



CORRIDOR

Security, logistics and investment risk in Mexico — for the people who move goods through it

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DATA THROUGH SEP 2026

22 OCTOBER 2026

THE LAGUNA MECHANISM

The pocket that was rebuilt.

Issue No. 3 certified two governability pockets and promised the harder story behind one of them. La Laguna was among Mexico's most violent regions in the early 2010s; today its homicide registry runs at a fraction of its 2015 level, its disappearance series is flat, and its perception numbers are among the country's lowest. This issue documents the institutional mechanism behind that climb, in dated public sources — and runs the Risk Outlook on the fresh September cut, where the extortion headline changes sign with the definition for the second cut in a row.

173 → 25

Intentional-homicide files per year in Torreón-Gómez Palacio-Lerdo, 2015 versus 2025 — an 86% fall, validated by a flat disappearance series

+14.4%

National extortion, Jan-Sep year-on-year on the comparable basis. The narrow reading says -1.4%. Both are printed inside — second consecutive cut with opposite signs

1,089

Homicide files opened in September 2026 — the lowest September in the 2015–2026 series. The Jan-Sep level still sits +8.8% above 2015 on the comparable basis

Built entirely from public official sources. Every figure carries its source and its date. Where two official series contradict each other, the contradiction is published rather than resolved by picking the convenient one.

01

The Laguna mechanism

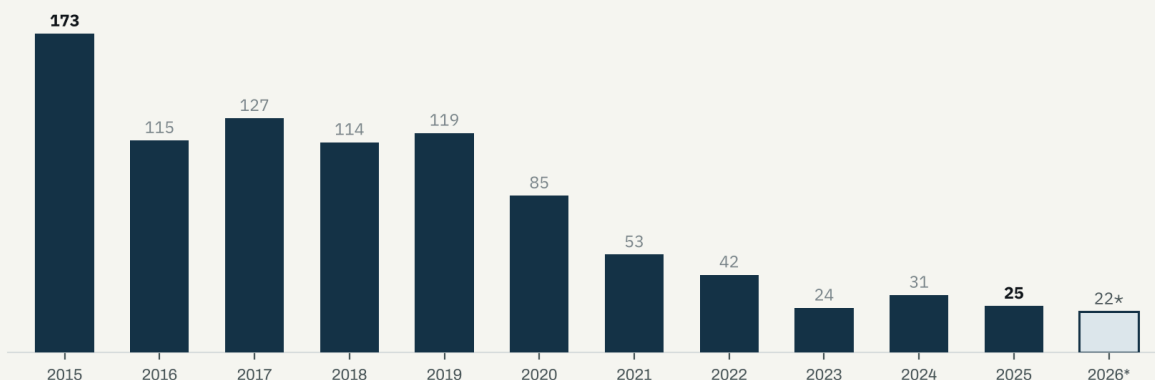
Mexico's turnaround stories usually arrive as press releases. CORRIDOR's rule, set in Issue No. 3, is that a low number can mean three different things — working institutions, a registry that stopped counting, or a criminal monopoly that no longer needs to fight — and that only the series almost nobody publishes can tell them apart. La Laguna, the four-municipality conurbation that straddles the Coahuila–Durango line (Torreón, Matamoros, Gómez Palacio, Lerdo; 1.38 million people), passed that screen: 5 of 6 crime series at or below the cohort bar, a disappearance series that is flat in trend and low in level — 2.0 per 100k against a cohort median of 9.9 — and one of the lowest perception readings in urban Mexico. This chapter is the promised follow-up: what, concretely and on the public record, was built between the worst years and now.

La Laguna: the decade line, and the series that confirms it

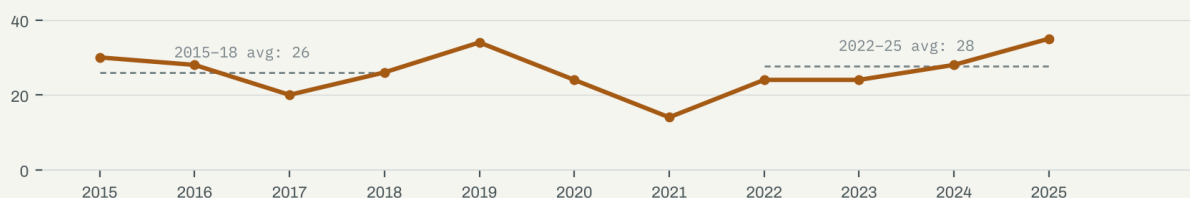
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Intentional-homicide investigation files per year, Torreón + Gómez Palacio + Lerdo — and disappeared-not-located persons, La Laguna metro, by year of occurrence. A rebuilt registry falls; a silenced one falls too. Disappearances tell them apart.

