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Sense of Progress and Support for U.S. Involvement Decline Mexicans Continue Support for Drug War

As their country struggles with ongoing economic challenges and drug violence, Mexicans are unhappy with national conditions. Roughly eight-in-ten (79%) are dissatisfied with the way things are going in their country and 75% say the economy is in bad shape.

Since President Felipe Calderón took office in December 2006, more than 25,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence. However, Mexicans overwhelmingly continue to endorse Calderón's campaign against the drug cartels. Most also believe the Mexican military is making progress in the drug war, although they are less likely to hold this view now than was the case one year ago.

Fully 80% of Mexicans support using the army to fight drug traffickers, essentially unchanged from 83% in 2009. Opposition to using the army has increased only slightly, from 12% to 17%.

Just over half (55%) of Mexicans say the army is making progress against the traffickers, while only 22% think it is losing ground and 21% believe things are about the same as they have been in the past. However, assessments have become somewhat less positive

Mexicans See Less Progress in Drug War Than One Year Ago

	2009	2010	Change
<i>Use Mexican army to fight drug traffickers?</i>	%	%	
Support	83	80	-3
Oppose	12	17	+5
DK	5	3	-2
 <i>Mexican army making progress?</i>			
Making progress	66	55	-11
Losing ground	15	22	+7
Same	14	21	+7
DK	5	3	-2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q111 & Q112.

since last year, when 66% felt the army was making progress and only 15% said it was losing ground.

Majorities in Central (60%), North (56%) and South (56%) Mexico believe the army is making progress, while residents of Mexico City (45%) are somewhat less likely to offer a positive assessment.

A survey of Mexico by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, conducted April 14-May 6, also finds continuing support for American involvement in the battle against drug cartels – at least in terms of training and financial support.¹ Fully 78% favor the U.S. providing training to Mexican police and military personnel, unchanged from the 2009 poll.

A smaller majority (57%) favors the U.S. providing money and weapons to Mexican police and military personnel, down slightly from 63% last year. Meanwhile, the share of the public that opposes this idea has grown from 28% to 37%. Opposition to the deployment of U.S. troops in Mexico has also increased, from an already high 59% last year to 67% in the current survey.

Support for American assistance to Mexican forces tends to be strongest in North Mexico, parts of which have been especially hard hit by drug-related violence. For example, 67% of those in the North favor the U.S. providing money and weapons to Mexico's military and police, compared with 56% in the South, 53% in the Central region, and 52% among residents of Mexico City.

Support for U.S. Aid to Mexican Forces

	2009	2010	Change
<i>U.S. help in training Mexican military?</i>	%	%	
Support	78	78	0
Oppose	17	19	+2
DK	5	3	-2
<i>Provide money to Mexican police/military?</i>			
Support	63	57	-6
Oppose	28	37	+9
DK	8	6	-2
<i>Deploy U.S. troops to Mexico?</i>			
Support	30	26	-4
Oppose	59	67	+8
DK	11	7	-4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Q113a-c.

¹ In order to assess the impact of the recently passed Arizona immigration law on Mexican views of the U.S., 800 interviews were conducted in Mexico from April 14-20 (before the bill was signed into law by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer on April 23) and 500 from May 1-6. The survey of Mexico was part of the Spring 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey, which included 22 nations. For more findings, see "Obama More Popular Abroad Than at Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit," released June 17, 2010.

The results from the poll also highlight the extent to which Mexican views of the U.S. generally turned negative following passage of the recent Arizona immigration law. Prior to the law's enactment, 62% of Mexicans had a positive opinion of the U.S., compared with 44% after the law. However, the Arizona controversy had a lesser impact on views about U.S.-Mexican cooperation in the drug war. Still, those surveyed after the law's passage were slightly more likely than those surveyed before to oppose U.S. training of Mexican police and military forces (16% before the law, 24% after the law).

When asked which country is mostly to blame for their country's drug violence, 27% name the U.S., while 14% say Mexico, and 51% say both nations are to blame. These results are almost identical to those registered in 2009, when 25% blamed the U.S., 15% blamed Mexico, and 51% said both.

About the Pew Global Attitudes Project

The *Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project* conducts public opinion surveys around the world on a broad array of subjects ranging from people's assessments of their own lives to their views about the current state of the world and important issues of the day. The project is directed by Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" in Washington, DC, that provides information on the issues, attitudes, and trends shaping America and the world. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is principally funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* is co-chaired by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, currently principal, the Albright Stonebridge Group, and by former Senator John C. Danforth, currently partner, Bryan Cave LLP.

Since its inception in 2001, the *Pew Global Attitudes Project* has released numerous major reports, analyses, and other releases, on topics including attitudes toward the U.S. and American foreign policy, globalization, terrorism, and democracy.

Findings from the project are also analyzed in *America Against the World: How We Are Different and Why We Are Disliked* by Andrew Kohut and Bruce Stokes, international economics columnist at the National Journal. A paperback edition of the book was released in May 2007.

Pew Global Attitudes Project team members

include Richard Wike, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Jacob Poushter, Mattie Ressler, Elizabeth Mueller Gross and Bruce Stokes. Other contributors to the project include Pew Research Center staff members Jodie T. Allen, Carroll Doherty, Michael Dimock, and Neha Sahgal. Additional members of the team include Mary McIntosh, president of Princeton Survey Research Associates International, and Wendy Sherman, principal at the Albright Stonebridge Group. The *Pew Global Attitudes Project* team regularly consults with survey and policy experts, regional and academic experts, journalists, and policymakers whose expertise provides tremendous guidance in shaping the surveys.

