

News Archive 2008

- **[Going against the financing of drug dealers \(in Spanish\)](#)**

La Reforma , 09/19/08

In hopes of curbing the economic support of organized crime and encouraging its public denouncement, President Felipe Calderón sent the Legislature a package of initiatives related to security and judicial punishment. Accompanied in Los Pinos by Eduardo Medina Mora, attorney general, Calderón offered a message explaining that while police action to halt crime will not be stopped, it will also be necessary to engage in efforts to reduce the economic power of criminals.

- **[Riots revived, 19 dead \(in Spanish\)](#)**

El Norte, 09/18/08

The second burst of riots in less than three days resurged in penitentiary de la Mesa in Tijuana leaving 19 dead and 50 injured.

- **[U.S. Cities 175 Arrests of Traffickers in Drug Ring](#)**

The New York Times , 09/17/08

American officials announced what they called a significant blow to one of Mexico's largest and most ruthless drug cartels on Wednesday with the arrests of 175 people in the United States and Italy suspected of helping the group traffic drugs and launder profits.

- **[Mexican grenade attack shows no one is safe](#)**

The Associated Press, 09/17/08

Monday night's attack sent a clear message: Anyone, anywhere, is fair game when it comes to Mexico's intensifying violence. What wasn't clear was exactly who threw the two fragmentation grenades at the holiday celebration in this picturesque state capital, killing seven people and injuring more than 100 others.

- **[Mexico trims 2008 economic forecast on US woes](#)**

Forbes , 09/17/08

Mexico's treasury secretary said Wednesday he expects the economy to only grow by 2.5 percent by year's end. Mexico has repeatedly lowered its 2008 growth estimate as the economy in the U.S. - its chief trading partner - deteriorates.

- **[Is Mexico the new China?](#)**

The Christian Science Monitor, 09/11/08

Just as Mexico was becoming the rising star of global manufacturing in the 1990s, China's even cheaper wages turned that country into the world's factory. But now, with skyrocketing oil prices, escalating labor costs in China, and an appreciating currency there, companies targeting the US market are doing the math and giving Mexico another look. So-called "nearshoring" could generate a reverse globalization that brings manufacturing back to Mexico.

- **[Mexico's PRI leads poll ahead of election](#)**

Financial Times, 09/05/08

Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) is on course to become the country's most powerful political force following next year's mid-term elections, according to a poll published on Wednesday. The survey, carried out for the Reforma daily newspaper, reveals that the PRI now command 37 per cent of the vote compared with 36 per cent for President Felipe Calderón's centre-right National Action Party (PAN).

- **[Court outlaws Wal-Mart de Mexico worker vouchers](#)**

Reuters, 09/05/08

Mexico's Supreme Court ruled that the country's top retailer, Wal-Mart de Mexico, violated the constitution by paying workers in part with vouchers only redeemable in the chain's outlets, the court said Friday. Wal-Mart de Mexico, also known as Walmex and a unit of U.S. retail giant Wal-Mart Stores Inc., gave store coupons as part of salaries, harking back to exploitative labor practices of over a century ago, the court said.

- **[Army Detains Director of Public Security Office in Cárdenas, Tabasco \(in Spanish\)](#)**

El Universal, 09/05/08

The military and federal police are investigating police in the Tabasco city, who are suspected of ties with drug traffickers.

- **[Calderón presents Mexico's annual report in written form](#)**

Los Angeles Times, 09/02/08

A new law allows President Felipe Calderon to give his state of the nation report without having to appear before Congress, a move that avoids disturbances. There were no shoving matches at the door, no showdowns at the dais. Not a catcall was uttered. Instead, Mexican President Felipe Calderon on Monday delivered the annual state of the union report to Congress only in written form, skirting the sort of pandemonium that had broken out the previous two years.

- **["Human Rights are Not Respected in Mexico," says Amnesty International \(in Spanish\)](#)**

La Jornada, 09/02/08

Amnesty International (AI) declared that the Mexican government must guarantee public

security to comply with the multiple international human rights treaties it has signed. However, it seems the Mexican government has not adhered voluntarily to this responsibility.

- **[Can Mexico's Calderón stop the killings?](#)**

The Christian Science Monitor, 09/02/08

Tens of thousands protested drug violence this weekend. Many blame the president. Mexicans have long been fed up with the escalating violence. But 20 months after conservative President Felipe Calderón launched a massive military effort against drug violence, the bloodshed has only gotten worse. Mr. Calderón has scrambled to assuage public outrage, signing a national pact this month with the country's leaders to improve anticorruption measures for cops and form new antikidnapping squads. But the pressure is on.

- **[The Mexican Economy and the Insecurity Effect \(in Spanish\)](#)**

Excelsior, 09/02/08

The economic activities that allow the country to develop may stagnate if the authorities do not eliminate insecurity and organized crime, argued Enrique Castillo, president of the Mexican Association of Banks (ABM).

- **[Crude and oily](#)**

The Economist, 07/24/08

In his farewell address, George Washington gave warning of the dangers of political parties. Whenever possible, he said, each party would “make the public administration the mirror of the ill-concerted and incongruous projects of faction.” Mexico’s state-run oil company, Pemex, is accustomed to being the victim of ill-concerting, probably because it provides close to 40% of the government’s revenue. It is also in decline. Since the beginning of the year, Mexican politicians have been wrapped up in a debate about how to revive Pemex, which controls all aspects of petroleum in Mexico, from offshore exploration to the pump. All parties agree that things look bad.

- **[Latin America Policy at a Crossroad](#)**

Washington Post, 07/04/08

McCain arrived in Mexico City two days after Bush signed a \$400 million aid package to help Mexico battle drug cartels, viewed in Mexico as a hopeful sign of more cooperation between the countries. However, Senator John McCain’s trip to Colombia and Mexico made it clear that the shape of the United States’ relationship with Latin America will hinge on the outcome of the 2008 election.

- **[A Wary Friendship](#)**

The Economist, 06/19/08

Mexico and the United States move towards compromise on a plan to boost the fight against drug crime. Mexican officials hope that the Mérida Initiative will bring useful supplies to the country's law enforcement agencies, but also hope that it sends a message to the drug gangs that President Calderón will continue working against organized crime.

- **[Baja runs dry as Americans fuel up on cheap gasoline](#)**

Enlace , 06/17/08

Demand from U.S. motorists for Mexican gasoline is straining supplies in Baja California. Some stations began to limit the sale of diesel to \$100 per customer. Other stations ran out of diesel as well as premium gas.

- **[Toll Mounts in Mexico's Drug War](#)**

Los Angeles Times , 06/03/08

President Felipe Calderon says the violence is one measure of success: It shows that the cartels have been hurt badly and are now are lashing out at the government and one another.

- **[Rechaza Mouriño condiciones de EU \(Mouriño Refuses to Accept US Conditions\)](#)**

El Universal, 06/03/08

The Mexican Minister of Interior, Juan Camilo Mouriño, affirmed that the country will decline financial aid from the United States if conditioned to any benchmarks or certification process.

- **[What the Mexicans Might Learn from the Italians](#)**

The New York Times , 06/01/08

Law enforcement experts wonder if there are lessons that can be applied to the escalating crisis in Mexico, where close to 500 police officers and soldiers have died at the hands of warring drug gangs since 2006. Is there something in the way the Americans and Italians worked together that could be applied to a partnership with the Mexicans?

- **[Mexico takes economic gamble to keep fuel cheap](#)**

Reuters , 05/30/08

A \$19 billion fuel subsidy, meant to shield Mexicans from spiraling world oil prices, could swallow a chunk of Mexico's precious crude oil export windfall revenue this year, and may only delay an inflation spike.