Homicide files, annual · -86% over the decade



Disappeared-not-located persons, by year of occurrence · flat — not the signature of a silenced registry



Source: SESNSP municipal database, Sep-2026 cut (files opened; a floor, not a measurement). *2026 = Jan-Sep, 22 files.

Disappearances: RNPDO series via Escobar, Reyes-Guzmán & Sánchez Ruiz 2026, Data in Brief (CC-BY 4.0); metro, 4 municipalities.

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Homicide: SESNSP municipal database, Sep-2026 cut, files opened per year, Torreón + Gómez Palacio + Lerdo; 2026 is Jan-Sep (22 files). Disappearances: disappeared-not-located persons by year of occurrence, RNPDO municipal series via Escobar, Reyes-Guzmán & Sánchez Ruiz 2026, Data in Brief (CC-BY 4.0), La Laguna metro (4 municipalities). Files opened are a floor, not a measurement.

The fall before the series begins

The SESNSP municipal series CORRIDOR works with starts in 2015 — after the worst of it. Local and national accounts put the metropolitan area above 1,000 homicide cases in 2012, falling to 578 in 2013 and 291 in 2014 (México SOS, 1-May-2019, drawing on Animal Político). Torreón was then routinely described as one of the most dangerous cities in the world — a description Coahuila's attorney general still invokes today, as contrast (El Siglo de Torreón, 21-May-2026). By the time our decade line opens at 173 files in 2015, the region had already been pulled back from the peak; what the line shows is that the improvement held and deepened for ten consecutive years. That second part is the rare part.

What was built, dated

THE INSTITUTIONAL SEQUENCE — PUBLIC RECORD, WITH DATES

2010 — Torreón purges roughly 400 officers from its municipal police (México SOS, 1-May-2019).

2012 — Business and civic leadership founds the Consejo Cívico de las Instituciones de La Laguna (CCI), a nonpartisan civil-society body built to generate indicators and monitor state and municipal policy (ccilaguna.org.mx).

2013 — The municipal police forces of Gómez Palacio and Lerdo are disbanded over organized-crime infiltration (México SOS, 1-May-2019).

2014 — Sedena creates the Mando Especial de La Laguna: one military command across the state line, coordinating the Army, both state police forces and the four municipal forces — built explicitly to fix the coordination failure between Coahuila and Durango (Zócalo, 17-May-2024).

2015 — The Mesa de Seguridad y Justicia is installed in Torreón and in Gómez Palacio–Lerdo with México SOS: a standing citizen–authority table with commissions for indicators, institutional strengthening and prison certification (México SOS, 1-May-2019).

2017 — CCI launches the Observatorio de La Laguna, which has published periodic public crime-incidence reporting since (ccilaguna.org.mx; observatoriodelalaguna.org.mx).

2024 — The command begins its planned hand-off from the Army toward the National Guard — the original design called for gradual separation as coordination consolidated (Zócalo, 17-May-2024).

2026 — Torreón logs three consecutive months without a homicide file; the state attorney general reports no comparable stretch in records reviewed back to 1997 (El Siglo de Torreón, 21-May-2026).

Three working parts recur in every dated account. First, a unified command across a state border: the conurbation's problem was never one municipality's problem, and the 2014 command was created against precisely that seam — the regional press credits it with the bulk of the homicide reduction (Zócalo, 17-May-2024; attribution theirs). Second, civic oversight that was institutionalized rather than episodic: a council founded in 2012 that still publishes, a security table installed in 2015 that still meets, an observatory running since 2017. Third, local police that were rebuilt, not rebranded — purged in Torreón, dissolved outright in Gómez Palacio and Lerdo, and reconstructed under the coordination structure. The sequence matters: the civic layer predates the military one, and both predate the decade of decline the chart shows.

