’t “elements that would allow establishing that the motive for the crime was related to the journalist work”.

10. Radio journalist **Ramiro Téllez Contreras** was murdered in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, at approximately 05:35 hrs, as he was leaving his house. According to the first investigations, Téllez

Contreras was going to work for Station EXA 95.7 FM, where he covered weather forecasts, in addition to working at the Command Center where he channelled emergency calls.

15. Members of the organization “Francisco Villa” and alleged “Bolivarian circles” barged into the offices of newspaper *La Crónica de Hoy* and threw stones and chanted slogans against the editorial line of the paper. Amongst the slogans, witnesses heard that the newspaper was “on the list”. The aggressors also asked for the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Venezuela and declared themselves against journalist Francisco Reséndiz. *Crónica* asked for help from the Public Security Ministry of the Distrito Federal, which never came.

18. A judge from the Electoral Court of the Federal District (TEDF), Estuardo Bermúdez, declared his intention of removing two reporters from the TEDF contacts, because of their reports questioning the function and resource expenditure of the office.

19. Raúl Ramírez, chief of press for the PGJE, made a threatening phone call to Arturo Solís, general director of the Internet portal www.enlineadirecta.info. He was angered by a column published in edition number 13 of the portal, asking the governor, Eugenio Hernández Flores to make changes to Tamaulipas’ Prosecuting Office, because the attorney then in charge, Mercedes del Carmen Guillén Vicente, was not able to fulfil her responsibilities. Ramírez warned Arturo Solís that this was the last time that his columns “touched” the director, otherwise, he should bear the consequences.

21. Elements from the Police Unit of Special Operations (UPOE), led by director of Public Security, José Manuel Vera Salinas, attacked reporters from the newspaper *Noticias* of Oaxaca, in front of the Santo Domingo de Guzmán church. Witness to the attacks was the head of the Ministry of Interior (Segob), Carlos Abascal Carranza, who was in the atrium. The federal officer – who attended the bicentennial celebration of the birth of Benito Juárez in Guelatao – committed to follow up on the attacks.

29. In Tlaxcala, bodyguards and people near the state’s moral leader for the Labour Party, and then candidate on behalf of the PAN for the Senate, Rosalía Peredo Sánchez, pushed and beat up a group of reporters to prevent them from interviewing her when she went to notify the IFE Local Assembly of her candidature.

29. The journalist **Rosendo Pardo Ozuna** was murdered in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas. His body was found on Federal Highway 190. The journalist had published diverse articles in the newspaper *La Voz del Sureste*, where he expressed strong criticisms against Tuxtla Gutiérrez’s municipal government, led by Juan Sabines Guerrero. He also dedicated a series to current politics, where he mentioned Pablo Salazar Mendiguchía, Chiapa’s current governor.

29. Airamsol Martínez and Nicolás Tavera, reporters from the newspaper *La Crónica de Hoy*, were locked up for two and a half hours, in a cell in Public Prosecuting Agency 53 in the Federal District. They were accused by elements of the Public Security force of the Federal District of unlawful entry into the home of Rafael Hernández Nava, representative for the PRD, when they were covering a story in that property.

APRIL

8. During a concert organized by a radio station for Radio Televisa group, Francisco Rodríguez, a reporter for newspaper *La Crónica de Hoy* was physically assaulted by personnel from the Federal District’s Public Security Ministry and by members of the security group, LOBO. His working equipment was also removed. The fact occurred when Rodríguez was trying to capture images of a scuffle in which a young man from the event’s special effects production team was injured.

20. Journalist Martha Figueroa, head of the show *Secretos W*, at WFM, was punched on the nose and threatened by Celia Lora, daughter of Chela and Alex Lora, while she was waiting to be seated at a restaurant located on the South of Mexico City. The entertainment journalist pressed penal charges against her aggressor for injuries.

20. At the Huatulco Bays, Oaxaca, reporters Roberto Agustiano Domínguez, correspondent for *El Imparcial* and Antonio García Pérez, assistant director of the newspaper *Enlace de la Costa*, were assaulted and threatened to death with a gun by four members of a crash group for the proprietors of pirate taxis, while they gathered information about vehicles in the town of Najos de Coyula, the location's municipal agency.

22. Some mining union members linked to the former leader of the guild, Napoleón Gómez Urrutia, threatened the correspondent from *El Universal*, Rafael Rivera Millán, in retaliation for a reporting he has done around the labour crisis at the Iron and Steel Mine Lázaro Cárdenas Las Truchas (SICARTSA), in Michoacán. During the conflict, Rivera Millán had informed about both the workers' and the employer's position, thus angering union leaders because, according to them, the company shouldn't be given a voice. Members of the union threatened to set fire to the journalist's home and office, and prevented him from carrying out his work. These aggressions intensified on April 2, when workers from SICARTSA took over the company's building to demand the recognition of Gómez Urrutia as union leader.

26. The Human Rights Defence Committee of the State of Guerrero initiated an investigation against the municipal president of Acapulco, Feliz Salgado Macedonio, agents of the preventive police and agents of the Prosecuting police ascribed to the personal security of the municipal president, on behalf of the president of the Cooperative Limited Responsibility Journalistic Society Extra Radar, Alfredo Lobato, for threats, theft, unlawful entry, property damages and attempts against the free practice of journalism.

MAY

8. Journalist Óscar Mario Beteta, head of the morning newscast on Radio Fórmula, received death threats and kidnapping threats against his wife and son, from an individual who contacted him by phone at the radio station and who claimed to belong to a group of hired assassins, *Los Zetas*, who were fed up with Beteta's comments against López Obrador. When he was asked to identify himself, the individual gave the name of *Tony Tormenta*, who is said to be Osiel Cárdenas' brother and gangster from the Plaza de Matamoros, Tamaulipas.

15. Miguel Ángel López Solana, reporter from the newspaper *Notiver* in Veracruz, was detained by a police group from the Mixed Attention Unit to Small-Scale Drug Trafficking. He was detained and interrogated for 17 hours for alleged drug traffic.

22. Reporters Hiram Moreno, correspondent from *La Jornada*, and Alberto Fernández Portilla, news director from *BBM Noticias*, were received death threats and was assaulted by Antonio González, employee of Felipe Cortés Reyna, public works director for the town council at Tehuantepec. The journalists were investigating citizen's complaints against the director of public works, who had recently acquired diverse buildings.

24. In Oaxaca, municipal police officers from the Jaguares group assaulted Román Carlos Velasco, reporter from newspaper *Noticias*, as he was trying to photograph a demonstration by local residents in front of the National Palace and police repression against the protesters. Police officers tried to take his camera from him. The reporter was defended and protected by the residents.

Censorship from Los Pinos

Carmen García Bermejo

During the inauguration of the mega library José Vasconcelos, the Presidential Guard set up an impressive security team surrounding the building. It was Tuesday, May 12th, 2006. Vicente Fox was presenting one of the largest accomplishments of the Executive Power in the cultural sector. But protesters were also present: representatives of library workers from the SEP, as well as the National Center for the Arts and the National Fine Arts Institute handed bulletins to the event's audience, protesting against what they perceived as the excessive public resources allocated to the construction of the mega library.

Only those with a personal invitation could get in. Agents from the Presidential Guard placed a fence and two metal detectors. As the audience was passing through the fence and entering, military officers grabbed the bulletins that the protesters had distributed. I had with me several bulletins in my hand and when I tried to get inside, one of the military officers of the Presidential Guard told me to hand him the papers. I answered no. I identified myself as a journalist and told him that these bulletins were part of the information that I needed to carry out my report. The military officer told me I wouldn't be able to get in. I asked him why and he only closed off the way. I asked him to give me his name and post, which he refused and he kept making signs to his boss for him to get me away from the entrance. I asked if these bulletins that I was carrying constituted a "weapon" in the Presidential Guard's view, or why I wasn't being allowed to enter. Silence was the answer.

A journalist from *Milenio Diario*, Leticia Sánchez, realized what was happening and reported it to the Head of Press for the Presidency. In turn, he called the Head of Press for the National Council for Culture and the Arts, Moisés Ramírez. Ramírez told me that I couldn't get in with so many bulletins. Then I told him I would take at least two. Both the official from CONACULTA and the military agreed to that and let me in.

When I arrived at the newspaper *El Financiero*, where I have worked for ten years as a reporter for the Cultural Section, I wrote my article about the inauguration of the mega library in which, because of lack of space, I didn't mention the incident with the Presidential Guard. But a little while later, I was notified that the feature would not be published because the Social Communication office of the Presidency of the Republic had called the newspaper director's office to "accuse me" of being a "political activist who agreed with the culture worker's groups and wanted to destroy institutions".