All of the project's reports and commentaries are available at www.pewglobal.org. The data are also made available on our website within two years of publication.

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Pew Global Attitudes Project Public Opinion Surveys

<u>Survey</u>	<u>Sample</u>	<u>Interviews</u>
Summer 2002	44 Nations	38,263
November 2002	6 Nations	6,056
March 2003	9 Nations	5,520
May 2003	21 Publics*	15,948
March 2004	9 Nations	7,765
May 2005	17 Nations	17,766
Spring 2006	15 Nations	16,710
Spring 2007	47 Publics*	45,239
Spring 2008	24 Nations	24,717
Spring 2009	25 Publics*	26,397
Fall 2009	14 Nations	14,760
Spring 2010	22 Nations	24,790

* Includes the Palestinian territories

2010 Pew Global Attitudes Survey in Mexico

--Survey Methods--

Results for the survey are based on face-to-face interviews conducted April 14 to April 20, 2010 and May 1 to May 6, 2010. The survey in Mexico is part of the larger 2010 Pew Global Attitudes survey conducted in 22 nations from April 7 to May 8, 2010, under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. (For more results from the 22-nation 2010 poll, see “Obama More Popular Abroad Than At Home, Global Image Of U.S. Continues To Benefit” released June 17, 2010.)

The table provides details about the survey’s methodology, including the margin of sampling error based on all interviews conducted in Mexico. For the results based on the full sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus the margin of error. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Survey Details	
Sample Design	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by Mexico’s geographical regions and urban/rural population
Mode	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages	Spanish
Fieldwork dates	April 14 – April 20, 2010 (N=800) May 1– May 6, 2010 (N=500)
Sample Size	1,300
Margin of error	±4.0 percentage points
Representative	Adult population

**Pew Global Attitudes Project
2010 Spring Survey Topline Results
Mexico Report**

Methodological notes:

- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Since 2007, the Global Attitudes Project has used an automated process to generate topline. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- Questions previously released in “Obama More Popular Abroad Than At Home, Global Image of U.S. Continues to Benefit” include Q5, Q7a-f, Q7j, Q7l-m, Q7p, Q9, Q9RUS, Q9aRUS-Q9cRUS, Q12-Q15, Q18, Q23a-c, Q24-Q25b, Q30-Q31, Q34a-f, Q34h, Q37-Q46, Q48-Q49, Q51, Q54-Q55, Q61, Q67a-Q68b, Q73, Q77, Q79a-f, Q82-Q87CHI, Q96, Q98, and Q119a-Q119cc.
- Questions previously released in “Gender Equality Universally Embraced, But Inequalities Acknowledged” include Q6, Q33, Q47, Q69a-c, Q80-Q81, and Q93.
- Questions previously released in “Widespread Support For Banning Full Islamic Veil in Western Europe” include Q59 and Q59fra.
- Questions previously released in “Concern About Extremist Threat Slips in Pakistan” include Q19a-m, Q24b, Q27a-g, Q35a-h, Q52-Q53, Q70-Q71, Q74-Q76, Q78, Q79pak-pakc, Q94-Q95, Q99a-c, Q100, Q103-Q110c, and Q115-Q118.
- Questions held for future release: Q1-Q4, Q7g-i, Q7k, Q7n-o, Q7q-Q7t, Q11, Q17, Q19e-g, Q19k, Q20-Q22, Q26, Q27i, Q32, Q32b, Q34g, Q34i-m, Q36a-d, Q56, Q62-Q66, Q72, Q88CHI, Q97, Q101a-Q102, Q119b, Q126, and Q131b.

		Q5 Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?			
		Satisfied	Dissatisfied	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	19	79	2	100
	Spring, 2009	20	78	3	100
	Spring, 2008	30	68	2	100
	Spring, 2007	30	66	3	100
	Summer, 2002	16	79	6	100

		Q12 Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad?					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	2	22	37	38	1	100
	Spring, 2009	5	25	36	33	1	100
	Spring, 2008	6	30	35	27	2	100
	Spring, 2007	7	44	29	18	1	100
	Summer, 2002	3	28	36	30	3	100

		Q111 Do you support or oppose using the Mexican army to fight drug traffickers?			
		Support	Oppose	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	80	17	3	100
	Spring, 2009	83	12	5	100

		Q112 And do you think that the Mexican army is making progress in its campaign against the drug traffickers, losing ground, or are things about the same as they have been in the past?				
		Making progress	Losing ground	Same as they have been in the past	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	55	22	21	3	100
	Spring, 2009	66	15	14	5	100

		Q113a Now I'm going to read you a list of things the United States might do to help the Mexican government combat drug traffickers. Would you support or oppose it: a. Training Mexican police and military personnel			
		Support	Oppose	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	78	19	3	100
	Spring, 2009	78	17	5	100

		Q113b Now I'm going to read you a list of things the United States might do to help the Mexican government combat drug traffickers. Would you support or oppose it: b. Providing money and weapons to the Mexican police and military personnel			
		Support	Oppose	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	57	37	6	100
	Spring, 2009	63	28	8	100

		Q113c Now I'm going to read you a list of things the United States might do to help the Mexican government combat drug traffickers. Would you support or oppose it: c. Deploying U.S. troops in Mexico			
		Support	Oppose	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	26	67	7	100
	Spring, 2009	30	59	11	100

		Q114 Which comes closest to describing your view? The United States is mostly to blame for the drug violence in Mexico, OR Mexico is mostly to blame for the drug violence, OR both are to blame					
		U.S.	Mexico	Both	Neither (VOL)	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2010	27	14	51	4	5	100
	Spring, 2009	25	15	51	4	5	100