Why CORRIDOR believes this registry

The reason to believe La Laguna's numbers is not their level — Nuevo Laredo's level is lower still, and Issue No. 3 rejected it. The reason is agreement across series that are hard to silence simultaneously. The homicide registry fell 86% while the disappearance series stayed flat (annual averages of 26 in 2015–18 and 28 in 2022–25) at 2.0 per 100k — one-fifth of the cohort median. A registry being quieted shows the opposite signature: files fall while disappearances climb or stay loud, the pattern that excluded Saltillo, Tuxtla Gutiérrez and Durango from certification. Perception agrees too: 22.5% of Torreón adults called their city unsafe in June 2026, against 59.8% nationally — among the three or four lowest readings in the ENSU panel (INEGI, ENSU June 2026). When the crime registry, the disappearance series and perception all point the same way for a decade, the quiet is signal.

The unfinished line — and the honest caveats

La Laguna's certification failure is extortion: 2.07 annualized files per 100k against the cohort's 1.43 bar on Jan–Aug data, and the Jan–Sep count now reads 19 completed plus 7 attempted files across the four municipalities. The one series still failing is the one the Framework calls the parallel fiscal system — and the region's civic coalition appears to know it: in 2025 CCI joined local business organizations in a joint public statement against extortion (ccilaguna.org.mx). The watchlist line for this pocket is written accordingly: not homicide, extortion.

La Laguna is not proof that Mexico's security problem is solved anywhere. It is evidence that a specific, documented institutional configuration — unified command across a border, civic audit that outlasts administrations, rebuilt police — coincided with ten years of validated decline. CORRIDOR measures the output; the mechanism is reported from the public record, with dates, not asserted as cause.

Two limits, printed. CORRIDOR has verified the outputs (the SESNSP, RNPDO and ENSU series above) by its own computation; the mechanism chapter rests on dated public sources and their attributions, and no counterfactual

exists — the same years saw homicide fall nationally from its 2018–19 peak. And files opened remain a floor, not a measurement: every reading above inherits that caution.

02

The Risk Outlook — the September print

The standing section: national dual readings on the fresh cut, the Conflict-Axis Monitor recalculated, the source's revisions to its own past, and the labor line with its denominator.

National, January–September, both readings

Series	2015	2025	2026 (c / c+t)	yoy (c)	yoy (c+t)
Extortion	4,552	8,196	8,080 / 9,377	-1.4%	+14.4%
Intentional homicide	11,976	15,836	11,210 / 13,025	-29.2%	-17.8%
Business robbery	62,371	50,270	47,844	-4.8%	—
Cargo robbery	5,026	4,596	3,646	-20.7%	—
Vehicle theft	119,526	87,401	72,262	-17.3%	—
Kidnapping	784	355	298	-16.1%	—

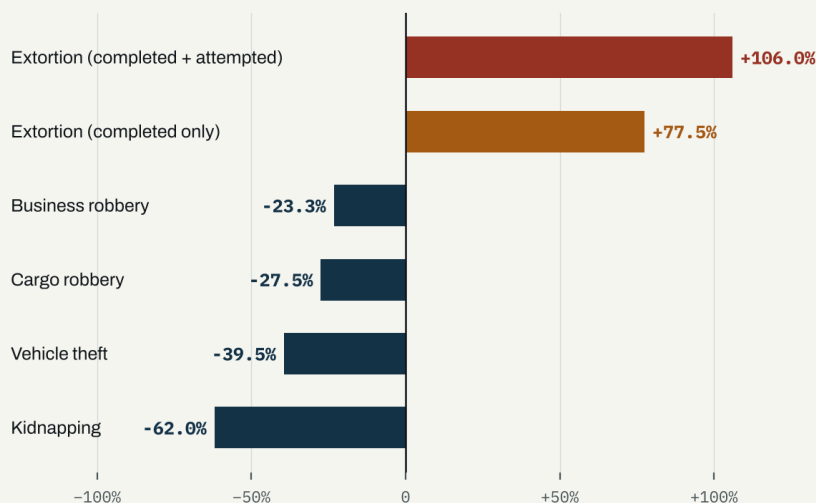
SESNP municipal database, September 2026 cut (portal updated 16-Oct-2026). Investigation files opened Jan-Sep; a floor on true incidence, not a measurement. c = completed; c+t = completed plus attempted, the basis comparable with the 2015–2025 series.