I narrated to the Cultural Section editor what had actually happened at the ceremony. He told me that he trusted my work, but that the newspaper's director's office had made a final decision: the article would not be published because the Presidency had also informed that it would be removing from *El Financiero* the four pages of advertising that it had handed out to each of the national newspapers and magazines where the government promoted the "masterly architectural work, the José Vasconcelos Library". The reason was another article I had written and published on the day of the inauguration in the Cultural Section of *El Financiero*. In the article, I had written about the true public resources that had been spent for the construction of the mega library, and that the head of CONACULTA, Sara Guadalupe Bermúdez, refused to acknowledge.

Due to the kind of investigative journalism that I do for the cultural section, officials from

CONACULTA and the National Anthropology and History Institute have tried to intimidate, on various occasions, the directors at *El Financiero* and to degrade the work that I carry out with the purpose of having the company fire me.

In 1996, officials from INAH even pressed charges before the PGR for the alleged theft of a book mentioned in my report about the archaeological site of Monte Albán, Oaxaca.

However, the inauguration ceremony incident was the first time that the Presidency of the Republic had denounced me as a “political activist” for performing my job. They did not only try to prevent me from entering a public event, but they also pressured the newspaper to censor the information. Obviously, my article was not published, but the Cultural Section of the newspaper *El Universal*, on Wednesday, May 17, 2006, published a chronicle which narrated part of what I’m exposing here, yet the reporter omitted my name because he doesn’t know me, but he witnessed the facts.

Reporter from newspaper *El Financiero*.

JUNE

1. More than 10 professors who are part of the Zacatecas Democratic Teacher’s Movement, some with their heads covered, beat and threw to the ground, the graphic reporter Óscar Báez, from the newspaper *La Jornada Zacatecas*, when they took the building of the local congress. Jesús Chacón, photographer for the Televisa correspondents, also suffered physical and verbal aggressions, in addition to damage caused to his equipment. Likewise, other reporters who were covering the event were verbally assaulted and pushed away from the place.

7. In Guerrero, Arturo Celestino González, reporter from the newspaper *Expresión Popular*, denounced, in front of the state committee of human rights, the municipal president of Pedro Asencio de Alquiciraz, Adrián Salatiel Flores, for threatening him.

9. In San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas, non-identified individuals tried to light fire to the car of radio journalist Hugo Isaac Robles Guillén, while he was broadcasting the morning news program Espacio Informativo on the XEWM Station. Journalists from diverse media in Chiapas stated that it was an attempt against Robles Guillén and against freedom of expression, since he is one of the most critical and popular journalists in this city. They in turn demanded guarantees for the practice of his work.

12. Raúl Angel Rubio Cano, journalist for the newspaper *El Regio* in Monterrey, Nuevo León, reported threats by armed individuals who claimed to be from the Ministerial Police against his ex-wife at her home. Harassment of the journalist may be retaliation for an investigation published about the Grupo México Mine Company.

16. Elements of the Federal Investigation Agency, members of the Mixed Attention Unit to Small-Scale Drug Trafficking, illegally detained and beat up the reporter Lucio Torres Monzalvo and photographer Raúl Leyva Corona, from Televisión Azteca, as they were on location in Pachuca de Soto, Hidalgo. The police officers forced them to get into two patrol cars, where they were attacked with blows and stripped of their personal and work possessions.

21. Luis Fernando Fontova Román, director of the magazine *Masas*, and host of an Internet television program, drafted an official complaint for alleged intimidation against two public servants.

22. The journalist from newspaper *Por Esto!*, Manuel Acuña López, accused Yucatan’s governor, Patricio Patrón Laviada, to be responsible for a fire at the journalist’s home, which was caused by Molotov bombs, in which his vehicle and part of his property were burnt down. Acuña López had

recently received warnings because of his reporting about alleged corruption in the administration.

23. In Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, journalist Rocío Armandina Canú Galindo, collaborator to the station Corpo Radio GAPE, pressed charges for threats against the municipal president of Reynosa, Francisco García Cabeza de Vaca. Canu Galindo had received a phone call in which a male voice warned her to keep quiet. Cantú Galindo reports' on the municipality's administration had upset the town councillor.

25. Journalist Víctor Islas, collaborator for the newspaper *El Mexicano* from Mexicali, Baja California, said he was victim of espionage and intimidation, after he received on his cell phone voicemail, fragment of a conversation he had held with the spokeswoman for the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in the region, Alejandrina Saguchi. This was seen as a warning of reprisal for criticism he had published about the PRI senator, Fernando Castro.

27. In Morelia, Michoacán, the spokesman for the Public Security Ministry of the state, Alberto Narváez, punched Alejandro Benjamín Vivanco Ponce, reporter of the newspaper *Provincia*. Vivanco explained that the public official approached him to complain about his journalistic work which had adversely affected the Public Security Ministry.

28. A group of armed men who travelled in a Jetta vehicle and in a blue Volkswagen sedan, fired shots at the buildings of the newspaper *El Informador* in Guerrero, injuring the director, Eduardo Pozo López, with four shots. He was accompanied by his wife, Patricia Zavala, who was uninjured.

JULY

6. In Iguala, Guerrero, Efraín López Morales, reporter for the newspapers *Diario de Iguala* and *Tiempo Suriano*, and from the radio news show *Contextos*, was assaulted by Jorge Albarrán Jaramillo, general director and owner of the local newspaper *Diario 21*. While the journalist was interviewing representative Modesto Brito González, Albarrán grabbed him from behind and pushed him for allegedly obstructing his collaborator, photographer Gabriel Gómez Oviedo. When López Morales argued he was carrying out his job, the owner of the *Diario 21* increased his verbal aggression; Thanks to Gómez Oviedo intervention, López Morales was able to get away.

8. Reporter **Rafael Ortiz Martínez**, from the newspaper *Zócalo* of Monclova, Coahuila, and coordinator of the chain Radio Zócalo, disappeared the morning of July 8th, after he left the building of the newspaper. Two days later, after repeated requests from his family, Coahuila's PGJE started to investigate the Ortiz Martínez disappearance. His life had been threatened 10 days earlier. The reporter had tackled such subjects as clandestine prostitution in downtown Moclova, hepatitis C infection amongst prisoners of the local Cereso, the operations of drug trafficking gangs in Monclova and adjacent municipalities. Coahuila's governor, Humberto Moreira Valdés, stated that his administration had elements that showed that Ortiz Martínez had been kidnapped by drug traffickers.

13. Editorial director of the newspaper *Chiapas Hoy*, and writer of the column "For the well-informed only" of that newspaper, Hubert Ochoa Ramírez, received death threats through an anonymous call to his offices. The unknown caller warned the journalist that he had messed with "his person", which he would regret later.

17. The program *Política de Banqueta*, from the Zapatista Radio Insurgente, the voice of those without voice, broadcasted by the commercial station Radio 620 (of the RASA group) in Mexico City, was censored during its broadcast on July 17th because it scheduled an interview with *Subcomandante Marcos*. The host of the show and the producers declared that they received strong pressure from the Ministry of Interior to stop broadcasting the Zapatist leader's declarations. If they didn't, they said, governmental publicity would be removed from the radio station.

18. Jaime Mares Camarena, proportional representative, and Mauricio Montoya, congressman for the district of Jacona, both for PRI, pressed charges before Michoacán's Prosecutor's Office against Jesús Lemus Barajas, correspondent from *La Jornada Michoacán*, for alleged "false statements". At the origin of the case is an article by Barajas where he alleges that the demanding officials put an end to the aspirations of Fausto Vallejo Figueroa to the state's government.

20. Víctor Mejía Alejandro, head of the column "Rumbo Político" from the newspaper *Expreso de Chiapas*, reported receiving telephone threats from an unknown individual, who warned him that the content of his column bothered him.

22. In Oaxaca, Oaxaca, an armed unit allegedly connected to the state government, shot at the facilities of Radio Universidad, located in the Benito Juárez Autonomous University, as it was broadcasting a program by teachers. Nobody was injured even though several shots were fired. The teachers blamed the governor Ulises Ruíz and the former secretary of the state's government, Jorge Franco. The secretary of government, Heliodoro Díaz Escárrega, denied that the state government had any responsibility and assured that the aggression was probably prompted by a dispute about the composition of the Oaxaca People's Popular Assembly (APPO). Oaxaca teachers ordered the transfer of hundreds of education workers to the radio station with the purpose of backing the university students and members of the organizations clustered in the APPO.

AUGUST

2. Members of the Oaxaca People's Popular Assembly (APPO) threatened to take over the offices of newspapers *Tiempo* and *Extra*, who they accused of having connections to the local government. The owners of both newspapers closed their offices and removed some of their equipments for fear of them being damaged.

