



## Police strikes in Mexico

### Objective:

To register police corporations calls to strike and strikes, from 2017 to 2020, at all levels of government: federal, state and municipal. Motivations and authorities' responses are also incorporated. The registry was elaborated by reviewing national and local media.

### Context:

In Mexico, police corporations have historically been neglected in all aspects of their development: wages, training, infrastructure and equipment. According to the latest survey by *Causa en Común*, “¿What does the police think?”, the average monthly income is around 535 USD, and around half of the policemen pay for their uniforms, boots and diverse tactical gear, among other items. Also, they usually work 24 hours shifts, without extra pay. Furthermore, it is also usual that many corporations do not provide basic social benefits. It is therefore with minimum institutional support that these corporations have to face ever increasing dangers associated with violence and criminality in Mexico.

To the institutional neglect and the permanent threat by criminal organizations, one must add social indifference. This is why, calls to strike and strikes are often justified, but also generally ignored.

### Main Findings:

- From 2017 to August of 2020, there have been at least 72 calls to strike and 183 strikes throughout the country. All of these actions were carried out peacefully.
- 2018 was the year with the highest number of registered calls to strike, with 29 in total; and strikes, 63 in total.
- The states with more calls to strike are San Luis Potosí (7); Baja California (6); Baja California Sur and Puebla (5 each); and Sinaloa and Estado de México, with four each.
- The states with more strikes are Michoacán and Puebla (14 each); Estado de México and Quintana Roo (13 each); and Guerrero with eleven strikes.



Mexican police corporations strike registry  
2017 – 2020

- Aguascalientes was the only state with no strikes to register.
- At least one corporation of each government level (federal, state, municipal), and at least one corporation of each type (preventive police, investigation police ascribed to general attorneys' offices, penitentiary guards, and cadets), have gone on strike, with the exception of Mexico City.
- The corporation with more strikes was the federal police, with 20 throughout the country (including Mexico City), motivated by its disappearance and integration into the National Guard.
- The main motivations of the police officers ascribed for the calls to strike and strikes, at least in their public pronouncements, relate to the lack of benefits, such as medical and life insurance, bonuses, vacation payments. Poor working conditions have also been important, mainly related to equipment, uniforms, patrols and working shifts. Additionally, complaints regarding payments to commanding officers, "unjustified" sanctions and dismissals, sexual harassment, among other allegations, are not infrequent.
- Responses by authorities usually begin with dialogue. On some occasions, commitments are generated and, in a few cases, some demands are met. It is noteworthy that, on some occasions, protesters are threatened with dismissal or disciplinary proceedings, which sometimes are actually carried out.

**Considering these circumstances, *Causa en Común* has proposed:**

- A national study to substantially increase wages.
- Effective social benefits, basic and complementary.
- Sufficient equipment and adequate infrastructure.
- Basic and specialized training, according to Mexico's specific needs.
- To eliminate the constitutional prohibition of reinstatement after unjustified dismissals.