- **[México y la Crisis Alimentaria \(Mexico and the Food Crisis\)](#)**

El Universal , Jorge Montaña, 05/30/08

In light of the current international food crisis, the increasing restriction of exports from

producing countries, and the unreasonable absence of the General Assembly and the Security Council to address the situation, Mexico needs to evaluate future policy options.

- **[U.S. conditions threaten Mexico anti-drug package](#)**

The Dallas Morning News , 05/29/08

The conditioning of the aid-package for Mexico's drug war to human rights and judicial reforms can jeopardize its acceptance from the Mexican Congress, due to concerns over sovereignty violations.

- **[Border governors head to Mexico amid wave of violence](#)**

Associate Press , 05/29/08

Crime-fighting and border security are expected to be the main topics of today's meeting between the Governors of California, Texas, New Mexico and six Mexican border states held in Mexico City.

- **[Iniciativa para reformar Pemex sí es constitucional: Presidente \(Initiative to Reform Pemex is Constitutional: President Calderón\)](#)**

El Universal, 05/28//08

Mexican President Felipe Calderón affirms that the initiative to reform Pemex is constitutional since the country will maintain exclusive ownership over the expropriation of oil and other derivatives.

- **[Mexico's War Against Drugs Kills Its Police](#)**

The New York Times , 05/28/08

Since President Calderon took office, at least 170 local police officers, several federal agents and high-ranking officials have been killed in retaliation from drug cartels. The ongoing war against drug lords might become more difficult without the US Congress approval of a 1.4 billion aid package for equipment and training of Mexican police.

- **[Impacta la Crisis a Clase Media \(Food Crisis Affects the Middle Class\)](#)**

El Universal , 05/28/08

Middle class Mexicans will likely spend up to 40% of their income on food. This will have a negative effect on the consumption of other goods such as entertainment, clothing and credit.

- **[Aprueba Senado de EU Iniciativa Mérida con 350 mdd \(U.S. Senate Approves Merida Initiative with \\$350 million\)](#)**

El Universal , 05/22//08

With 75 votes in favor of the measure, the U.S. Senate approved the Merida Initiative as part of the Iraq and Afghanistan supplemental spending bill, reducing the aid to \$350 million. The

Senate version of the legislation made the package conditional, depending on Mexico's ability to promote judicial reform and the ability of Mexican police and military to enforce anti-corrupt and humane practices.

- [**Rechaza Oposición Acelerar Reforma \(Opposition Refuses to Rush Reform\)**](#)
Reforma, 05/22/08

Despite Calderón's calls for a hasty approval of the energy reform he presented to the Senate in April, Mexican Senate opposition party leaders refuse to accelerate approval of the proposal. Senate leaders argue that consultative forums and debates are suitable for the responsible deliberation of his reform.

- [**Hard for Poor Nations to Hike Food Output: Mexico**](#)
Reuters, 05/19/08

During a visit to Mexico, German Chancellor Merkel discussed with President Calderón the rising price of food and the effects this would have on poor families in Mexico. In Mexico, corn tortillas are a staple food and prices have been further affected by farmers abandoning corn fields and competition from U.S. subsidized farms. Calderón stated the government has plans to boost agricultural output to aid Mexico's poorest citizens.

- [**New Phase Seen in Mexico's Drug War**](#)
Los Angeles Times, 05/18/08

After one of Mexico's bloodiest weeks against law enforcement officials, President Calderón sent 2,000 military troops to the northern state of Sinaloa to combat the drug traffickers that may have been responsible for the killings. The murder of the director of Mexico's federal police last week demonstrates that drug cartels are acquiring new levels of intelligence about government operations that are exacerbating the drug war.

- [**Ciudadanía Está Indecisa Sobre La Reforma A Pemex \(Mexicans are Undecided about Pemex Reform\)**](#)
El Universal, 05/12/08

A poll conducted by El Universal newspaper reveals that 29% of Mexicans are in favor of the Pemex reform presented to Congress by President Calderón last month, whereas 27% are against the reform and 44% do not have an opinion. However, 68% of Mexicans perceive that the reform will only benefit the federal government and businessmen while 32% believe the reform will benefit all Mexicans.

- [**Mexico's Police Chief is Killed in Brazen Attack by Gunmen**](#)
Washington Post, 05/09/08

Mexico's national police chief was gunned down inside his home in Mexico City sending a clear

message to the Calderón government as it attempts to settle drug violence across the country. In the past two and a half years, drug cartels have been responsible for over 6,000 killings and since then, the violence has continued to overwhelm the entire country, leaving few immune to the power of drug cartels.

- **[Mexican Drug Cartels Making Audacious Pitch for Recruits](#)**

Washington Post, 05/07/08

In the border town of Nuevo Laredo, the drug cartel Zetas placed a banner on one of the city's busiest roads. The banner detailed the drug gang's job offer: a good salary, good food, and care for family members. The banner targeted members of the Mexican army and deserters. This audacious display of recruitment tactics is not rare among drug cartels that are known for their daring efforts at gaining public support.

- **[FCH: Pobreza y Crimen Son Los Nuevos Desafios \(Calderón Says Poverty and Crime are the New Challenges\)](#)**

El Universal, 05/06/08

At Cinco de Mayo ceremonies in Puebla, President Calderón touted a new social plan that would tackle crime and poverty and would strengthen Mexico's Ministry of Social Development. President Calderón emphasized that poverty eradication and insecurity are national concerns that will be fought with unified efforts.

- **[Exponen Perredistas Solución a Su Crisis \(PRD leaders Propose Solution for Crisis\)](#)**

Reforma, 05/06/08

As members of Mexico's Party of the Democratic Revolution remain embroiled in a controversy over the party's internal election, leaders of the divergent factions offered solutions for the debate that has left the opposition party divided. Ortega supporters stated that an agreement should be reached in which López Obrador cedes his control of the party's strategy, while Encinas supporters stated that a solution begins with Ortega accepting defeat of the race for president of the party.

- **[Mexico Cites Reprisals in Killings of 9 Officers](#)**

New York Times, 05/05/08

Mexican federal officials working against organized crime are facing an onslaught of violent attacks resulting in the deaths of federal police officers and top leaders in Mexico's organized crime division. The attacks are perceived to be in retribution for Calderón's antidrug offensive in northern Mexico.

- **[Mexico's Objective: Better Education = Better Jobs](#)**

USA Today, 05/01/08

Mexico's poor quality of primary public education has become a growing concern for many Mexicans. In an effort to create better jobs and curb the flow of migration north, President Calderón has moved forward to reform Mexico's battered school system.

- **[Mexico Rebel Talks May Spur Investment](#)**

Associated Press, 04/30/08

President Felipe Calderón has decided to initiate discussions with Mexico's Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR), a rebel group connected to several gas pipe explosions in 2007. The talks may encourage foreign investment as Mexico attempts to pass a reform that may lure private partnerships into Mexico's waning state-owned oil company.

- **[Agilizan Justicia Los Juicios Orales \(Oral Trials Provide Justice\)](#)**

Reforma, 4/28/08

Mexico's judicial overhaul, approved in February, included measures that would allow oral trials. In Chihuahua, Nuevo León and Oaxaca, the three states in which oral trials have been active, legal trials have been found to be effective and have improved legal proceedings.

- **[Mexico Parties End Congress Sit-In Over Energy Bill](#)**

Reuters, 4/25/08

After two weeks of invading Mexico's Congressional chambers, opposition party leaders finally agreed to extend debate on President Calderón's plan to reform the state oil monopoly. The legislators agreed to 71 days of debate over the proposed legislation that would allow foreign and private companies to play a larger role in Pemex.

- **[From Mexico, Drug Violence Spills Into the U.S.](#)**

Washington Post, 4/19/08

As the relationship between Mexican drug cartels along the U.S.-Mexico border intensifies and their tactics become more complex, U.S. towns along the border bear the aftermath of the violence.