2. In Oaxaca, members of the APPO took control of the Oaxacan Corporation of Radio and Televisión (CORTV), as well as its frequencies signal. The outlet, composed of a television channel and two radio stations with state-wide coverage, withdrew its signal from the air for two hours in the case of the radio stations, and seven for the television channel. The channel's employees went into hiding in their workspaces in fear, as members of the APPO threatened them with kidnapping for an undefined period of time.

9. Two individuals with fire arms barged into the temporary offices of the newspaper *Noticias*, located in downtown Oaxaca, and hurt four people. According to witnesses, two young men entered the newspaper; after asking for the newspaper's directors, they opened fire and took a laptop from the distribution team and money from the day's sales, and ran. The newspaper's director, Ismael Sanmartín Hernández, blamed the former general secretary to the government, Jorge Franco Vargas. In turn, the president of the state's News Group, Ericel Gómez Nucamendi, blamed officials from Ulises Ruíz's government of instigating another attack on the newspaper. He repeated that the state government is angry with the newspaper's editorial line, and as a result has carried out a series of threats and constant attacks on the newspaper, journalists and even sellers.

10. The PGJE in Chihuahua informed through a press statement that it found the lifeless body of the journalist **Enrique Perea Quintanilla**, located on the side of a dirt road near kilometer 7 of the Chihuahua-Aldama highway. The body had two bullet impacts and evidence of torture. The state government informed that it is following a few lines of investigation and that because of the way this homicide was executed, one may presume the involvement of organized crime. Enrique Perea, who was 50 years old, was director of the magazine *Dos Caras, Una Verdad* in which he investigated unresolved murders and criticized state authorities for the high crime rate registered in the state, mainly executions amongst drug traffickers in recent dates. Perea had a career of almost 30 years as police reporter for diverse media. The state District Attorney, Patricia

González, said that behind the homicide were two drug cartels which operate in Chihuahua: the Gulf cartel and the Juárez cartel.

15. Reporter Alejandro Salgado Pedraza, from the newspaper *ABC Noticias* of Tlaxcala, reported before the State's General Prosecutor's Office, being the victim of intimidation, abuse of authority and threats by the municipal police force in Zacatelco. Salgado blamed the head of the police force, Omar Sánchez Cuauhtle.

21. A group of at least 60 men, allegedly police officers, attacked the facilities of the public television channel 9 of Oaxaca. The aggressors arrived at the place at around 3:30 AM, some on board of vans and others by foot. They repeatedly shot at the guards of the premises, dispersed them and later on entered the premises. They destroyed the equipment from which the APPO had been broadcasting its information. In response, members of the APPO gathered at the CORTV, hijacked public urban buses, and took 12 commercial radio stations and a local newspaper.

22. At around 5:30 AM, members of the APPO took over the facilities of radio groups *Organización Impulsora del Radio*, *Grupo ACIR*, *Organización Radiofónica de Oaxaca*, *la Organización Radiofónica Mexicana* and *MVS Radio*, as well as their antennas. They suspended traffic on the highway Oaxaca-Mexico, where the antennas and transmitters of four of the hijacked stations were later found. Other radio stations that were affected included *La Ley - La Grande de Oaxaca*, *La Súper Q*, *Radio Cristal*, *Radio Oro*, *EKSA*, *Mexicana*, *Radio Fórmula*, *Estéreo Exitos* and *Qué Buena*. The governor, Ulises Ruíz, claimed no responsibility in these events, and declared that the state prosecuting office will initiate immediately investigations on the events in the CORTV building and the hijack of radio stations in the state's capital.

23. Close to 10 PM, two commandos threw grenades at the offices of two newspapers in Cancún, Quintana Roo. The first was *Por Esto*, where two grenades were detonated by the reception desk. There weren't any people injured, although there were damages to the property. One of the grenades landed near the window of the newspaper's coordinator, Renán Castro. The second newspaper was *Quequi Quintana Roo*, where a grenade was detonated in front of the offices. On August 24th, Quintana Roo's PGJE arrested 25-year-old José David Euán, native of Hecelchakán, Campeche. Authorities from the Special Unit on Terrorism, Traffic and Arm Stock from the PGR indicated that they hadn't ruled out the possibility that organized crime was behind the attacks. In fact, *Por Esto*, in its editorial on August 24th, blamed members of the Sinaloa cartel and particularly one of its members, Ismael *El Mayo* Zambada.

23. In Oaxaca, graphic reporters Luis Plata and Luis Alberto Cruz, collaborators of the Reforma Group, were assaulted by security forces for the state government, during disturbances in the historical centre of this state. The photographers were trapped between the APPO protesters and the police agents, who started to aim at them. Plata and Cruz took cover behind a lamp post. Later, the aggressors withdrew, but the reporter's car was shot twice on the medallion.

24. PRI supporters connected with authorities of the municipality High School in the community of Mazatlán Villa de Flores, Oaxaca, threatened and assaulted verbally and violently members of the community radio Nandía; later, the aggressors prevented access of the technical staff to the radio station's offices and threatened them with arms.

30. Members of the community radio Calenda, located in the community of San Antonino, near Oaxaca City, have been harassed by the entity's municipal president, Joel López Sánchez.

SEPTEMBER

1. In Yucatán, two grenades were thrown at the entrance of the newspaper *Por Esto!* Only one of them detonated at the newspaper's reception desk and caused injuries to three employees, as well as damages to the building. The paper's assistant director, Miguel Menéndez Cámara, assured that this attack is not going to intimidate them, rather that it motivates them to continue with their free and independent journalistic work, and insisted that his father, Mario Menéndez Rodríguez, owner of the company, would not stop in his effort to unmask organized crime, especially small-

scale drug trafficking. In his editorial of September 2, he identified several individuals as possible suspects, amongst them, Alejandro *La Vaca* Patrón Laviada (the state governor's brother), due to the fact that "he tends to organized crime business" in Yucatán, and Raúl Gamboa Acereto, under the direct protection of commander Daniel Carrillo Espinosa *El Puma*. In addition, Menéndez declared that the attack could have come from the leaders of Cuban illegal alien traffic, and the heads of small-scale drug trafficking in the city.

1. The production area of local television Channel 10's building, in Durango, received gunshots.

4. Sonora's government, Eduardo Bours Castelo, pressed charges for defamation against the newspaper *El Imparcial*, because the column "Cerro de la Campana" questioned the state government's refusal to account for the money handed over to non governmental organizations. The general director of the newspaper, Juan Fernando Healy, warned that freedom of expression is endangered in Sonora state and in an editorial, the paper declared that the governor had moved from verbal action and public accusations to legal action against the paper.

5. Journalist Denise Dresser reported receiving an email warning her that she would be physically assaulted because of her opinions on the post-election political situation. The CDHDF stated in a press bulletin its preoccupation with the intimidation, and handed the case to the Federal District authorities who have initiated investigations.

6. The radio station La Voladora Radio received a death threat against one of its collaborators, and the next day they received another one, possibly linked to their coverage of *La otra campaña*. Members of the radio station pressed charges before the municipality's Public Prosecutor's Office because the federal Prosecuting agency refused to receive the charges.

6. At midnight in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, an armed commando shot at two vehicles in which Jaime Murrieta Briones, graphic reporter for the newspaper *El Diario*, Aurelio Suárez Núñez, photographer of the afternoon newspaper *PM* and Eugenia Cicero Rivero, also from *PM*, were travelling. The journalists were injured and their equipment stolen. The reporters had gone to the Fuentes del Valle residential area, because of the neighbours' complaint that there were more than 30 armed men drinking alcoholic beverages, amongst them, alleged drug traffickers and AFI agents. Agents from the Municipal Public Security Ministry arrested Carlos Alberto Hernández Luna, Ricardo Barrio and Rubén Martínez as alleged. The local media considers that the detention of these men is a set-up to avoid investigation into police officials.

7. In Oaxaca, various broadcasters from community radios of the Huave and Mixe people who operate in the region have received death threats. Radio Ikood, from San Francisco del Mar, transmitting for 20 Huave communities, suspended its programming because of harassment and fear of attacks. In both cases, it is not known who is responsible, but it has been alleged that it may be PRI members linked to the government.

7. Freddy Llanda, presenter for Radio Ayuuk which covers 36 Mixe communities in the town of San Juan Guichicovic, Oaxaca, received calls where he was warned to "shut up" or he would be disappeared, because of his coverage of the teacher's and social conflict in the state.

7. The president of the House of Representatives, Congressman Jorge Zermeño, suggested to the coordinators of parliamentary groups that during plenary work days, access to the session be closed to reporters, photographers and cameramen, and that instead they be placed on the press balcony known as the *corral de la ignominia* (shame barn). In addition, the Congressman warned that on December 1st, during the transfer of power, media representatives would have to leave the hall at 11 AM on the dot or else they would be cleared out.

