

# What are the risks of being a journalist in Mexico?



Mexico is one of the most dangerous countries to practice journalism. Acts against journalists, often targeted by organized crime and corrupt officials, include, but are not limited to, censorship and surveillance, verbal and physical harassment, threats and intimidation, attacks on media offices, arbitrary detentions, retaliatory defamation lawsuits, extortion, kidnapping, forced disappearance, and even torture and murder.<sup>1</sup> Despite Mexico's legal protection mechanisms for journalists, a weak rule of law, public corruption, and widespread violence undermine the country's ability to keep journalists free and safe.



## Policy Recommendations

- Train police departments to deal with journalists' complaints and take threats seriously
- Treat attacks on journalists as top priority crimes for investigation and prosecution
- Re-educate local judges about the Supreme Court's precedents regarding freedom of speech
- Provide protection to journalists under threat as well as their families

### Sources

1. Congressional Research Service 2018, <https://bit.ly/2y8WLBj>
2. CNDH, 2019 <https://bit.ly/3dlt2oN>
3. Ibid CNDH 2019
4. Article 19 2019, <https://bit.ly/2UCe0av>
5. Article 19 2019, <https://bit.ly/3duqOmT>