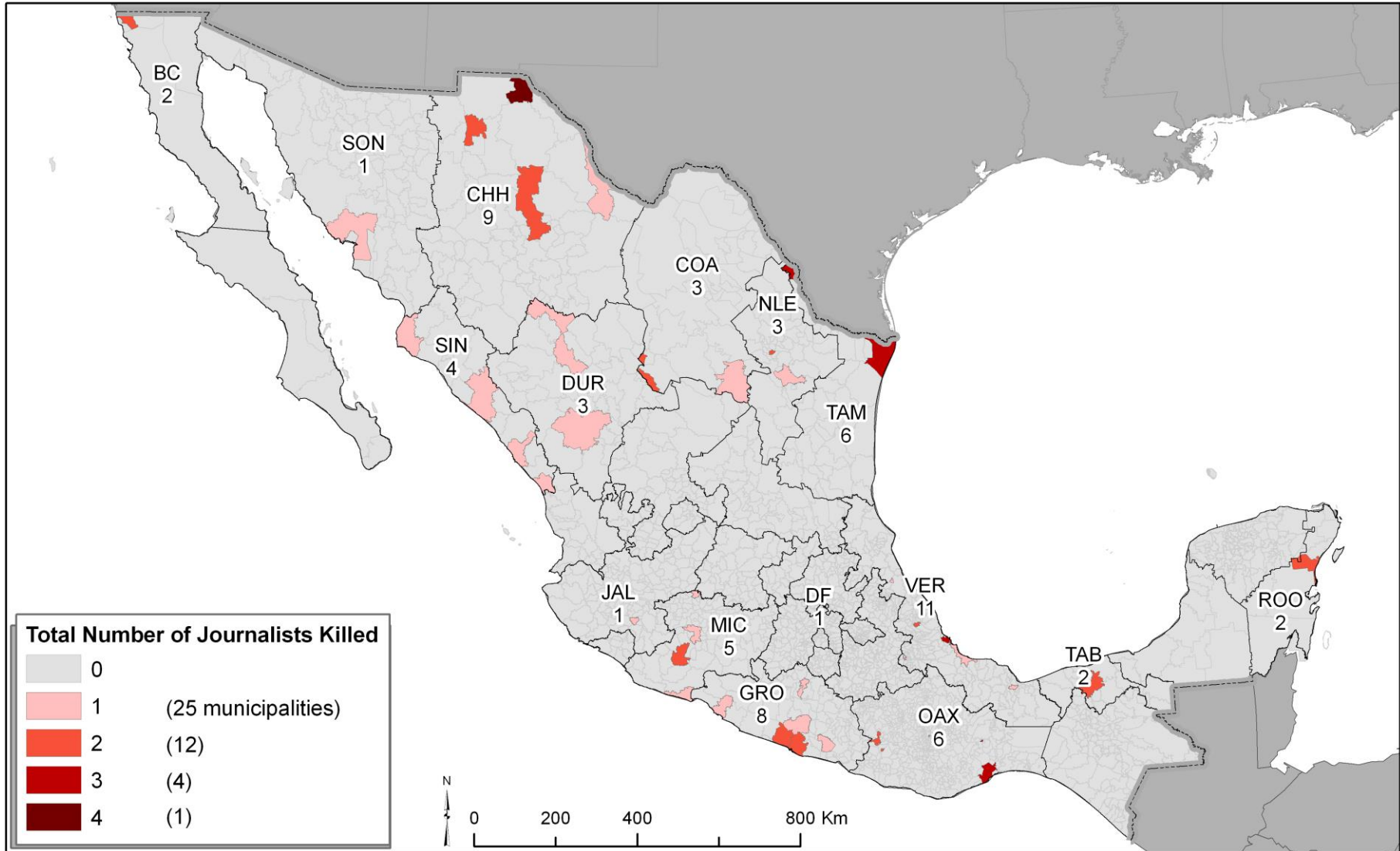


The Effects of Drug-War Related Violence on Mexico's Press and Democracy

Emily Edmonds-Poli

Journalists Killed by Municipality in Mexico, 2000-2012



Journalists Killed in Mexico 2000-2014

- 110 Victims
- 85% Male
- 74% Cover crime/corruption for print media
- Some killed in the line of duty
- In most others, suspected perpetrator is organized criminal group, often with ties to local or state government authorities

Consequences of Violence Against Journalists

- Instills fear among journalists/editors who begin to self-censor
- Limits availability of information society and threatens freedom of expression
- Prevents civil society from holding elected officials accountable

Mexican State Responses

- Slow and largely ineffective
- Creation of Special Prosecutor FEADLE (2006)
- New Legal Protections (2012)
- Protection Mechanism (2012)

- No new measures at state/local level

Societal Response

- Journalists
- Media Owners
- Mexican NGOs (Animal Político, Red de Periodistas de a Pie, Artículo 19)
- Citizen Journalists/Netizens

International Response

- International Media
- Transnational NGOS (Reporters without Borders, Committee to Protect Journalists)
- Journalism Schools (Knight Center for Journalism)

Policy Recommendations for the Mexican Government

- Prioritize the issue and work to end impunity
- Strengthen existing agencies and legislation and allocate sufficient resources for them to function effectively
- Create a fund to provide life insurance for journalists and reparations for victims' families
- Put pressure on state and local governments to comply with regulations, cooperate with investigations

Policy Recommendations for Mexican Society

- Journalists must strive for national unity
- Media owners must take measures to protect and train their employees, refrain from contracting dangerous jobs to freelancers
- Editors must be creative in how they publish sensitive information
- Mexican NGOs must continue to raise awareness, offer support, and put pressure on Mexican government to end impunity
- Mexican citizens must continue to serve as watchdogs and demand constitutional right to information and free expression

Policy Recommendations for the International Community

- Expedite immigration/asylum cases
- International media must provide regular coverage/updates to broad audience
- Media outlets must support Mexican journalists
- Transnational NGOs must continue to serve as impartial sources of information, provide/share resources and training