15. The night of September 15th, cameraman Mario Viveros Barragán, Juan Pablo Jiménez and Miguel Ángel Fuentes Cortina, from *Canal 6 de Julio*, were assaulted by elements of the Public Security Ministry, the Historical Center Police and the Federal District's Judicial Police. At least 30 agents of the groups beat the cameramen and destroyed their equipment because they got irritated for having been shot while violently detaining a group of youth. *Canal 6 de Julio* considered that these facts constituted a grave abuse of freedom of expression and condemned the negligence of the mayor of the capital's government, Alejandro Encinas; of the secretary of

government, Ricardo Ruiz and the entity's Public Security director, Joel Ortega, who until now have avoided addressing and solving the aggression.

24. Journalist Ricardo Rocha was assaulted by members of the Oaxaca People's Popular Assembly (APPO), while he was interviewing the State Congress leader, Bulmaro Rito Salinas, and the representative for PAN, Guillermo Zavaleta at the Camino Real Hotel in Oaxaca. Members of the APPO accused the journalist of hiding the governor Ulises Ruiz, they threatened him with a public trial in front of the people of Oaxaca, they also beat him on the stomach with a club and detained him in the hotel's lobby for more than an hour. Finally, two women from the APPO interceded in favour of Rocha and his production team, and they were able to get away in their van amongst screams and slaps. Rocha was able to identify his aggressor, who appeared in a published photograph on the newspaper *Reforma*, on September 25th.

27. The facilities at the radio station XEYG, La Consentida, located in the municipality of Matías Romero, on the Tehuantepec Isthmus, Oaxaca, were set on fire by unknown assailants, who painted the APPO acronym and death threats against the presenter Romualdo Santiago. According to Congressman López Lena Cruz, owner of the radio station, the members of this association did not commit the crime, but rather it came from orders by the governor Ulises Ruiz, due to accusations that the representative had made against him.

OCTOBER

3. In Xalapa, Veracruz, the general director of the website *www.gobernantes.com*, Carlos Jesús Rodríguez, was assaulted by Rafael *El Negro* Cruz, unconditional supporter for 40 years of the governor Fidel Herrera. Allegedly, the motive for the aggression was Cruz's anger over the criticism that the journalist has expressed about the current government administration in Veracruz.

8. An unknown individual unsuccessfully sought to forcibly enter the property of Ronay González Ruiz, a journalist from the local radio station in Tapachula, Chiapas. He then issued threats against the broadcaster and his family, who were inside the house. The motive for the aggression is still unknown; however it is assumed that the individual was attempting to attack the journalist. Because of this, charges were pressed before the State General Prosecutor's Office.

10. Gildardo Mota Figueroa, reporter for the newspaper *La Opinión*, was detained along with photographer Néstor Ruiz from the Sureste Agency by elements of the Preventive Federal Police, as they walked in downtown Oaxaca. They stated that they were mistaken for members of the APPO and that although they identified themselves as reporters they were put into a van and transferred to the Airport's Military Air Base, where they were severely beaten.

11. Due to constant harassment, the director and assistant director from the newspaper *Cambio* of Puebla, Mario Alberto Mejía and Arturo Rueda, pressed charges before the Special Prosecutor's Office for the Attention of Crime against Journalists (FEADP) from the Republic General Prosecutor's Office (PGR) against Puebla's governor, Mario Marín, and other state officials for threats and abuse of authority. Both reporters hosted the program *Quinta Columna* at the local radio station 1010 AM, which was eventually cancelled following pressures derived from the radio's criticism of the state government over the Lydia Cacho and Kamel Nacif case. The governor maintained that he has not sent anyone to intimidate or censor and on the contrary, he declared that both journalists have "chased" him.

13. An official from the Health Infrastructure dependence, of last name Limón, threw a punch at graphic reporter Luis Pérez's face, from the newspaper *Tiempo*. The bureaucrat was offended over a photograph taken on October 11th, as he was being evicted from his office by members of the Oaxaca People's Popular Assembly (APPO).

15. Ciriaco Zacarías Cervantes, correspondent for *Milenio Diario* in Chilpancingo, reported that the Sixth District Judge in Federal Penal Process Matters, José Luis Gimes Martínez had pressured, harassed and threatened him with

detention if he didn't further divulgate information he had published about a gang of kidnappers detained in the Guerrero Mountains and confined in that prison.

19. The photographer from *La Jornada* in Oaxaca, Ezequiel Gómez, took photographs of a PFP agent taking a bicycle and clothes from the place where a day earlier APPO members had been evicted. Upon seeing him, the policeman went towards him and tried to take the camera away from him and when he went backwards he fell to the ground.

20. Ten reporters from Mexicali media and the South of the United States were pushed, pulled, insulted and kicked by Rafael Sebastián Guillén's people, the *Subcomandante Marcos*, during his tour in Baja California, as media representatives waited to interview the man also called *Comandante Cero*. The reporters and cameramen who were assaulted belonged to Televisa, TV Azteca, Univisión, Canal 66, *El Mexicano*, and various radio stations. Alicia López Yáñez, from Televisa local Channel 3, Laura Tejeda, from Univisión, Rosa María Méndez, from *El Universal*, and Ana Julia Contreras, from Channel 66, pressed charges before the state prosecutor for the blows they received. *Marcos* widely declared his contempt for communication media that weren't aligned with his goals, and did not give interviews to whomever didn't travel with him from the beginning of the tour.

20. In Chiapas, the businessman and also ex-convict from the Palma prison, Roberto Figueroa Mazariegos, threatened the editor of the newspaper *El Meridiano*, Rosy Guadalupe Pérez, and the journalist Araceli Mateos Domínguez, for publishing information related to him and his brother Jorge Figueroa Mazariegos, who has had been detained previously for illegal migrants traffic. The businessman also had a heated discussion with the journalist Marco Antonio Guillén Abarca, from the newspaper *Diario de Comitán*, for the same reason. Both journalists confirmed the information and declared that everything they published was true.

24. The correspondent for *El Orbe*, Epifanio López Roblero, was intimidated with a fire arm by the mayor of Tuzutlán, Chiapas, Didier Rojas; the reporter pressed charges before the Public Prosecuting Agency against the mayor. The motive for the aggression was an article about a fake check that the mayor's wife, Dalila López Aayón de Rojas, handed out to a handicapped man. According to the correspondent, Rojas threatened him with a 9 mm gun, and warned him not to keep publishing articles against him because he would kill him. The town councillor has already been accused previously for intimidating and threatening citizens with fire guns.

24. The radio station, XHMAI-FM Súper Estéreo, located in Mapastepec, Chiapas, and member of the Corporative Radio Núcleo, property of the Simán family which transmits on 95.1 Mhz., was occupied by members and supporters of Radio Mapache, radio station which has operated without franchise or permit from the SCT for approximately two years.

25. In Mexicali, Antonio Heras Sánchez, editor of the magazine *Lindero Norte*, correspondent for *La Jornada* and for the radio group Imagen, was chased at high speeds for nearly two kilometres on Colón Avenue in this city, by a van without plates. The journalist managed to ask for help from a patrol police car, at which point the aggressors fled the scene and were not located. Charges were pressed before the state prosecutor and a judicial investigation initiated.

27. The American journalist, **Bradley Roland Will**, from the alternative net, Indymedia (of New York City) died in Santa Lucía del Camino, municipality in the state of Oaxaca, after receiving two bullet shots on the chest while he covering the confrontation between paramilitary groups and members of the Oaxaca People's Popular Assembly (APPO). The cameraman was found in front of a house from where the shots came.

30. During a meeting at the Plaza de Santo Domingo, Oaxaca, (with professors from Section 22 of the teacher's union and APPO supporters), participants detained reporter Federico Anaya, from TV Azteca, accusing him of sending wrong information and lies to the television channel. He was paraded along the streets, and was verbally and physically assaulted, with kicks, shoves and water bottles. While reporters and foreign correspondents tried to stop the APPO members, they were also assaulted and insulted. Finally, the journalists stopped a taxi at the entrance to a street in the historic centre of the city, and Federico Anaya was able to flee.

NOVEMBER

2. A projectile crashed on German Canseco's stomach, a photographer for *Proceso* magazine, while he was covering the confrontation between elements of the PFP and members of the APPO, as they were entering the Benito Juárez Autonomous University's buildings.

2. Octavio Nava, photographer from the Press One Agency, reported being harassed by agents of the Federal Preventive Police as he was taking photos in the Zócalo in Oaxaca City.

2. Marío Mosqueda, photographer for the Free Media Center Agency, reported that he had been detained and beaten on his legs, arm and back by agents of the Federal Preventive Police, while he was taking photos of the confrontation between elements of the PFP and the APPO.