September alone is the best single month in the record: 1,089 completed homicide files — the lowest September in the 2015–2026 series under both readings (the September line runs 1,383 · 1,907 · 2,163 · 2,581 · 2,403 · 2,299 · 2,321 · 2,262 · 2,183 · 2,211 · 1,589 · 1,089) — and the sixth consecutive monthly fall on the comparable basis since March (1,627 → 1,284). The same month set the opposite record in the other line: extortion's September, 1,006 files on the comparable basis, is the highest September in the series (previous maximum: 878, in 2023). Two more series sit at decade minimums that get less attention than they deserve: kidnapping (298, lowest in the series) and vehicle theft (72,262, lowest in the series).

The crime that robs once is at a decade low. The one that collects monthly doubled.

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National investigation files, January–September windows: 2026 vs 2015. Vehicle theft and kidnapping are at their lowest in the 2015–2026 series; extortion on the comparable basis is at its highest.



Source: SESNP municipal database, Sep-2026 cut. Files opened Jan-Sep of each year — a floor, not a measurement. Part of the extortion rise is registry (the 2026 attempt split, hence the narrow completed-only bar beside it) and part of the vehicle-theft fall is declining reporting — the figure reads direction, not conduct alone.

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National files, January–September windows, 2026 vs 2015, SESNP Sep-2026 cut. Part of the extortion rise is registry (attempts split out in 2026 — hence the narrow completed-only bar beside it) and part of the vehicle-theft fall is declining reporting; the figure reads direction, not conduct alone.

The extortion headline now changes sign with the definition for the second consecutive cut: -1.4% on completed files, +14.4% on the comparable basis (August: -2.5% / +13.5%). The gap is 15.8 points and the narrow reading sits 1.4 points from crossing to positive — when it crosses, the press headline will flip sign without anything changing on the

street. One cut was an anomaly; two is a pattern, and it is the cleanest demonstration yet of the Framework's third premise: statistical fog is part of the terrain.

The Conflict-Axis Monitor, September cut

Extortion by axis	2015	2025	2026 (c / c+t)	vs 2025 (c+t)	vs 2015 (c+t)
Noroeste · BC, Sin, Son, Chih	289	212	386 / 406	+91.5%	+40.5%
Suroeste · Gro, Oax, Chis	284	226	236 / 329	+45.6%	+15.8%
Centro Norte · Gto, Qro, Zac, Ags	99	1,277	1,541 / 1,847	+44.6%	+1,766%
Noreste · Tamps, NL	499	816	1,058 / 1,090	+33.6%	+118.4%
Occidente · Jal, Mich, Col	694	642	626 / 760	+18.4%	+9.5%
Centro Sur · CDMX, Méx, Mor	1,825	3,414	3,037 / 3,422	+0.2%	+87.5%
Sureste · Ver, Tab, Q Roo	322	915	631 / 830	-9.3%	+157.8%
Oriente · Pue, Hgo, Ver	332	968	483 / 506	-47.7%	+52.4%
No axis · BCS, Camp, Coah, Dgo, Nay, SLP, Tlax, Yuc	310	347	370 / 498	+43.5%	+60.6%

Files opened Jan-Sep; axis composition as assessed in Vázquez Rossainz, *Agenda Nacional de Peligros y Riesgos – México 2026*; Veracruz belongs to Oriente and Sureste and is counted in both, disclosed. Change read on the comparable basis (c+t) for extortion and homicide alike. The nine rows sum to the national total once Veracruz's double count is removed: 7,998 + 370 - 288 = 8,080 completed; 9,190 + 498 - 311 = 9,377 on the comparable basis.



Extortion files opened Jan-Sep, 2026 vs 2025 on the comparable basis, by conflict axis. Veracruz (hatched) counted in Oriente and Sureste. Gray states sit in no axis – see the coverage note below. State boundaries simplified, for orientation.

What moved since August: the Noreste accelerates (+29.3% → +33.6%) and the Centro Norte grinds on (+42.8% → +44.6%, now at more than eighteen times its 2015 files); the Noroeste holds its jump for a third consecutive cut (+97.9% → +91.5% — no longer a one-month artifact); the Suroeste is now the third-fastest riser (+38.0% → +45.6%, from a low base); the Centro Sur crosses to flat-positive (+0.2%) and the Oriente remains the only axis falling hard (-47.7%). In homicide, every axis falls on the comparable basis — but the fan runs from -6.2% (Centro Sur) to -43.0% (Noreste) against a national -17.8%: the national average still describes no axis. The Noroeste concentrates 31.8% of

the country's attempted- homicide files (578 of 1,815), unchanged from August — the axis where the new category most alters the reading.

