

¿Por qué no ha sido exitoso el gobierno mexicano en su guerra contra el narcotráfico? (pregunta escrita en 2013)

dw.com, 2015

“Aunque **la guerra contra el narcotráfico ha sido exitosa**, el efecto colateral es que las redes criminales de sicarios trasladaron sus actividades delictivas **contra la población**. El costo humano ha sido muy alto con un aumento desmesurado de crímenes de alto impacto social,” destaca Benítez Manaut.

"Although the war against drug trafficking has been successful, the side effect is that the criminal networks of hit men have transferred their criminal activities against the population. The human cost has been very high with an excessive increase of crimes of high social impact," says Benítez Manaut.

Benítez Manaut advierte que la estrategia de mostrar fuerza militar y política directa no ha resultado y exhorta a fortalecer el trabajo de inteligencia. “México tiene que encontrar una estrategia que respete los derechos humanos y que no genere un aumento de la violencia. Eso sólo se puede lograr con un verdadero combate a la corrupción, con una mayor profesionalidad policial y ética de los funcionarios públicos y una labor más intensa de inteligencia.”

Benítez Manaut warns that the strategy of showing military force and direct policy has not yielded results and calls for strengthening intelligence work. "Mexico must find a strategy that respects human rights and does not generate an increase in violence. That can only be achieved with a real fight against corruption, with greater police professionalism and ethics of public officials and more intense intelligence work."

<http://www.dw.com/es/m%C3%A9xico-%C3%A9xito-en-la-lucha-contra-el-narco/a-18399777#>

nytimes.com, 2016

Viajar por zonas deprimidas de México es entender que, en muchas de ellas, el crimen organizado es la única presencia constante, el principio y el fin de la realidad cotidiana. Allí donde no llega el Estado, o lo hace solo para corromperse o luchar contra el crimen, lo ilícito es en ocasiones la única fuente de trabajo. Para miles de mexicanos **el tráfico de drogas es un ejercicio de supervivencia**.

Traveling through Mexico's depressed areas makes anyone understand that organized crime is, in many of them, the only constant presence, the start and the end of everyday life. There, where the state does not reach, or does only to fight crime, illicit means are often the just source of employment. For thousands of Mexicans, drug trafficking is a way to survive.

La droga continúa subiendo a **Estados Unidos, el gran consumidor**,

Drugs continue to stream north to the United States, the great user,

Empezar por despenalizar la posesión para el consumo personal sería un buen primer paso: aliviaría un sistema de justicia colapsado, aplacaría los incentivos de los policías para hacer detenciones y estos podrían **centrar sus esfuerzos en apresar a aquellos traficantes que realmente atemorizan a los ciudadanos con el uso de la fuerza, no a los consumidores**.

Decriminalizing possession of all drugs for personal use would be a sound first step: It would ease the burden on the collapsed judiciary system, reduce the incentives for the police to make arrests and focus their efforts on violence-prone traffickers who terrify citizens, and not on users.

Fuentes para las preguntas culturales 1.6.1

Diez años en estado de excepción, con el ejército inmune a las investigaciones sobre sus responsabilidades, ha probado ser otro fracaso.

Ten years locked in a state of emergency and with an army insulated from any criminal investigation of its behavior have proven to be another failure.

Para que las cosas cambien realmente, el gobierno debería devolver las acciones antinarcóticos progresivamente a la autoridad civil. Después de esta década de luto, de matanzas sin castigo, de corrupción en las autoridades, es necesario pensar una política integral que visualice al narcotráfico **más allá de un combate entre héroes y villanos**. En medio de estos extremos, la sociedad se ha tenido que adaptar a una situación de violencia permanente. La despenalización del consumo no arreglará un problema tan arraigado en el país, **pero ayudará a que los mexicanos distingan la droga de la Guerra contra el Narco. Los consumidores de los narcotraficantes**. Es el primer paso para aceptar que otra solución es posible.

For things to really change, the government should gradually return antidrug programs to the civil authorities. After this decade of mourning, of killings with impunity, of government corruption, Mexico needs to devise a comprehensive drug policy that understands drug trafficking beyond a clash between heroes and villains. Caught between these extremes, society has been forced to adapt to a state of permanent violence. Decriminalizing drug use will not fix a deeply rooted problem in this country, but it will allow Mexicans to differentiate between drugs and the war on drugs, between drug users and drug traffickers. This is the first step in acknowledging that a different approach is possible.

<https://www.nytimes.com/es/2016/09/07/mexico-cumple-una-decada-de-duelo-por-el-fracaso-de-la-guerra-contra-el-narco/?mcubz=0>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/10/opinion/a-decade-of-failure-in-the-war-on-drugs.html?mcubz=0>

ips-dc.org, 2009

The failed war on drugs in Mexico:

On its part, the Mexican federal government's strategy to combat organised crime must be seen in relation to its need to gain legitimacy after the much questioned 2006 electoral process and the growing political, economic and social fragility in the country. This is particularly the case in the expanded use of the Mexican military in counter-drug operations throughout the country, which should correspond to the civilian police forces. **The dependency on the military has been at the expense of adopting much needed reforms to Mexico's police and judicial institutions to have effective police and judiciaries who are free from corruption and who are able to identify, prosecute and punish drug traffickers.**

The main component of the Mexican government's strategy to counter drug trafficking has been the massive deployment of soldiers and the federal police in 14 states in the country; it is estimated that over 35,000 soldiers have been involved in these operations. In spite of the government's efforts, drug trafficking organisations have expanded their reach in Mexico

Given the different forms of power vacuum among the cartels, violence has been adopted as the only way for traffickers to settle scores, enforce deals with customers and intimidate law enforcement agencies. In this climate of escalated violence, innocent civilians are increasingly becoming caught in the crossfire, taken as hostages or, as in the case of the attack on Morelia, the target of terrorist intimidation. Another effect of this escalation is that **"the most efficient trafficking networks survive. Not only do they survive, but they thrive because law enforcement has destroyed the competition for**

them by picking off unfit traffickers and letting the most evolved ones take over lucrative trafficking space”.

The **failure to develop a comprehensive long-term strategy to address organised crime and drug trafficking** in Mexico suggests that the government has not taken into account “the clear lesson of nearly two decades of efforts to confront powerful trafficking organisations: **quick fix solutions divert attention and resources from the long-term reforms in the police and justice sector that are needed to deal effectively with the inter-related problems of illicit drugs, crime and violence.** More military involvement in the “drug war” has increased corruption within the institution, generated human rights violations and failed to make a dent in the narcotics trade.”

International cooperation for combating drug trafficking in Mexico is necessary but it should be focused on structural reforms to the police and judicial systems and include full observance of human rights and civil society participation. Therefore, future years of the Merida Initiative should not include support for the military, nor additional equipment and hardware, but rather **focus on co-operation mechanisms that strengthen Mexico’s efforts to increase the accountability and professionalisation of its law enforcement institutions, combat corruption and assist in the implementation of reforms to Mexico’s judicial institutions.**

Likewise, structural economic changes that help Mexicans maintain their livelihoods through licit activities are urgent. Deregulation policies and free trade agreements have given a hand to abusive processes for the appropriation and privatisation of communal lands and territories causing massive displacement and unemployment, which provoke social unrest that is unduly met by the government with military-dominant forces. Also, **massive economic and social dislocation serves the narcoeconomy.**

http://www.ips-dc.org/the_failed_war_on_drugs_in_mexico/