3. During an operation to free the roads near the Benito Juárez Autonomous University in Oaxaca, the confrontation between the Federal Preventive Police (PFP) and members of the Oaxaca People's Popular Assembly (APPO) resulted in 13 injuries, amongst them photographers and reporters David Jaramillo, from *El Universal*; Miguel Dimayuga, from *Proceso*; and Jorge Brindis, from the Imagen Group.

4. A group of heavily armed men shot at the Radio Universidad facilities, and one of its antennas. The station had to suspend its transmission but was able to reinstate its activities shortly afterwards.

7. In response to aggressions perpetrated against Octavio Flores, correspondent for Radio AMLO in Oaxaca, the independent station called on the federal government, including Ulises Ruiz and Vicente Fox, to place full responsibility for the succession of incidents that had occurred, in particular the harassments and threats against journalists by groups from the state government.

10. During Andrés Manuel López Obrador's visit to Tlaxcala, which lasted less than an hour, supporters and security staff for the national leader of the Frente Amplio Progresista, assaulted media representatives to stop them from crossing a human wall and interview the leader. The group called *Las Panteras* and other followers of López Obrador, pushed, kicked and challenged local reporters and correspondents of *Milenio* and Televisa, who besides the physical aggressions were also robbed of watches and mobile phones.

10. The body of **Misael Tamayo Hernández**, director of the newspaper *Despertar de la Costa*, was found inside a motel located on the highway that connects with Lázaro Cárdenas, Michoacán, on the exit towards Ixtapa. Police groups from the municipality José Azueta, Guerrero, received an anonymous call. On November 7th, *Despertar de la Costa*, the newspaper with highest circulation in the Costa Grande, had reported the explosion of two grenades in the condominium *Casa Bonita*, located in Ixtapa.

11. Alberto López Cruz, photographer from the newspaper *Noticias* of Oaxaca, reported that as he was going home a person yelled, "It's the news reporter!" and at that moment two more individuals came out, threw him on the ground, kicked him on the face and stripped him of his photo camera. The reporter identified his aggressors as PRI militants.

14. An association of reporters in Monterrey denounced the increasing and high number of open and direct threats from organized crime, directed not only at the large media companies, but also at reporters. They reported that everyday there are less people who dare mention the names of *Zetas*, *Chapo*, Sinaloa Cartel, *La Barbie*, and Osiel Cárdenas. Specifically, there are very few reporters who go to the municipalities of Cerralvo, Sabinas Hidalgo, China, Bravo, Morelos and Anáhuac, located in the drug trafficking corridor of Northeast Mexico.

16. **José Manuel Nava Sánchez**, director from the newspaper *Excélsior* during the 2002-2005 period, was murdered inside his home. Based on the first investigations, it was reported that the house was missing a laptop, as well as some belongings of lesser value, which suggests a burglary or personal revenge. A week before being murdered, the journalist presented his book *Excélsior, el asalto final* (Excélsior, the final assault, Edamex, 2006), where he declared that there were

three factors which ultimately destroyed the paper: inside betrayal, large capital, and government complicity.

18. The directors of the weekly newspaper *Contrapunto* of Cozumel, Quintana Roo, David Jonathan Estrada Castillo, pressed charges before the Special Prosecutor for Crimes against Journalists of the Republic's General Prosecuting Office, and issued a complaint before the National Human Rights Committee (CNDH) against Cozumel's mayor, Gustavo Ortega, and other officials from his administration, for violating their right to freedom of expression. Estrada Castillo stated that last November 18th, he was detained in his home and sent to municipal jail although there was no apprehending order against him. He was detained for more than 24 hours, beaten, fake charges were made against him, such as insulting authorities and obstruction of police work. They also confiscated one thousand copies of his magazine, which included an article about alleged illegal support from the municipal president to some of the PAN candidates who were competing in the coming elections. According to the director, Cozumel's municipal president ordered his detention, as retaliation for said article which could not be circulated because of the confiscation.

20. The director of the weekly newspaper *Ecos de la Cuenca*, in Tepalcatepec, Michoacán, **José Antonio García Apac**, is missing. His family pressed charges at the Assistant Prosecutor's Office in Apatzingán, on November 25th. The family last heard from him on the 20th when the journalist called one of his sons to tell him that he was going from Tepalcatepec – where the editorial office is – towards Morelia, where he resided. The journalist had dedicated several hours of his investigations to drug trafficking in the state, known for settling accounts between local cartels. According to his family, a few months ago some unknown men followed the journalist, who had demanded the governor to act more aggressively against drug trade.

22. Concepción Domínguez, director of the newspaper *La Foja Coleta*, was threatened by some unknown individuals, after denouncing the death of a prisoner in the municipal police's headquarters, allegedly because of torture. The phrase "Pena de baño para Concha Avendaño" (bath penalty for Concha Avendaño), which refers to the Chiapas police practice of submerging the prisoner's head in the toilet, was written on one of the walls of the Belisario Domínguez school, which is in front of the newspaper's offices. According to Concepción Domínguez de Avendaño, her denunciation of Tomás Orlando Chan's death and the municipal police's refusal to pay compensation to his widow, are at the origin of the threats.

22. **Roberto Marcos García**, police reporter and assistant director of the magazine *Testimonio*, edited in Veracruz, and correspondent for the magazine *Alarma*, was murdered. According to sources from the General Prosecuting Office, a vehicle with Federal District plates ran over the reporter while he travelled on his motorcycle towards the Sea Group Command of the Public Security Ministry. The aggressors then shot him to death. There are still no lines of investigation. The journalist's daughter Divina García, reported that her father had received an anonymous phone call on the morning of the murder, and that recently he had received threats but he hadn't reported them.

23. Journalist Sanjuana Martínez who, some months ago, had published the book *El manto púrpura*, where she denounced cases of child abuse in the Mexican Catholic Church, received death threats via telephone. Martínez explained that in addition to the phone calls, in recent days several cars have followed her in an attempt to intimidate her. She held Mexico's cardinal, Norberto Rivera Carrera, responsible for any attempts against her security and that of her family. The reporter, who lived outside the country for 20 years, tells in her book about the case of Joaquín Aguilar, victim of sexual abuse at the hand of Mexican priest, Nicolás Aguilar, who was covered up by Norberto Rivera.

23. In Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, reporters David Fuentes and Claudia Gutiérrez, from television Channel 5; Blanca Carmona and Alejandro Quintero, from the early paper *El Diario*, and Teófilo Alvarado and Mauricio Rodríguez from the afternoon paper *PM*, were summoned by the First Judge on Civil Matters, José Luis Flores. The reason was that these journalists broke the news

that 10 agents of transit security, wearing uniforms and on working hours were caught drinking alcoholic beverages in a *gay* bar. The agents sued the journalists who were then summoned to make a declaration about the matter.

25. Three journalists were injured during confrontations between the Federal Preventive Police, PFP, and members of the Oaxaca People's Popular Assembly (APPO) over control of the Santo Domingo Plaza, which had remained in APPO hands for several weeks. The journalists hurt were: photographer Amaury Guadarrama, from the agency Cuartoscuro; Virgilio Sánchez, correspondent for *Reforma* and Abundio Núñez from *El Financiero*, who was hospitalized for contusions.

25. Blanca Hernández, photographer for *La Jornada* in Oaxaca, reported that after the APPO march, some APPO members were chased by elements of the PFP, and that as she was running amongst the crowd, she was hit by a club that damaged his camera lens.

25. In Oaxaca, Juan de Dios Gómez, reporter for the Indymedia Agency, was detained for several hours by agents from the PFP, and transported along with 40 people to the prison in Nayarit. The facts occurred while he was reporting on the march by APPO members at the Zócalo in Oaxaca City.

27. In Mexico City, while students blocked Insurgentes Sur on the University Campus, Carlos Maldonado, a reporter from Channel 11, was assaulted; at the time, he was doing an article completely unrelated to these facts.

DECEMBER

1. Carlos Ramos Mamahua, graphic reporter for *La Jornada*, was forcibly subdued by four elements of the 24th marine infantry battalion attached to the Presidential Guard corps. Ramos Mamahua tried to take photographs of the military presence at the San Lázaro Legislative Palace in the hours previous to President Felipe Calderón's commencement ceremony, when an element of the EMP ordered him out and immediately after, the marines immobilized him for a few minutes.

2. In a meeting held in Coahuila, supporters of Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) assaulted several journalists, after he spoke of the alleged information wall or black out imposed by national television companies to his movement, and mentioned that media representatives are "corrupt and sold-out". While AMLO spoke, people started shouting "Get out!" to the reporters that were there, to the point where two men started beating the Televisa correspondent, Milton Martínez, and later Daniel Aguirre, from the same company. Supporters and security agents for the Tabasco leader also started to assault the reporter from Azteca Noreste, Marconi de la Borbolla; photographer from the newspaper *Vanguardia* of Saltillo, Miguel Sierra; Miguel Ángel Reyna Flores, from the Infor Agency, and Leopoldo Ramos, correspondent from *La Jornada*.