- **[In Mexico, A Tempest in Oil Barrel](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 4/19/08

Leftist politicians have invaded the Mexican Congress arguing that the reform includes measures for privatization of the state-owned oil company. Yet, the provisions of the bill only suggest a small number of private firms will be allowed to enter into partnerships with Pemex. The protests threaten to delay a vote until the August session.

- **[Exploran Pact \(Exploring a Pact\)](#)**

Reforma, 4/18/08

Members of President Calderón's National Action Party are proposing forums to debate the proposed energy reform. The forums will include discussions with different experts, will focus on specific issues associated with the reform, and will include debates to be aired on Mexico's congressional channel.

- **[Second Week for Mexican Congress Coup](#)**

USA Today, 4/17/08

Mexico's leftist lawmakers are entering the second week of a sit-in to delay passage of President Calderón's energy reform. Legislators opposed to the reform chained the doors of the Congressional chamber and blocked access to alternate entrances, forcing other congressional leaders to withdraw an invitation to India's President Patil to address members.

- **[Pide Calderón a Gobiernos de Latinoamérica Alzar la Voz \(President Calderón asks Latin American Governments to Raise Their Voices\)](#)**

El Universal, 4/15/08

At the World Economic Forum on Latin America, Mexico's President Calderón emphasized that the region should not focus on ideological differences between 'left' and 'right', but instead on economic development and prosperity. He remarked against paradigms of the past such as expropriations and state-intervention in the economy, and advocated liberty and productive investments that would create job opportunities for all.

- **[Mexico Cracks Down on Illegal Central American Immigrants](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 4/13/08

The journey for many Central American Immigrants headed for the United States begins by crossing the Mexico's border. Yet, U.S. Border Patrol reports the number of non-Mexican migrants stopped at the border has decreased nearly 60 percent. The drop is attributed to increased immigration verifications by officials in Mexico's Southern states.

- **[Mexico Leftists Camp in Congress to Stop Oil Plan](#)**

Reuters, 4/11/08

Senators and deputies opposed to President Calderón's plan for energy reform blocked both houses of Mexico's Congress after he presented the plan to the Senate Energy committee. The legislators who participated in the sit-in, mainly from Mexico's Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), oppose any plans to privatize Pemex, Mexico's state-run oil monopoly.

- **[Critica Gil Díaz Influencia de Telmex \(President of Telefónica Criticizes Telmex Influence\)](#)**

Reforma, 4/9/08

President of Telefónica, Francisco Gil Díaz, sharply criticized Telmex's monopoly in Mexico's fixed-line telephone industry. He said that the lack of competition has created a system of privileges that favor private interests and not public interests. Industry leaders and analysts spoke about barriers to Mexico's economic growth at a public seminar organized by the Woodrow Wilson Center and ITAM yesterday afternoon.

- **[Plantean Que IP Opere Refinerías \(Private Initiatives to Operate Refineries\)](#)**

El Universal, 4/9/08

President Calderón released five documents to Mexico's Senate yesterday that detail his administration's proposal for energy reform. The proposal suggests private investments should be used to improve Pemex's aged refineries and would allow third parties to build, operate and own oil ducts, installations and equipment. This move would enable private firms to operate in tandem with the government in the administration of Pemex.

- **[Mexico's Congress Urges Calderón to Defend Cemex from Chávez](#)**

Bloomberg, 4/8/08

Venezuelan President Chávez' announcement to nationalize the cement industry would threaten Cemex, a Mexican company operating in the country. Cemex has agreed to negotiate with Venezuelan officials to reach an agreement that would allow majority ownership to the government.

- **[State Oil Industry's Future Sets Off Tussle in Mexico](#)**

New York Times, 4/8/08

Mexican leaders are embroiled in one of the country's most sensitive and controversial debates. President Calderón wants to introduce an energy reform that would allow Pemex to enter in joint ventures with private firms to be able to engage in deep-water exploration of oil fields. Opposition leaders argue that the move would threaten the country's national sovereignty. Since the nationalization of oil fields in 1938, Pemex has provided massive revenues for the state; however, the company is still in high debt and has not been able to maximize productivity in recent years.

- **[When U.S. Economy Hurts, Mexico Feels It](#)**

Miami Herald, 4/7/08

Although Mexico is the most exposed Latin American country to the U.S. economy, the country is now able to buoy back more than ever before. However, Mexicans are still in need of an economic reform that promotes competition and reduces the power of the country's widespread monopolies.

- **[Mexico's Calderón Says Oil Data Too Bleak To Ignore](#)**

Reuters, 4/4/08

President Calderón believes that the production data coming from Mexico's troubled state-owned oil company should be enough to prompt legislators to move forward with an energy reform plan. Declining production levels in the past three years have led to nearly \$9 billion in lost revenues.

- **[Factbox-Mexico Energy Reform Debate](#)**

Reuters, 4/1/08

The latest developments surrounding Mexico's energy reform include an announcement from Mexico's ruling conservatives stating they will focus on consensus-building, growing pressure from members of the Institutional Revolutionary Party to release a proposal, and increased resistance from left-wing leader Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

- **[Mexico Opposition Sells DVDs Critical of Energy Plan](#)**

Bloomberg, 4/1/08

Supporters of Mexico's Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD) are selling a DVD that denounces President Calderón's plan to open the state oil industry to private and foreign investment. Party leaders say the DVD is intended to provide extended societal reach, especially for Mexico's illiterate population. The DVD also provides an alternative reform plan, and according to PRD leaders, has placed pressure on the government to delay submitting the proposal to congress.

- **[Drug Cartels Operate Training Camps Near Texas Border Just Inside Mexico](#)**

The Dallas Morning News, 03/30/08

Just miles from the Texas border, in Mexico's northern states of Tamaulipas and Nuevo León, drug cartels are conducting military-style training camps. Members of the training camps range from American teenagers to Mexican army deserters and are trained to carry out assignments on both sides of the border.

- **[Mexico to Start Afresh in Oil Reform Talks](#)**

Reuters, 03/30/08

Delaying the release of an oil reform proposal, members of Mexico's ruling National Action Party (PAN) announced they will consult with members of opposition parties to develop a new diagnosis for Mexico's oil woes. These efforts demonstrate Calderón's desire to achieve a wide-reaching reform, rather than a watered-down law that does not include private investments.

- **['Education Revolution' Falls Short in Mexico](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 03/29/08

The poor quality of schools widespread in Mexico is prompting President Calderón to push for

new education reforms. Declining quality of education has impeded efforts to modernize the economy and has trapped the country into what's perceived to be an unending cycle of poverty, profuse with low-skilled workers. Calderón's plan includes the goal of increasing college enrollment to 3.3 million before his term ends and would spend \$200 million for the expansion of state universities.

- **Calderón Sending 2,500 Troops, Agents to Fight Drug War in Juarez**

The Dallas Morning News, 03/28/08

U.S. law enforcement officials cautioned Mexican leaders about the growing spillover effects of violence caused by the drug war in Juárez. In response, President Calderón is sending 2,500 military troops, federal agents, intelligence experts, investigators and forensic specialists to the region.

- **Oil Exploration Issue Splits Mexico**

Los Angeles Times, 03/26/08

Leaders of Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) are urging President Calderón to present his plan for energy reform to Congress before the legislative recess on April 30. Calderón and PAN (National Action Party) leaders recognize the need for PRI support in order pass the bill. The debate has left Mexico's political class divided between leftists threatening civil disorder if the bill is approved and Calderón's centrist allies who are still weighing their support of the plan.

- **Mexico Says Drug Gangs Not Behind Bomb Attack**

Reuters, 03/25/08

Mexico's attorney general announced that drug cartels were not behind February's Mexico City bombing. Initially, Mexican officials announced that the perpetrators of the foiled plot were drug traffickers angry at President Calderón's anti-narcotics crackdown in northern Mexico.