COVERAGE NOTE — PRINTED FOR THE FIRST TIME

This cut's sum-of-axes audit made visible something the approved methodology had not stated: the Agenda's eight axes cover 24 of 32 states. Baja California Sur, Campeche, Coahuila, Durango, Nayarit, San Luis Potosí, Tlaxcala and Yucatán sit in no axis — and they are not empty: 2,008 business-robbery files, 370 completed-extortion files, 369 homicide files and 250 cargo-robbery files (6.9% of the country's cargo theft) in Jan-Sep. San Luis Potosí alone is Mexico's fourth cargo-theft state, with 218 files. The Monitor is the map of the Agenda, not a partition of Mexico; it is printed with that caution from now on — and, from this issue, with a ninth "no axis" row so the table reconciles to the national total.

The source revised its own past — again, by reclassification

Cell-by-cell comparison of the September cut against the August cut: the national Jan-Aug totals moved by +6 homicide files, +26 completed extortion, -17 attempted extortion, +4 kidnapping, +2 vehicle theft — 16 entity-level revisions in all. For the second consecutive cut the revision that matters is classification, not level, and for the second consecutive cut the protagonist is Mexico City: +24 completed / -17 attempted extortion files, concentrated in July (+19 / -15). The combined (c+t) total barely moved (+9); which side of the dual reading the files land on moved. Had CORRIDOR published completed-only headlines, the capital would have "worsened" in one cut without anything happening in the capital — the mirror image of Michoacán's move in August, and exactly the failure mode the two-readings rule exists to expose. The 2015–2025 historical base, by contrast, carried zero revisions this month for our six series. One published figure shifts: Chart No. 22's denominator moves the eleven-state share from 42.1% to 41.9%; a revision note goes on the chart's page, not a silent re-edit.

The labor line, with its denominator

The IMSS registry set another record in September: 22,927,276 formal posts, +128,803 in the month and +355,594 over twelve months (+1.6%) (IMSS, 8-Oct-2026). Per house rule, the denominator prints beside it: Mexico had 60.7 million employed persons in August (ENOE), so the record registry covers 37.8% of employment; 33.4 million people — 55.0% of the employed — work in labor informality, and 37.8% of the employed are in critical occupation conditions (INEGI, ENOE bulletin 606/26, 25-Sep-2026). The formal count is the audited fraction, not the economy.

03

Promises from Issue No. 3 — status

THE STANDING PANEL — WHAT WAS PROMISED, WHAT ARRIVED

Delivered in this issue: the La Laguna institutional piece promised in section 02 of Issue No. 3 (the cover story above); the September print — the Monitor's re-run reproduced every previously approved table at zero discrepancies before updating it (241 of 241 printed figures verified); the revisions audit; and the labor line updated to the September IMSS record with its ENOE denominator.

Carried to Issue No. 5, with the reason printed: the investment-tracker IMSS employment test — the municipal IMSS employment series is not yet part of CORRIDOR's verified pipeline, and no employment claim for the tracker's municipality-resolved entries (the Querétaro data-center cluster, Ciénega de Flores, Cuautlancingo, Kanasín, Apan, Apodaca-Escobedo) will be printed before that base exists and passes the house controls. And the 2026 disappearance series: the public RNPDO portal requires an interactive, manual consultation that this production run cannot perform; the 2015–2025 municipal series (Escobar et al.) remains the basis until that consultation is done. Both remain on the record.

CORRIDOR · corridor.tuzite.com · Sources: SESNSP municipal database (Sep 2026 cut, portal updated 16-Oct-2026); RNPDO/CNB municipal series via Escobar, Reyes-Guzmán & Sánchez Ruiz 2026, Data in Brief 66:112897 (CC-BY 4.0); INEGI ENSU June 2026; INEGI ENOE bulletin 606/26; IMSS September 2026 employment report (8-Oct-2026); Metrópolis de México 2020 (CONAPO-SEDATU-INEGI); INEGI Census 2020. Laguna mechanism chapter: México SOS (O. Camacho, 1-May-2019); Zócalo (J. Garza, 17-May-2024); El Siglo de Torreón (21-May-2026); ccilaguna.org.mx; observatoriodelalaguna.org.mx. Files opened are a floor, not a measurement. Where two official series contradict each other, the contradiction is published.