6. In Xalapa, Veracruz, reporters Saúl Contreras and Rafael Saavedra, who work at the newspaper *El Mundo de Córdoba*, were threatened to death after reporting on drug trafficking. Saúl Contreras was travelling on his motorcycle near Fortín de las Flores, when he was intercepted by several armed men who travelled in cars with blackened windows. Rafael Saavedra was also threatened for publishing articles related to the execution of a Córdoba municipal policeman. They were both warned that they would be the next to die. Both journalists pressed charged before the Prosecutor's Office of the common code of law.

8. The columnist from the newspaper *El Gráfico*, of Oaxaca, **Raúl Marcial Pérez**, died after a shootout in the buildings of the paper. According to reports from Reporters without Borders, armed individuals barged into the paper's editorial office and opened fire on Marcial Pérez, who immediately died. The preliminary investigation by local police ruled out a potential professional motive to the attacks. Instead, it points to a probable settling of accounts: the indigenous organization Unity for Social Welfare of the Triqui Region (UBISORT), founded and led by Raúl Marcial, came into conflict with the Triqui Unification and Struggle Movement (MULT), which was allegedly responsible for the killing of UBISORT's general secretary in 1999. Raúl Marcial Pérez wrote every other day for *El Gráfico* the column "El otro lado de la moneda" ("The other

side of the coin”), in which he denounced attacks against human rights. Likewise, he was a critic of the Ulises Ruíz government, which is why he dedicated his last articles to the social conflict that Oaxaca is going through, and he cited the names of those responsible.

10. The reporter for *El Imparcial*, Haniel Morgán, reported that he had been assaulted by elements of the state prosecuting police, during the operation carried out in the buildings of the Oaxaca State Prosecutor’s Office by members of the Federal Preventive Police. The aggression occurred in the parking lot of the Prosecutor’s Office: his aggressors yelled, told him that he was an *ear*, attacked him, removed his equipment and his cells, and detained him for 40 minutes.

13. The director of magazine *Cambio del Sureste* of Yucatán, David Barrera Canto, was threatened to death by the local representative, Eduardo Sobrino Sierra, following repeated denunciations by the journalist of Sobrino Sierra’s alleged corruption.

23. In Hidalgo, the chief of security for the State Congreso, Arturo Morales Morales (who is also a Mexican Army colonel with license), attacked reporter Martín Flores Hernández, correspondent for Radio Fórmula. The journalist was insulted and slapped for having used the services of a *bolero* (shoe shiner) inside the Chamber, which is prohibited. The aggression by the soldier towards the Radio Fórmula correspondent ended when a group of reporters interceded. The Mayor Officer later apologized and recognised that the chief of security has “gotten out of control one or two times”.

2006 Report on attacks against freedoms of expression and information

Attacks against media workers

TYPE OF ATTACK	NAME	PROFESSION	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
Physical Threats	Ortega Quiroz, Julio César	Journalist*	Police	magazine <i>la Neta Times</i>	14/01/2006	Caborca, Sonora	Jesús Alberto Padilla Várela, Municipal Police	Published denunciations	RSF
Physical Threats	Rodríguez Parra, Concepción	Journalist*	General Information	Radio Lobo	17/01/2006	Pozo Rico, Veracruz	Unknown	Broadcasting of controversial items	EMAIL
Damage to property	Orozco Tey, Jaime	Reporter	Police	Newspaper <i>El Mañana</i>	06/02/2006	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Allegedly drug traffickers	Alleged links with drug trafficking	REF
Harassment	Flores Contreras, Ezequiel	Reporter	Political	newspaper <i>El Sur</i>	08/02/2006 **	Chilpancingo, Guerrero	Zeferino Torreblanc Galindo, state governor	Alleged defamation	UNÍ
Harassment	Comadlo, Javier	Reporter	Political	weekly <i>Lo Gaceta</i>	08/02/2006 **	Culiacán, Sinaloa	Rubén Félix Hays, former candidate of PRI for federal deputy	Covering news on location	CENCOS
Threats	Hetrera Rabogo, Guadalupe	Reporter	Political	newspaper <i>la Última Palabra</i>	28/02/2006 -AA	Cadereyta, Nuevo León	Ramón Quintonilla Sáenz, former mayor's secretary	Publications of one or series of articles	RSF
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Reporters	Político	Many	02/03/2006 **	Puebla, Puebla	Bodyguard of Mario Marín Torres, state governor	Covering news on location	JOR
Threats	Ruiz Canales, Fernando	Co-worker	Police	Radio 13 Noticias	07/03/2006	Federal District	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles	CBET
Threats	Díaz Vargas, Yolianan	Journalist*	Police	Radio 13 Noticias	07/03/2006	Federal District	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles	CBET
Murder	Olvera Bravo, Jaime Arturo	Correspondent	Police	newspaper <i>La Voz de Michoacan</i>	09/03/2000	Morelia, Michoacán	Unknown	Unknown	UNÍ
Murder	Téllez Contreras, Ramiro	Radio Journalist	General information	Radio channel Exa 95.7 FM	10/03/2006	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Allegedly drug traffickers	Unknown	JOR
Harassment	Not reported	Reporter	Político	Unknown	18/03/2006 **	Federal District	Estuardo Mario Bermúdez Molina, TEDF's judge	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR
Harassment	Not reported	Reporter	Political	Unknown	18/03/2006 **	Federal District	Estuardo Mario Bermúdez Molina, TEDF's judge	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR
Threat	Solís, Arturo	Director	Policíaca	Web Portal <i>En línea directa</i>	19/03/2006	Tamaulipas	Raúl Ramírez, editor in chief of PGJE	Publications of one or series of articles	EMAIL

TYPE OF ATTACK	NAME	PROFESSION	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Reporters	Police	newspaper <i>Noticias</i>	21/03/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Special operations police officers	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Reporters	Political	Many	29/03/2006	Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala	Rosalía Pereda's Bodyguards, former candidate of PAN to the Senate	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Murder	Pardo Ozuna, Rosendo	Journalist*	Political	newspaper <i>La Voz del Sureste</i>	29/03/2006	Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas	Unknown	Criticism	CFET
Physical Threats	Rodríguez, Francisco	photographer	Gossip/leisure/events	Newspaper <i>La Crónica de Hoy</i>	08/04/2006	Federal District	Public security staff of the Federal District	Covering news on location	CRO
Physical Threats	García Pérez, Antonio	Subdirector	General information	Newspaper <i>Enlace de la costa</i>	20/04/2006	Huatulco, Oaxaca	Group of illegal taxi drivers	Covering news on location	JOR
Physical Threats	Figueroa, Marina	Director*	Gossip/leisure/events	Programa de radio <i>Secretos W</i>	20/04/2006	Federal District	Celia Lora, daughter of the singer Alex Lora	Criticism	REF
Physical Threats	Agustiniano Domínguez, Roberto	Correspondent	General information	Newspaper <i>El Imparcial</i>	20/04/2006	Huatulco, Oaxaca	Group of illegal taxi drivers	Covering news on location	JOR
Threats	Rivera Millón, Rafael	Correspondent	General information	Newspaper <i>El Universal</i>	22/04/2006	Federal District	Mining trade unions group	Publications of one or series of articles	UNÍ
Threats	Lobato Castro, Alfredo	President	Political	Cooperative Press Society of RLER	26/04/2006	Acapulco, Guerrero	Félix Salgado Macedonio, mayor of Acapulco	Unknown	SNRP
Threats	Beteta, Óscar Mario	Journalist*	Police	News program Óscar Mario Beteta en Radio Formula	08/05/2006	Federal District	Allegedly a group of Los Zetas hit men	Criticism	CRO
Information blackout / censorship	Garda Bernejo, Carmen	Journalist*	Cultural	Newspaper <i>El Financiero</i>	16/05/2006	Federal District	Elements of the Presidential Army	Covering news on location	EMAIL
Threats	Moreno, Hiram	Correspondent	General information	Newspaper <i>La Jornada</i>	22/05/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Antonio González, employee of the director of public Works of the Townhall	Published denunciations	CFET
Threats	Fernández Portilla, Alberto	Director	General information	Noticiero BBM Noticias	22/05/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Antonio González, employee of the director of public Works of the Townhall	Broadcasting of controversial items	CFET
Physical Threats	Velasco, Román Carlos	Photographer	General information	Newspaper <i>Noticias</i>	24/05/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Municipal police	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Reporters	General information	Many	01/06/2006	Zacatecas, Zacatecas	Teachers of the <i>Movimiento Democrático Magisterial</i>	Covering news on location	CFET
Threats	Celestino González, Arturo	Reporter	Police	Newspaper <i>Expresión Popular</i>	07/06/2006	Chilpancingo, Guerrero	Artemio Mejía Chávez, director of the state's preventive police	Unknown	SNRP
Damage to property	Robles Guillen, Hugo Isaac	Radio Journalist	Police	Noticiero <i>Espacio Informativo</i>	09/06/2006	San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas	Unknown	Broadcasting of controversial items	JOR
Harassment	Rubio Cano, Raúl Ángel	Journalist*	Police	newspaper <i>El Regio</i>	12/06/2006	Monterrey, Nuevo León	Police	Publications of one or series of articles	RSF