- **Mexico Plans Water Supply Boost**

BBC, 03/25/08

President Calderón released a new water investment plan to tackle one of Mexico's most prolonged developmental challenges. The plan will expand supply networks, improve drainage and water treatment, and will ensure at least 95% of Mexicans have access to potable water.

- **Mexico's Ruling Party Delays Proposal for Energy Bill**

Bloomberg, 03/24/08

Leaders of Mexico's ruling party (National Action Party or PAN) said they will delay announcement of President Calderón's energy reform proposal. PAN congressional leaders expected to unveil the plan at the end of March, but will wait 15 more days to release further

information. Resistance from opposition parties and a controversy marring Calderón's administration could be pushing back the announcement.

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- **[Mexico Leftists Are Yet to Declare New Winner](#)**

Reuters, 03/23/08

Mexico's PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution) has suspended vote-counting since party officials are declaring foul play in last weekend's election of a new party leader. Supporters of Alejandro Encinas, of the radical faction of the PRD, and supporters of Jesús Ortega, of the moderate path, accuse each other's group of vote intimidation, ballot theft, and fraudulent tallying of votes. Both candidates dismissed calls to annul the vote by party founder, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. Although Encinas was leading in the early results, renewed vote counting showed Ortega with a stronger lead.

- **[López Obrador Returns to Mexican Spotlight](#)**

Financial Times, 03/19/08

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, former candidate to Mexico's presidency, has emerged again to mobilize his left-oriented support base against President Calderón's energy reforms. López Obrador is urging supporters to enter into a national strike and to block all major airports and roads if Calderón does not revise his energy reform plan, which includes opening Pemex to international investment.

- **[Está en Crisis PRD: Nuñez \(PRD Senator Says Party is in Crisis\)](#)**

Reforma, 03/21/08

Prominent PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution) Senator, Arturo Nuñez, says that the contested internal elections have left the party in a profound political crisis. The divide also threatens the PRD's power in fighting against Calderón's energy reform proposals. The winner, Alejandro Encinas, supports Andrés Manuel López Obrador's plan for energy reform while Jesús Ortega and his bloc of the Nueva Izquierda support Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas' plan.

- **[Comienza Cacería de Rivaes en PRD \(Hunt for Rivals in the PRD Begins\)](#)**

El Universal, 03/19/08

Alejandro Encinas, winner of Sunday's election for presidency of the PRD, is seeking to purge divergent factions from the opposition party. The PRD is composed of small leftist parties and coalitions, but is ultimately divided between supporters of Andrés Manuel López Obrador and his opponents. The clash between the two opposing blocs has led to bitter infighting and threatens the party's reach. Losing contender for PRD leadership, Jesús Ortega, is awaiting final confirmation of Sunday's election results.

- **[Mexico Grapples with Oil's Direction](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 03/18/08

As Mexicans celebrated the 70-year anniversary of the nationalization of Mexico's oil industry, President Calderón issued statements noting the need for private investment to revitalize

Mexico's increasingly unproductive state-owned oil company. Pemex provides nearly 40% of the government's revenue; however, productivity in recent years has dropped sharply. Simultaneously, Andrés Manuel López Obrador led protests against the administrations plans.

- [International Human Rights commission Files 'Dirty-War' Complaint Against Mexico](#)
San Diego Union Tribune, 03/18/08

For the first time, the Mexican government will be called on allegations of disappearances during the 1970s. An international human rights group wants Mexico to respond to the missing case of a man who was reportedly disappeared by Mexican soldiers from the state of Guerrero in 1974. Mexico's National Human Rights Commission says that nearly 300 people were disappeared due to government repression in the 1970s and 80s.

- [Quieren Aliarse a Multinacionales \(Mexico's Energy Ministry Seeks Partnerships with Multinationals\)](#)
El Universal, 03/18/08

Mexico's Energy Ministry released a proposal to legislators that stresses the need for Pemex to partner with multinational corporations to explore the country's oil and natural gas reserves. The document, presented to the Mexican Senate, also seeks private investments to effectively refine, store, transport and distribute Mexican oil and hydrocarbons.

- [Buscan Negociar Difusión de Spots \(Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute and Broadcasting Companies Aim to Negotiate TV Spots\)](#)
Reforma, 03/18/08

The President of Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute, Leonardo Valdés called for a meeting with television and radio broadcasters to discuss the concessionary air time for Mexico's political parties warranted by Mexico's new electoral reform. Last week, TV and radio companies did not air the ads sent by IFE officials.

- [Mexico Braces for an Oil War](#)
Time Magazine, 03/17/08

Opposition party leaders, mainly from Mexico's PRD, are already heavily opposing Calderón's energy proposal even though the energy bill has not yet been announced to Congress. President Calderón argues that Mexico's state-owned petroleum company, Pemex, is in need of foreign investment, yet opponents believe this equals privatization. Approval of the energy bill will bring fundamental changes to Mexico's constitution which currently bars external ownership.

- ['Peje' y Encinas Contralan PRD \(Peje and Encinas Control PRD\)](#)
El Universal , 03/17/08

After a tough competition, Alejandro Encinas (supported by the Andrés Manuel López bloc of

the PRD) won the top leadership position of the Democratic Party of the Revolution (PRD). The race remained tight in most states, but once the votes in Mexico City were tabulated, Encinas surpassed Jesús Ortega for the lead. Irregularities such as vote-buying, state government intervention, the use of force and ballot box burning were reported.

- **[Laura Bush, Mexico Fight Breast Cancer](#)**

Associated Press, 03/15/08

First Lady Laura Bush joined Mexico's First Lady Margarita Zavala to launch the U.S.-Mexico Partnership for Breast Cancer Awareness. Through the partnership, Zavala hopes to raise awareness and eliminate the prejudices attached to Breast Cancer. The number of women that die of breast cancer each year in Mexico has been increasing since the 1990s.

- **[Cartel's Suspected in Mexico Killings](#)**

Washington Post, 03/15/08

Mexican officials in Ciudad Juárez announced that a total of 33 bodies had been found in a drug cartel safe house. Shortly after the Juárez announcements, seven people were found dead in Guadalajara in a law office that represented the leader of the Sinaloa drug cartel. Both incidents are believed to be linked to rival drug gang violence.

- **[Mexico Congress Probes Cabinet Secretary](#)**

Associated Press, 03/14/08

On Thursday, Mexico's Congress approved the creation of a committee to investigate the potential wrongdoings of Interior Secretary Juan Camilo Mouriño. Opposition party leaders believe Mouriño used his position as a congressman to benefit the Mouriño family business.

- **[Chocan Por El Papel de AMLO \(Disagreement Over López Obrador's Role\)](#)**

El Universal, 03/14/08

The two leading contenders for leadership of the PRD (one of Mexico's opposition parties) have many similarities, but disagree on the role Andrés Manuel López Obrador should play in the party. Jesús Ortega, confident he will win the nomination this weekend, believes that the PRD is entrenched in old party tactics and that the party platform should be renewed.

- **[Mexican Foreign Minister Seeks to Thaw Relations with Cuba](#)**

Voice of America, 03/14/08

Mexico's Foreign Minister met with her Cuban counterpart in Havana to sign a bilateral agreement between the two countries. Calderón and his administration seek to improve the confrontational relationship with Cuba that unraveled between Castro and Fox.

- **[La Disputa por el Partido Divide al PRD \(Dispute Over Party Divides the PRD\)](#)**

El Universal, 03/13/08

Mexico's opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution is three days away from electing a national leader. The choice has left the party divided between two leading contenders, Jesús Ortega and Alejandro Encinas. Ortega has the support of more state leaders, but Encinas will have the support of the Lopez Obrador bloc.

- **[Conquista México a Europa \(Mexico Conquers Europe\)](#)**

Reforma, 03/13/08

Mexican exports to the European Union increased in the past seven years by nearly 152%. Last year alone Mexican sales increased 32%. The sharp increase in exports is due to the depreciation of the Mexican peso, which has weakened 78% since 2001.