TYPE OF ATTACK	NAME	PROFESSION	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
Physical Threats	Leyva Corona, Raúl	Cameraman	Police	TV Azteca	16/06/2006	Pachuca, Hidalgo	Members of AFI	Covering news on location	CBET
Physical Threats / material damage	Torres Monzalvo, Lucio	Reporter	Police	TV Azteca	16/06/2006 **	Pachuca, Hidalgo	members of AFI	Covering news on location	CBET
Threats	Fontova Román, Luis Fernando	Director	unknown	magazine <i>Masas</i>	21/06/2006 **	Guerrero	Unknown	Unknown	SNRP
Damage to property / Threats	Acuña López, Manuel	Reporter	Political	Newspaper <i>Por Esto!</i>	22/06/2006 **	Mérida, Yucatán	Allegedly following orders of Patricio Patrón Laviada, state governor	Publications of one or series of articles	UNÍ
Threats	Cantú Galindo, Rocío Armandina	Co-worker	Political	Radio Corpo Radio GAPE	23/06/2006 **	Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas	Francisco García Cabeza de Vaca, municipal president of Reynosa	Broadcasting of controversial items	JOR
Threats	Islas, Víctor	Co-worker	Political	Newspaper <i>El Mexicano</i>	25/06/2006	Mexicali, Baja California	Unknwon	Criticism	JOR
Physical Threats	Vivanco Ponce, Alejandro Benjamín	Reporter	Political	Newspaper <i>Provincia</i>	27/06/2006 **	Morelia, Michoacán	Alberto Narváez, spokesman of the State Public Security's Secretary	Covering news on location	EMAIL
Damage to property	Pozo López, Eduardo	Director	Police	Newspaper <i>El Informador</i>	28/06/2006 **	Guerrero	Unknown	Unknown	MIL
Physical Threats	López Morales, Efraín	Reporter	Political	Many	06/07/2006	Iguala, Guerrero	Jorge Albarrán Jaramillo, director of the newspaper <i>Diario 21</i>	Covering news on location	EMAIL
Disappearance / Threats	Ortiz Martínez, Rafael	Reporter	Police	Newspaper <i>Zócalo de Monclova</i>	08/07/2006	Monclova, Coahuila	Allegedly drug traffickers	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR
Threats	Ochoa Ramírez, Hubert	editorial director	General information	Newspaper <i>Chiapas Hoy</i>	13/07/2006 **	Chiapas, Chiapas	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles	CBET
Threats	Mejía Alejandre, Víctor	Columnist	Political	Newspaper <i>Expreso de Chiapas</i>	19/07/2006	Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles	EMAIL
<i>Murder</i>	Perea Quintanilla, Enrique	Director	Police	magazine <i>Dos caras, una verdad</i>	10/08/2006	Chihuahua, Chihuahua	Alleged drug traffickers	Criticism	UNÍ
Threats	Salgado Pedraza, Alejandro	Reporter	Police	Newspaper <i>ABC Noticias</i>	15/08/2006 **	Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala	Zacatelco Municipal Police	Unknown	UNÍ
Damage to property	Cruz, Luis Alberto	Photographer	Political	Newspaper <i>deformo</i>	23/08/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Police	Covering news on location	REF
Damage to property	Plata, Jorge Luis	Photographer	Political	Newspaper <i>Reforma</i>	23/08/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Police	Covering news on location	REF
Threats	Dresser, Denise	Columnist	Political	Newspaper <i>Reforma</i>	05/09/2006	Federal District	Unknown	Criticism	REF
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Police	Many	06/09/2006	Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua	Police	Covering news on location	JOR
Threats	Landa, Freddy	presenter	Political	Community radio Ayuuk	07/09/2006	San Juan Guichicovi, Oaxaca	Allegedly members of PRI connected to the Government	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR

TYPE OF ATTACK	NAME	PROFESSION	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
Information blackout	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Political	Many	07/09/2006 **	Federal District	Jorge Zermeño, president of the Chamber of Deputies	Covering news on location	JOR
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Cameramen	Police	6 de julio Channel	15/09/2006	Federal District	Public Security's Secretary staff	Covering news on location	CBET
Physical agresión / Threats	Rocha, Ricardo	Journalist*	Political	Many	24/09/2006	Oaxoco, Oaxaca	Members of APPO	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Physical Threats	Rodríguez, Carlos Jesús	Director	Political	Web Portal <i>gobemantes.com</i>	03/10/2006	Xalapa, Veracruz	Rafael Cruz, friend of the state governor	Criticas	EMAIL
Threats	González Ruiz, Ronay	Journalist*	General Information	Local radio	08/10/2006 **	Tapochula, Chiapas	Unknown	Unknown	JOR
Physical Threats	Pérez, Luis	Photographer	Political	Newspaper <i>Tiempo</i>	13/10/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Civil servant (employee) of the Health Infrastructures Office	Covering news on location	REF
Harassment / Threats	Zacarías Cervantes, Ciriaco	Correspondent	Police	Newspaper <i>Milenio Diario</i>	15/10/2006 **	Chilpancingo, Guerrero	José Luis Gimes Martínez, district's Sixth Civil Judge for criminal trials	Publications of one or series of articles	RSF
Physical Threats	Gómez, Ezequiel	Photographer	Political	Newspaper <i>La Jornada</i>	19/10/2006 **	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of PFP	Covering news on location	RSF
Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Police	Many	20/10/2006	Tapachula, Chiapas	Roberto Figueroa Mazariegos, businessman	Publications of one or series of articles	CBET
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Political	Many	20/10/2006	Mexicali, Baja California	Militants for Subcomandante Marcos	Covering news on location	CBET
Threats	López Roblero, Epifanio	Correspondent	Political	Newspaper <i>El Orbe</i>	24/10/2006	Tuzantán, Chiapas	Didier Rojas, mayor of Tuzantán	Publications of one or series of articles	EMAIL
Threats	Heras Sánchez, Antonio	Many	Police	Many	25/10/2006	Mexicali, Baja California	Unknown	Unknown	CBET
<i>Murder</i>	Will, Bradley	Cameraman	Political	Indymedia Agency	27/10/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Allegedly Carlos Sámano and Juan Carlos Soriano, policemen, and the PRI member Pedro Carmena	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Damage to property	Canseco, Germán	Photographer	Political	magazine <i>Proceso</i>	02/11/2006 **	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of APPO	Covering news on location	RSF
harassment	Nava, Octavio	Photographer	Political	Agencia Press One	02/11/2006 **	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of PFP	Covering news on location	RSF
Damage to property	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Political	Many	03/11/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of APPO	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Physical Threats	Flores, Octavio	Correspondent	Political	Radio AMLO	07/11/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Unknown	Covering news on location	CBET
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Reporter	Political	Many	10/11/2006	Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala	Followers and security team of Andrés Manuel López Obrador	Covering news on location	UNÍ

TYPE OF ATTACK	NAME	PROFESSION	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
Murder	Tamayo Hernández, Misael	Director	Police	Newspaper <i>Despertar de la Costa</i>	10/11/2006	Zihuatanejo, Guerrero	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles that might have been	JOR
Physical Threats	López Cruz, Alberto	Photographer	Political	<i>Diario Noticias</i>	11/11/2006 * *	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Militants of PRI	Unknown	RSF
Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Police	Many	14/11/2006 * *	Monterrey, Nuevo León	Allegedly drug traffickers	Publications of one or series of articles	CEPET
Asesinato	Sánchez Nava, José Manuel	Former director	Political	Newspaper <i>Excelsior</i>	16/11/2006	Federal District	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles	CEPET
disappearance	García Apac, José Antonio	Director	Police	Semanario <i>Ecos de la Cuenca</i>	20/11/2006	Tepalcatepec, Michoacán	Allegedly drug traffickers	Publications of one or series of articles	RSF
murder / Threats	García, Roberto Marcos	Reporter	Police	magazine <i>Testimonio</i>	22/11/2006	Xalapa, Veracruz	Allegedly José Cortés Terrones and Sergio Muñoz López	Unknown	UNÍ
Threats	Martínez, Sanjuana	Journalist*	General Information	Unknown	23/11/2006	Federal District	Unknown	Published denunciations	EMAIL
Damage to property	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Political	Many	25/11/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of APPO	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Physical Threats	Hernández, Blanca	Photographer	Political	Newspaper <i>La Jornada</i>	25/11/2006 * *	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of APPO	Covering news on location	RSF
Physical Threats	Maldonado, Carlos	Reporter	General Information	Canal 11	27/11/2006	Federal District	Young members of UNAM	Covering news on location	JOR
Physical Threats	Ramos Mamahua, Carlos	Photographer	Police	Newspaper <i>La Jornada</i>	01/12/2006	Federal District	Staff of Presidential Federal Office	Covering news on location	CENCOS
Physical Threats	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Many	Political	Many	02/12/2006	Cooahuila	Militants for Andrés Manuel López Obrador	Covering news on location	JOR
Threats	Contreras, Saúl	Reporter	Police	<i>Diario El Mundo de Córdoba</i>	06/12/2006	Xalapa, Veracruz	Allegedly drug traffickers	Publications of one or series of articles	UNÍ
Threats	Saavedra, Rafael	Reporter	Police	<i>Diario El Mundo de Córdoba</i>	06/12/2006	Xalapa, Veracruz	Allegedly drug traffickers	Publications of one or series of articles	PRO
murder	Marcial Pérez, Roil	Columnist	Political	<i>Diario El Gráfico</i>	08/12/2006	Juxtahuaca, Oaxaca	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles	RSF
Detention	Morgón Chávez, Haniel	Reporter	Police	<i>Diario El Imparcial</i>	10/12/2006 * *	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of PFP	Covering news on location	JOR
Threats	Jarrera Canto, David		Political	<i>Revista Cambio del Sureste</i>	13/12/2006 * *	Yucatán, Quintana Roo	Eduardo Sobrino Sierra, deputy	Published denunciations	CEPET
Physical Threats	Flores Hernández, Martín	Correspondent	Police	<i>Radiofórmula</i>	23/12/2006 * *	Pachuca, Hidalgo	Arturo Morales Morales, Head of security of State's Congress	Covering news on location	CEPET

Acts that may result in attacks and increased pressure on journalists

TYPE OF ATTACK	NAME	PROFESSION	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
Summons to court	Olivares, Ulises	Editor	Police	Weekly el <i>Vocero de Guerrero</i>	13/01/2006	Chilpancingo, Guerrero	Artemio Mejía, Head of Chilpancingo Municipal Police	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR
Notification of Detention	Cacho Ribeiro, Lydia	Journalist*	Political	Unknown	17/01/2006	Puebla, Puebla	Following orders of Supreme Court of Justice	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR
Detention	Ksheratto, Ángel Mario	Columnist	Political	Newspapers <i>Cuarto Poder y El Orbe</i>	04/02/2006	Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas	Agents of the State Public Prosecutor's Office	Failure to report to the police	RSF
Summons to court	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Journalist*	Political	Many	16/02/2006 **	Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua	Unknown	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR
Notification of Detention	Arvide, Isabel	Columnist	Political	Newspaper <i>Milenio Diario</i>	07/03/2006 **	Chihuahua, Chihuahua	José Jesús Solís Silva, former state attorney of Chihuahua	Alleged defamations	CEPET
Detention	Tavira, Nicolás	Reporter	Police	Newspaper <i>lo Crónica de Hoy</i>	29/03/2006	Federal District	Public security staff of the Federal District	Covering news on location	CRO
Detention	Martínez, Airamsol	Reporter	Police	Newspaper <i>La Crónica de Hoy</i>	29/03/2006	Federal District	Public security staff of the Federal District	Covering news on location	CRO
Detention	López Solana, Miguel Ángel	Reporter	Police	Newspaper <i>Notiver</i>	15/05/2006 **	Veracruz	Police	Alleged links with drug trafficking	RSF
Summons to court	Lemus Barajas, Jesús	Correspondent	Political	Newspaper <i>Lo Jornada Michoacán</i>	18/07/2006	Morelia, Michoacán	Jaime Mares Camarena and Mauricio Montoya, militants of a PRI branch	Publications of one or series of articles	CEPET
Detention / Threats	Ruiz, Néstor	Photographer	Political	<i>Sureste Agency</i>	10/10/2006 **	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of PFP	Covering news on location	RSF
Detention / Threats	Mota Figueroa, Gildardo	Reporter	Political	<i>Diario la Opinión</i>	10/10/2006 **	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of PFP	Covering news on location	RSF
Detention / Threats	Anaya, Federico	Reporter	Political	TV Azteca	30/10/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of APPO	Covering news on location	UNÍ
Detention / Threats	Mosqueda, Mario	Photographer	Political	<i>Centro de Medios Libres Agency</i>	02/11/2006 **	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Members of PFP	Covering news on location	RSF
Detention	Estrada Castillo, David Jonathan	Director	Political	Weekly <i>Contrapunto</i>	18/11/2006	Cozumel, Quintana Roo	Following orders of Gustavo Ortega, mayor of Cozumel	Publications of one or series of articles	UNÍ
Summons to court	Damage to property on a group of journalists	Reporters	Police	Many	23/11/2006 **	Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua	Traffic police	Publications of one or series of articles	JOP

Detention	Gómez, Juan de D
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Attacks against media

TYPE OF ATTACK	NEWS COVERED
Damage to property	Police
Threats	Political
Unlawful entry	Political
Censorship	Political
Damage to property	Political
Threats	Political
Threats	Political
Occupation of premises	Political
Damage to property	Political
Damage to property	Political
occupation of premises	Political
Damage to property	Police
Damage to property	Police
harassment	Political
Threats	Political
Damage to property	Police

Damage to property	Police	Canal 10 – State Channel	01/09/2006	Durango	Unknown	Unknown	JOR
Threats	Political	Radio La Voladora	06/09/2006	Amecamca, Estado de Mexico	Unknown	Broadcasting of controversial items	JOR
Threats	Political	Mary	07/09/2006	Juchitán, Oaxaca	Allegedly members of PRI connected to the government	Publications of one or series of articles	JOR
Damage to property	Political	Radio La Consentida	28/09/2006	Istmo de Tehuantepec, Oaxaca	Allegedly following orders of the state governor Ulises Ruiz Ortiz,	Criticism	CEPET

TEDF Tribunal Electoral del Federal District
UNAM Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

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TYPE OF ATTACK	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
harassment	Political	Newspaper <i>Cambio</i>	11/10/2006 **	Puebla, Puebla	Allegedly Mario Marín, state governor	Criticism	REF
Cancellation	Political	Radio program <i>Quinta Columna</i>	11/10/2006 **	Puebla, Puebla	Allegedly Mario Marín, state governor	Criticism	REF
Occupation	Political	Radio XHMAI-FM Súper Estéreo	24/10/2006 **	Mapastepec, Chiapas	Members and militants of Radio Mapache	Unknown	FIN
Damage to property	Political	Radio Universidad	04/11/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Unknown	Broadcasting of controversial items	JOR
Copies confiscated	Political	Weekly <i>Contrapunto</i>	18/11/2006	Cozumel, Quintana Roo	Following orders of Gustavo Ortega, mayor of Cozumel	Publications of one or series of articles	UNÍ
Threats	Police	Newspaper <i>La Hoja Coleta</i>	22/11/2006	San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas	Unknown	Published denunciations	JOR

CENCOS Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social
CEPET Centro de Periodismo y Ética Pública
CRO La Crónica de Hoy
E MAIL Correo electrónico
FIN El Financiero
JOR La Jornada
MIL Milenio Diario
PRO Proceso
REF Reforma
RSF Reporteros Sin Fronteras
SNRP Sindicato Nacional de Redactores de la Prensa
UNÍ El Universal

Acts that may result in pressure against media workers

TYPE OF ATTACK	NEWS COVERED	MEDIA	DATE	PLACE	PERPETRATOR(S)	ALLEGED CAUSES	REF
Temporary closure or definitive closure	Political	Emisora comunitaria Nandía	24/08/2006	Oaxaca, Oaxaca	Militants of PRI	Unknown	CEPET
Summons to court / Threats	Political	Newspaper <i>El Imparcial</i>	04/09/2006 **	Hermosillo, Sonora	Eduardo Bours, state governor	Criticism	UNÍ

* the term journalist(s) refers to a media worker of unknown specialization.

** the recorded date refers to the date of publication as often there is no other record of the date of the actual event.

INSTITUTIONS

AFI Agencia Federal de Investigación
APPO Asamblea Popular del Pueblo de Oaxaca
PAN Partido Acción Nacional
PFP Policía Federal Preventiva
PGJE Procuraduría General del Estado
PRD Partido de la Revolución Democrática
PRI Partido Revolucionario Institucional
RLER Responsabilidad Limitada Extra Radar

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