- **[Rechazan Televisoras Anuncios del IFE \(Mexico's Leading Television Broadcast Companies Reject IFE's Regulations\)](#)**

Reforma, 03/13/08

Televisa and TV Azteca, Mexico's TV monopolies, refused to air campaign ads sent by the Federal Electoral Institute. The new electoral reform stipulates that political ads from political parties should be aired in free TV spots.

- **[Zavaleta Calls On Minister Mouriño to Resign](#)**

Bloomberg, 03/12/08

Member of the PRD opposition party and Speaker of the House, Ruth Zavaleta, is asking for Interior Minister Mouriño's resignation. Opposition leaders believe he broke the law when signing contracts with the state oil company on behalf of his family business. The controversy over the Interior Minister further stalls Calderón's efforts to build consensus around a polemic energy reform.

- **[PRI: Son Viables Alianzas en Pemex \(Pemex Alliances are Viable-PRI\)](#)**

El Universal, 03/12/08

The PRI parliamentary group issued a proposal that endorses strategic alliances to modernize Pemex. The plan supports partnerships with other state-owned oil companies that possess more efficient production technologies, but does not mention the privatization of Pemex, which would require a change to Mexico's constitution.

- **[Mexico's Pemex Diving Into Deeper Waters](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 03/11/08

Pemex says it is developing a hydrocarbons plant that will require deep underwater exploration

of natural gas fields. The new fields are in the Gulf of Mexico and exploration will require significant expenditures.

- **[Mexico GDP Revision May 'Surprise', Calderon Says](#)**

Bloomberg, 03/11/08

Changes to Mexico's growth rate calculations could increase GDP by at least 10% and could bring Mexico's economy to \$1 trillion say financial analysts. The new figures may indicate that free trade agreements and privatizations generated more growth than initially reported.

- **[Mexico's Interior Minister Under Pressure to Quit](#)**

Los Angeles Times, 03/11/08

After publishing contracts that show Mexico's Interior Minister Juan Camilo Mouriño had represented his family's business in transactions with PEMEX while serving as a top energy official, Lopez Obrador is advocating a congressional investigation against the young and rising political leader. A recent public opinion poll conducted by the newspaper El Milenio, reveals that two thirds of Mexicans believe Mouriño should resign.

- **[Intacta, Relación Bilateral \(Bilateral Relationship Intact\)](#)**

El Universal, 03/08/08

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe stated that the Colombia-Mexico bilateral relationship remained strong despite the deaths of four Mexicans in the Colombian bombing of a FARC camp in Ecuadorian borders.

- **[Mexico Asks Army to Respect Citizen Rights South of Texas Border](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 03/08/08

Mexico's National Human Rights Commission issued a statement to Mexico's military requesting the protection of the constitutional rights of citizens along the Mexico-U.S. border. The request comes as residents along the border continue to claim mistreatment and unjustified detention. President Calderón has sent over 24,000 troops to Mexico's northern region to combat organized crime.

- **[Mexico Seizes Nearly US\\$12 Million Bound for Panama](#)**

International Herald Tribune, 03/08/08

Mexican officials captured close to US\$12 Million in cash while inspecting a container in a West coast port. The container was loaded on a Liberia-flagged ship and was headed to Panama.

- **[Mexico Stunned by Presence of its Citizens at FARC Camp](#)**

Arizona Daily Star, 03/08/08

Five Mexican nationals were killed in the March 1st Colombian bombing of a FARC camp in Ecuadorian territory. The Mexican visitors were expected to speak at a FARC meeting, but their presence continues to generate questions of a potential EPR (Mexico's Popular Revolutionary Army) and FARC connection.

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- **[Mexico's Calderon Pushes for Panama Trade Deal](#)**

Reuters, 03/05/08

Hoping to diversify exports, President Calderón met with government officials in Panama to move forward in discussions for a Mexico-Panama trade deal.

- **[Mexico Starts TV Campaign to Support Oil Bill](#)**

Bloomberg, 03/05/08

President Calderón's administration released a [TV ad](#) that promotes the deep water exploration of oil fields and touts foreign investment as one of the means to achieving greater oil output. The ad was released prior to Calderón's announcement of an energy reform plan, but it is aimed at garnering public support for what is expected to be an unpopular initiative.

- **[Mexico: U.S. Frees Drug Lord](#)**

New York Times, 03/06/08

Francisco Arellano Félix, the former leader of a drug cartel in Tijuana, has been released from a U.S. prison. He was extradited to the United States in 2006 following a 13-year detention in Mexico.

- **[Mexico Criticizes Colombia's Ecuador Raid](#)**

Reuters, 03/05/08

President Calderón joined leaders from Brazil and Nicaragua in condemning Colombia's raid to neighboring Ecuador in an attempt to kill a FARC guerilla leader. Mexico's president pledged to help both countries resolve the dispute.

- **[Mexico Bomb Plot Ordered from Sinaloa](#)**

Washington Post, 03/04/08

An unknown man from Sinaloa state was identified as the person responsible for ordering the killing of a Mexico City police commander who oversaw weapons seizures and arrests of several members of the Sinaloa drug cartel. February 15th's failed bomb plot left the bomber dead and an accomplice in hospital; police are still searching for more suspects.

- **[Mexico Sets Stimulus Plan](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 03/03/08

Paralleling the United States, Mexico will inject a \$5.6 billion package of tax breaks, discounts and spending programs into the economy. Despite having a stable banking and financial system, Mexico is still experiencing a slowdown in growth given its interdependence with the U.S. economy.

- **[A Mexican Take on the Primary Race](#)**

Time Magazine, 02/29/08

The U.S. presidential election, unlike any other election faces direct scrutiny from individuals all around the world. Closely monitoring this year's election are Mexican citizens who will suffer from any changes to immigration policies and NAFTA.

- **[Llama México a Buscar Solución Pacífica \(Mexico calls for Peaceful Resolution\)](#)**

El Universal, 03/03/08

Mexico's foreign ministry issued a statement calling for a peaceful solution and the suspension of hostilities between Ecuador and Colombia. The Mexican government vowed to help both countries resume diplomatic discussions.

- **[Lanza Valdés Plan Sobre Propaganda \(Valdés Announces Plan for Campaigning\)](#)**

Reforma, 03/03/08

The new leader of Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute, Leonardo Valdés, announced a proposal for the rules and criteria of campaigning with public funds and resources. In a meeting with leaders of the political parties and agency members, several documents were presented regarding the terms of campaign spending.

- **[Homeland Security Chief Praises Mexico's Fight Against Drug Traffickers](#)**

San Diego Union Tribune, 02/28/08

In a cabinet-level meeting with officials from Canada and Mexico, Secretary Michael Chertoff commended President Calderón's strong resolve against Mexico's most powerful drug lords.

- **[Key Mexico Party Seen Opposing Oil Alliances](#)**

Reuters, 02/28/08

Mexican senator Manlio Beltrones, an influential figure in one of Mexico's leading opposition parties, announced that the PRI would not support an energy reform plan that includes private sector joint partnerships. President Calderón needs the full support of PRI members of Congress to approve any energy reform legislation and has suggested private partnerships in order to increase the efficiency of PEMEX.

- **[México Intenta una Reforma Judicial Para Ganar Transparencia \(Mexico Attempts Judicial Reform to Gain Transparency\)](#)**

Wall Street Journal Americas, 02/28/08

Mexico's judicial system will incur significant changes when legislators approve a constitutional reform that will include oral trials and transform Mexico's inquisitorial system to an accusatorial system. Many argue that the changes are not enough and hoped that the reform would include the institutionalization of juries in legal proceedings. President Calderón contends that the changes will bring about more transparency and agility in the administration of justice in Mexico.

- **[México, Entre Países de América Latina más Peligrosos Para Periodistas \(Mexico, Among Most Dangerous Countries in Latin America for Journalists\)](#)**

El Universal, 02/28/08

The Rory Peck Foundation, an organization dedicated to the promotion of freelance journalism around the world, announced that the number of threats, attacks and disappearances against journalists in Mexico is continuing to increase. Representatives from the organization believe that Mexico's fragile democracy is in need of more freedom of expression, access to information and objective and critical journalism.

- **[Two Laws Target Smokers in Mexico City](#)**

Los Angeles Times, 02/28/08

The Mexican Senate and House of Deputies passed a federal law that limits smoking in some public indoor places, while Mexico City legislators passed a similar law banning smoking in all public spaces. Many believe that these laws will not be aggressively enforced.

- **[Mexico Says Drug Traffickers Behind Bomb](#)**

Associated Press, 02/27/08

Mexican authorities have concluded that a drug cartel was behind the Mexico City bombing aimed at a high-ranking police chief. While police officials did not mention which cartel was involved, they announced that a search for more suspects is underway.

- **[Warrantless Searches Removed From Legislation in Mexico](#)**

New York Times, 02/27/08

Mexico's House of Deputies removed a controversial measure from a bill that would overhaul Mexico's aged justice system. In the initial bill, police forces would be permitted to enter and search homes without a warrant; however, the provision was scrapped yesterday. The change was approved by the House of Deputies and will seek approval in the Senate. All 31 states must approve the reform before the law can go into effect.

- **[Mexico's Cantarell Oil Output Slides Further](#)**

Reuters, 02/26/08

Mexico's largest oil field, Cantarell, is continuing to produce record-low output levels. At its peak, the oil field accounted for 70% of Mexico's oil output. Now, the massive oil field is responsible for only 43% of the country's oil output.

- **[Mexico's Revised Justice System Targets Drug Cartels](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 02/25/08

Mexican legislators are expected to vote on a critical justice reform bill that will transform Mexico's justice system. Advocates argue that the bill is necessary to improve public security and bring those involved in organized crime to justice, but others argue that it will lead to an increased number of human rights violations.

- **[Mexico Holds 4 Suspects in Bombing](#)**

San Diego Union Tribune, 02/25/08

Four individuals were placed under house arrest for last week's failed bombing attack on Mexico City's police commander. The motives behind the bombing are still unknown, but investigators believe they are linked to organized crime.

- **[Mexico City Mayor Wants to Revive Aztec Language](#)**

San Diego Union Tribune, 02/22/08

Marcelo Ebrard, Mexico City's leftist mayor, announced plans to institutionalize Nahuatl, Mexico's ancient native language, in the city government. Plans include classes for city government officials and the distribution of booklets about Aztec culture to public servants.

- **[Mexico's Lopez Obrador Says Protests Will Shut Nation](#)**

Bloomberg, 02/24/08

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, former PRD presidential candidate, urged supporters to protest against President Calderón's energy reform proposal which may open Mexico's oil monopoly to private and foreign investment.

- **[Aprueban Diputados en Comisiones La Reforma Judicial \(Chamber of Deputies Approves Judicial Reform\)](#)**

Proceso, 02/21/08

Mexico's Chamber of Deputies approved a controversial judicial reform last week that will move the bill to the Senate for a final vote by Mexican legislators this week. The reform will incorporate oral trials into legal proceedings, amend article 16 of Mexico's Constitution and will include a series of other contentious measures.

- **[Avanza Tasa de Desempleo en el País \(Unemployment Rate in Mexico Increases\)](#)**

El Universal, 02/21/08

The unemployment rate in Mexico has increased to 4.06% over the course of the past year. Economic analysts expect the trend to continue into 2008 and attribute the increase to the slow growth of the U.S. economy.

- **[Necesario Reformar la Política Petrolera Pero No la Constitución: Cuauhtémoc \(Necessary to Reform Oil Policies, But Not the Constitution: Cuauhtémoc\)](#)**

Milenio, 02/21/08

Longtime opposition party leader, Cuauhtémoc Cardenas, declared his support for Andrés Manuel López Obrador's energy reform proposal that dismisses the privatization of Pemex. He suggested his support for private, national and foreign investment insofar as the constitution is not violated.

- **[Anuncia Calderón Reforma Integral en Bachillerato \(Calderón Announces High School Education Reform Proposal\)](#)**

El Universal, 02/21/08

President Calderón announced a comprehensive reform plan that would tackle Mexico's education deficit. The plan includes measures to reduce the number of failing high school grades, decrease drop-out rates and would encourage high school enrollment.

- **[Deadly Bomb in Mexico Was Meant for the Police](#)**

New York Times, 02/21/08

Officials in Mexico have determined that the bomb that exploded in an unknown man's hand in Mexico City late last week was intended for a police official's car. The blast left several people injured including the alleged accomplice of the bomber.

- **[Mexico's Human Rights Commission Investigates Border Shooting](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 02/20/08

Against a backdrop of questions regarding the agency's credibility, Mexico's Human Rights Commission is moving forward to investigate the army's role in a car shooting at a border checkpoint. The attack comes shortly after the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights cautioned against the army's continual presence in combating domestic crime.

- **[Mexico City Bomber's Motive Unclear, Police Say](#)**

New York Times, 02/17/08

Investigators still remain unsure of the reasons behind the Friday bombing near a Mexico City police station. While some speculate a potential link to drug cartels, no hard evidence has been found to confirm this theory. The bomber is believed to have died in the attack.

- **[Putting a Spotlight on the Massacre of 1968 in Mexico City](#)**

Los Angeles Times, 02/16/08

A cultural center in Mexico City will be dedicated to exploring the massacre of pro-democracy supporters in Tlatelolco Plaza in 1968. The massacre occurred on the eve of the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City and is at the center of the debate against the Mexican government's 'dirty war'. The death toll and the government's role in the massacre are still ambiguous as investigations into the massacre have withered away.

- **[As Mexico's Oil Reserves Drop, Calderón Thinks the Unthinkable](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 02/16/08

Leaders of opposition parties in Mexico believe that President Calderón and members of his party are planning to privatize Mexico's oil monopoly. Pemex has been the source of significant government revenues, but is facing a drop in production capabilities as reserves are waning. Legislatures from all three major parties are moving forward to debate potential reforms for Mexico's vital oil sector.

- **[Bomb Kills One and Wounds Two in Mexico City](#)**

Reuters, 02/15/08

Near Mexico's security ministry, a bomb exploded leaving several injured and causing the

evacuation of nearby buildings. Government authorities are investigating the motives behind the attack and suspect involvement from a left-wing rebel group or an organized crime gang.

- **[Calderón Returns to Mexico with Much to Do](#)**

Los Angeles Times, 02/15/08

Calderón's visit to the U.S. revealed that his next five years in office will require more than battling drug cartels in northern Mexico. He will have to develop a plan to reinvigorate the Mexican economy and address the deficiencies in Mexico's tax and education systems in order to deter massive waves of migration. While in California, Calderón met with local officials and members of the immigrant community in Los Angeles.

- **[Mexico's Rights Body 'Failing'](#)**

Financial Times, 02/14/08

Human Rights Watch announced that Mexico's National Human Rights Commission has had a limited impact in responding to victims involved in abuse cases. Human Rights Watch also claimed that the institution has not taken an active stance in promoting reforms to prevent human rights abuses. Mexico's National Human Rights Commission gained autonomy from the Mexican government in 1999.

- **[Calderón Urges Better Cooperation in Tightening Border](#)**

San Diego Union Tribune, 02/13/08

In an address to California's state legislature, Calderón called for safe and legal migration accompanied by improved border security. He also remarked about the steps his administration was taking to create jobs and reduce migration into the U.S.

- **[Mexican President Pledges to Boost Economy](#)**

Chicago Union Tribune, 02/13/08

Calderón, in Chicago, urged Mexicans abroad to help him revitalize the Mexican economy. He mentioned the broad details of an economic development plan that would channel remittances from abroad to schools, infrastructure and other projects. He pledged support to immigrants and blamed organized crime along the border for the negative image of Mexicans in the U.S.

- **[México Es Otra Vez El País Más Letal Para Periodistas \(Mexico is One More Time the Most Lethal Country for Journalists\)](#)**

El Seminario, 02/13/08

A report released by Reporters Without Borders declared Mexico the most dangerous country for journalists. The report also concluded that Mexican authorities were doing little to lessen violence against reporters.

- [Mexico's Manufacturers Seek New Markets](#) *Financial Times*, 02/12/08

Maquiladores, export-processing plants along the Mexican border, are highly dependent on the U.S. economy. When the Northern economy began to slump after 2001, employment in the manufacturing industries began to fall sharply. But now, maquiladores are looking to export to non-traditional markets in Peru, Chile and Brazil.

- [During U.S. Visit, Calderón Pushes for Fair Treatment of Mexicans](#)

The Dallas Morning News, 02/12/08

While in Boston, Calderón highlighted the reforms his administration passed through Congress during his first 12 months and advocated human dignity for immigrants working abroad. In his visits to Boston and New York, the leader met with local and state officials as well as with business executives.

- [Sostendrá Calderón Encuentro Con Comunidad Mexicana en Chicago \(Calderón Will Hold Meeting with Mexico Community in Chicago\)](#)

El Universal, 02/12/08

President Calderón is expected to meet with the Governor of Illinois, Chicago's Mayor, and migrant organization leaders. He will also hold a meeting with members of the Mexican community in a Chicago public school.

- [Advierte Valdés de Cambios en el IFE \(Valdés Warns of Changes in IFE\)](#)

Reforma, 02/12/08

The new President of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE), Leonardo Valdés Zurita, warned of the fast-paced nature of changes that would occur within Mexico's electoral agency. He remarked that the electoral reform passed last year warrants the restructuring of the agency. Valdés also advocated measures to increase civic education in Mexico.

- [In Mexico, An Energized Economy Raises Hopes](#)

USA Today, 02/10/08

Despite the dependency on the U.S. economy, Mexicans are experiencing a slow, but dramatic economic transformation. Many Mexicans, in all regions of the country are demonstrating signs of renewed optimism and hopeful entrepreneurship.

- [Mexican President Felipe Calderón's U.S. Visit Could Highlight Illegal Immigration Debate](#)

The Dallas Morning News, 02/09/08

The timing of President Calderón's visit to Mexico, in the middle of U.S. presidential campaign season, is expected to reignite the debate on illegal immigration. His visit will allow him to reach

out to Mexican communities in the United States and will fortify Calderón's relationship with U.S. investors. Calderón, an outspoken critic of immigration rhetoric, is expected to highlight the hard work and economic benefits of immigrants in his five-day, five-city tour. He will visit with U.N. officials in New York and U.S. officials in Boston, Chicago, Sacramento and Los Angeles.

- **[Mexico's Calderón to Reduce Army Role in Drug War](#)**

Reuters, 02/06/08

In a meeting with the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, President Calderón announced that the Mexican government must work harder to strengthen police forces in order to reduce army involvement in the fight against organized crime. Human rights groups in Mexico have criticized Calderón for deploying 25,000 troops to battle drug cartels, stating that several have committed abuses.

- **[Mexico Police Caught Between Drug Crackdown, Cartels](#)**

The Arizona Republic, 02/05/08

The Mexican government announced a plan to investigate high-ranking police commanders to purge police forces with potential links to drug smugglers. Drug-trafficking has become an attractive option for poorly paid police officers who are typically threatened by drug-related violence.

- **[Mexico's Programme to Aid Jailed Mothers](#)**

BBC News, 02/04/08

A Mexican program allows babies born in jail to remain with their mothers until the age of six. Representatives of the program argue that when imprisoned women are allowed to keep their children, they are less likely to become repeat offenders.

- **[The African Presence in Mexico Breaks New Ground](#)**

Los Angeles Times, 02/02/08

An exhibition of paintings, photos, and historical texts in Los Angeles depicts the growing influence of African culture in Mexican society. Afro-Mexicans have had an ambiguous role within Mexican history spanning decades of racism and animosity while confronting general Mexican ignorance of their cultural contributions.

- **[Mexican Farmers Protest End of Corn-Import Taxes](#)**

New York Times, 02/01/08

Farmers crowded Mexico City in opposition to the last phase of NAFTA which calls for the end of tariffs on corn from the United States. The farmers, unions and other coalitions fear that inexpensive corn from the U.S. market will decrease the competitiveness of small rural farmers.

- **[Remittances to Mexico Drop as U.S. Economy Slows, Enforcement Increases](#)**

The Dallas Morning News, 01/31/08

Considerably rising in recent years, remittances to Mexico are seeing a sharp decline. Among the factors contributing to the downturn are the slow U.S. economy, tougher immigration legislation, and increased unemployment in the construction industry.

- **[A 'Sanctuary' For Immigrants in Mexico](#)**

Los Angeles Times , 01/31/08

The mayor of a suburb outside of Mexico City has declared his municipality a sanctuary town for Central American immigrants. Thousands of immigrants from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador have passed through the city of Ecatepec for the past decade, many settling before they continue the journey north.

- **[Mexico to Focus on Crimes Against Women](#)**

Associated Press, 01/31/08

Calderón's administration announced the creation of a special prosecutor position for violence against women. NGOs and human rights groups have prompted action from government leaders to investigate the killings of over 423 women along the U.S.-Mexico border since 1993.

- **[The Green Gold of Mexico](#)**

Chicago Tribune, 01/30/08

Under NAFTA, avocado exports are gaining appeal both in Mexico and in the United States. Mexican farmers, weakened by corn imports from the U.S., are benefiting from high avocado exports as U.S. demand for the exotic fruit has significantly increased. Yet, the production of this lucrative crop still poses several challenges for Mexican farmers.

- **[Anti-Trust Law Not Energy Dealbreaker-Mexico Party](#)**

Reuters, 01/29/08

Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has stated to President Calderón that the energy reform should be part of a larger plan that includes increased competitiveness for Mexican businesses and reduces the power of monopolies.

- **[Mexico Lawmakers Threaten Walkout Over Energy Reform](#)**

Bloomberg, 01/28/08

One of Mexico's leading opposition parties, the PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution), is vigorously opposing President Calderón's energy reform that includes opening the state's oil monopoly (Pemex) to foreign and private investment. Waning oil reserves, declining

productivity, and the need for investments in deep-water exploration have driven government officials to consider the entry of foreign capital as viable option for Pemex's future.

- **Secretary of Government meets with the President of the Chamber of Deputies**

El Universal, 01/28/08

In an unusual meeting, Juan Camilo Mouriño, the new Secretary of Government, met with Ruth Zavaleta, President of the Chamber of Deputies and a member of the PRD, to discuss the legislative agenda.

- **Mexico Arrests Man in Killing of Cardinal**

New York Times, 01/27/08

A man believed to have played a role in the assassination of Cardinal Posadas Ocampo in 1993 was arrested in Tijuana. The man detained by Mexican police forces is perceived to be a member of one of the most violent cartels in Mexico and his arrest is considered one of several important blows to drug cartels this month.

- **Mexico Says Crackdown is Pressuring Cartels**

Houston Chronicle, 01/27/08

Mexican federal officials are confident in the government's efforts against drug cartels across Mexico. Despite facing daunting challenges, officials believe that the country is fully capable of controlling the violence and crime spurred by the drug trade.

- **Mexico's Narco-Insurgency**

Time Magazine, 01/25/08

President Calderón's continued military-style approach to battling organized crime has entered a new phase in the drug war. Typically, the violent confrontations occurred between rival gangs, but increasingly, the struggle has evolved into drug cartels against Mexican police and military forces. In the past month, Calderón's deployment of military troops to the border states led to the capture of key figures in Mexico's ring of organized crime.

- **Mexico Anti-Drug Official Says Target of Hit Men**

Reuters, 01/24/08

Mexico's deputy attorney general claims that men arrested in connection with organized crime and potentially affiliated with the Sinaloa drug cartel were planning to kill him. Although drug gangs repeatedly attack local officials, attacks against federal are rare.

- **U.S. Official Says Drug Aid Package to Mexico Won't be Tied to Extraditions**

San Diego Union Tribune, 01/24/08

Approval of the Merida Initiative, a \$1.4 billion counternarcotics proposal for Mexico, will not be dependent on past or current performance on extraditions. However, the anti-drug proposal is expected to increase assistance on extraditing suspects between Mexico and the U.S. The statements made by State Department officials clarify earlier reports that mentioned the anti-drug aid would be tied to extraditions.

- **[Mexico and NAFTA: Tariffs and Tortillas](#)**

The Economist, 01/24/08

The beginning of 2008 marked the culmination of import tariffs on corn, beans, sugar and milk for the United States under NAFTA, a 14-year process toward free trade. Free trade has produced benefits for millions of poor Mexicans. Although small scale farmers were left unprepared to handle the economic shock, without the cheap imports of corn or sugar most Mexicans would be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for commonly consumed goods such as tortillas.

- **[US May Peg Drug Aid To Mexico On Extraditions](#)**

International Herald Tribune, 01/24/08

The Merida Initiative, a partnership effort between the U.S. and Mexico to combat drug trafficking, faces a new caveat according to a State Department official. U.S. officials are hoping to tie the anti-drug aid to extraditions, a subject of contention between both countries.

- **[Mexico Investigates Telephone Services](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 01/23/08

Mexico's Federal Competition Commission is investigating the country's largest fixed-line telephone service, controlled by billionaire Carlos Slim. Antitrust regulators aim to assess the current conditions of effective competition in the telephone service industry.

- **[Mexico Cracks Down on Drug Cartels](#)**

Voice of America, 01/22/08

Mexican federal police officials, in conjunction with the Mexican army, carried out major offensives against the country's most brutal drug trafficking organizations. The raids led to the arrest of men charged with partaking in the waves of organized crime that have overwhelmed Mexico's northern states.

- **[Mexico's PRI Opposition Open to Energy Debate](#)**

Guardian Unlimited, 01/22/08

Mexico's Institutional Revolutionary Party, a key player in the senate and house of deputies, has stated its willingness to engage in constructive dialogue to address energy reform and the problems associated with Mexico's state oil monopoly. A steady decline in Pemex's oil reserves

has prompted lawmakers to seek proposals that include private partnerships and investments from foreign companies. Lawmakers are convinced that a solution to Mexico's energy problems will require common ground.

- **[Mexico Army Seizes Guns from Police on US Border](#)**

Reuters, 01/22/08

The Mexican Army moved to seize weapons from police forces in three Mexican cities alongside the U.S. border. Suspicion that police agents are becoming accomplices of drug lords has been growing as drug violence along the U.S.-Mexico border has climbed.

- **[Mexico Hits Drug Gangs with Full Fury of War](#)**

New York Times, 01/22/08

The outlook in some of Mexico's border cities is continuing to resemble war zones filled with grenade explosions, men armed with machine guns and military troops marching to quell the violence. Federal police officials have boosted efforts against organized crime since President Calderón arrived in office.

- **[Mexico Oil Output, Exports Wane in 2007](#)**

Reuters, 01/21/08

Data from Pemex shows that weather disruptions and low production capabilities from one of Mexico's major oil fields sharply interrupted exports in 2007. Although crude oil output has been decreasing since 2004, Mexico's oil monopoly still managed to generate record foreign oil sales last year.

- **[Mouriño, new Secretary of Government, offers Dialogue](#)**

El Universal, 01/16/08

Juan Camilo Mouriño, widely considered President Calderón's closest advisor, took over as Secretary of Government, with responsibility for internal political order. His appointment followed that of Ernesto Cordero, another of Calderón's closest advisors, as Secretary of Social Development earlier in the week.

- **[Mexico's PRI Backs Private Investment in Oil Industry](#)**

Bloomberg, 01/14/08

The PRI (one of Mexico's largest opposition parties) will support President Calderón's plan to permit foreign and private investment in the country's state-owned oil industry. Pemex is in dire need of investment to continue exploring and producing crude oil. The declining reserves have had a severe strain on output, state revenues and are driving the much-needed energy reform in Mexico.

- **[U.S., Mexico Trumpet NAFTA Changes But Farmers Balk](#)**

Reuters, 01/11/08

January 1st marked the final removal of trade restrictions in NAFTA's perennial 14-year process. Tariffs and quotas were removed from several agricultural products (corn and beans). Mexican farmers; however, are contesting the new changes because they fear U.S. farmers will flood Mexican market with corn and beans, making prices lower and competition harder for farmers in Mexico.

- **[Mexico to Reroute Small Planes in Drug Check-paper](#)**

San Diego Union Tribune, 01/10/08

Mexico's government will begin redirecting private flights from South America into three airports in Mexico to allow for detailed counternarcotics. This is one of several actions taken by President Calderón to curb the power of Mexico's drug cartels that are working with South and Central American counterparts to expand the shipment of narcotics into the United States. In October, a private jet found with four tons of cocaine crashed in a southern jungle of Mexico.

- **[Thieves in Mexico Cause Rupture in Fuel Pipeline; 350 People Evacuated](#)**

International Herald Tribune, 01/10/08

Thieves attempting to illegally extract fuel from a Pemex plant in Veracruz caused a pipeline to explode; spilling 79,000 gallons of fuel and sending 350 residents nearby into evacuation. The fuel smuggling networks around Veracruz are common, forming part of a far-reaching black market for fuel.

- **[Mexican Police Hit the Books With the Help of Radio Codes](#)**

Washington Post, 01/10/08

Mexican police officers, firefighters and rescue workers are engaging in a unique form of reading to improve the police force's overall literary comprehension. Officers are trained to read one of Latin America's literary masterpieces, "One Hundred Years of Solitude" using radio codes in hopes of improving their communication skills and enhancing the overall image of the police in Mexico.

- **[Calderón Calls on Mexico to 'Close Ranks' Against Border Gangs](#)**

Houston Chronicle, 01/09/08

Notwithstanding President Calderón's intensive crackdowns on drug-traffickers along the U.S.-Mexico border, violence continues to take a toll on police, soldiers and criminals across the country. Corruption among local politicians in drug-ridden states has allowed traffickers to maintain regional strongholds while recent attack on a border city mayor has prompted the deployment of paramilitary troops to the several U.S.-Mexico Border States.

- **[Mexico's Pemex Stopping US West Coast Exports](#)**

Reuters, 01/10/08

Infrastructural deficiencies will prevent Mexico's state oil monopoly from exporting crude oil to several Western Coastal cities of the United States. Mexico's Gulf coast will continue to export to other markets since the oil refinery on Mexico's Pacific coast lacks the resources to prevent the bottlenecks produced by the transportation of crude oil across the country.

- **[Mexico Rebukes U.S. Candidates on Migrant Issues](#)**

Washington Post, 01/07/08

A series of high-level Mexican officials have condemned the adverse remarks made by U.S. presidential candidates regarding Mexican immigrants in the United States. The latest condemnations came from Mexico's Foreign Ministry which aims at protecting the rights of Mexican citizens living and working abroad. President Calderón has recently launched a media campaign to improve the image of Mexican migrants in the U.S.