



SECURITY IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF GOVERNMENT

Fernando Jiménez Sánchez

On Thursday, January 8, President Claudia Sheinbaum will complete her first 100 days in office. The Anglo-Saxon tradition, initiated during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency, of evaluating presidential performances within this time-frame has become an international practice, as it is understood that fundamental guidelines and changes made during this period will shape the government in the foreseeable future, allowing us to glimpse the challenges and problems that will be faced.

The field of security, in any of its dimensions (citizen, public, internal, or national), will continue to be one of the greatest challenges Mexico faces. 100 days into the government, there are both clear positive and negative elements that suggest a continuation in the weakening of national power to manage the challenges and threats facing the country. In light of this, 10 key issues that have emerged in these 100 days will be presented.

Terrorism Narrative. Despite the economic and political consequences of the US president-elect and his cabinet's vision of the terrorist nature of Mexican criminality, the Mexican Government has a continued commitment to a nationalist discourse of shared responsibility, scientific evidence and reason, which have been insufficient for a US government who is committed to reducing the annual 70,000 fentanyl-related deaths. Moreover, Mexican international criminal activity and its violence, has become a political tool for the U.S government at Mexico's expense. The various dimensions of the threats posed by the president-elect against Mexico have not found a position that would promote the North America security.

Culiacán. Despite the rhetoric and communication efforts in this city, crime continues to operate. The presence of the Secretaries of Defense and Security has done little to decrease the criminal activities of the organizations and cells that violently confront each other in the city. While the deployment of more than 11,000 elements of the Armed Forces has contained violence and helped apprehend more than 500 suspects, there is no sign of an integral weakening of the criminal organizations, as the federation's focus on violence has allowed the business structures, facilitators, and political, business, and social partners to continue operating at the local, national, and international levels.



Swarm Operation. Despite the expectations generated by the operation carried out in the State of Mexico regarding a new approach to fighting crime, signals indicating that the experience of this operation will be replicated to confront criminal actors are fading. The spectacularity shown by the federation was not matched by the results; and coordination efforts ended up seeming like subordination. While the operation demonstrated that the authorities have the capacity to conduct coordinated and simultaneous operations, it also made it clear that they are limited administratively and politically. The proactivity of these operations has been overshadowed by the traditional institutional reactivity driven by the agenda and criminal timelines, raising doubts about the intention to continue with this type of operation or leave it as an isolated attempt to follow a proven-effective path to reduce crime.

Weakening National Security. Despite the country having a severe issue with public and citizen security, national security matters are becoming increasingly relevant in light of the current geopolitical situation. The marked problem of the left regarding this security dimension is reflected in a lack of interest in reforming the ineffective National Security Law and, therefore, in creating the tools needed to confront the challenges and threats that jeopardize the country's stability. Consequently, national security issues such as economic, scientific, technological, and energy development; cybersecurity; critical infrastructure; migration; climate change; misinformation; and espionage are likely to continue being addressed in a sectoral and partial manner, rather than receiving the integral priority that national security would warrant.

Uncertainty about the institutional future. What has been done so far by the President raises doubts about the pillars of what security will look like in 2030. The actions do not provide clarity on the future of the armed forces and their ongoing demilitarization and civilianization; the subor-

Strategic recommendation

In these 100 days, following the Anglo-Saxon style, an ambiguous state in the field of security is presented which, if not corrected, will characterize the government from 2024 to 2030. The challenges across the various dimensions of security are diverse, and government efforts appear insufficient. Internal risks and threats are complicated by external ones, along with the international geopolitical situation, technological changes, and the propensity for the loss of freedoms, as well as citizens' inclination towards authoritarian regimes. In light of this, during the year, a reform to the National Security Law could be proposed, joint operations could be intensified, and the North American bloc could be strengthened.



dination of the military to civilians or vice versa; the dissolution of municipal and even state police forces; the transfer of state security to federal authorities; and the continued prioritization of political party agendas and stability over the fight against crime, as well as the improvement of international cooperation and coordination. As a result, changes in the sector hinder long-term projects, inhibit commitments, and generate instability in institutions whose futures are not secured.

Measurement and Evaluation. Despite the knowledge and experience suggesting otherwise, homicides and arrests will continue to be the indicators used to generate public policies and conduct government actions. The reduction of homicide investigation files initiated by prosecutors and the increase in arrests of suspected perpetrators will be used to measure success. These indicators, which have shown to imply a simplistic view of the complexity of criminality, lead to bad practices and the criminalization and harassment of society. They will be of little use in understanding the situation regarding criminal activities, the individuals involved, their impact on the economy, social life, and government decisions, as well as the size and territorial impact of criminal enterprises, the victims, and the trends or adaptations they have developed to continue their criminal businesses.

The Positive Aspects of the 100 Days, which will be reported through the formal and informal channels of the Presidency of the Republic, include: continuing the security roundtables; strengthening the National Guard; reducing the crime report rate; allowing police investigation of crimes; initiating a process to generate criminal intelligence; and facilitating police work by expanding the list of offenses punishable by imprisonment without bail.

Last call

The year begins with significant issues, and time is running short for Donald Trump's administration to commence. To address this, the foreign service could start to problematize Trump's terrorist narrative by reflecting on how local U.S. authorities will legally and administratively manage the networks, activities, and actors—previously considered criminals and now labeled as terrorists—that threaten the safety of their communities. At a glance: Will the U.S. have thousands of terrorists to pursue on its territory by March, a financial system utilized by terrorists, and consumers financing terrorist activities?



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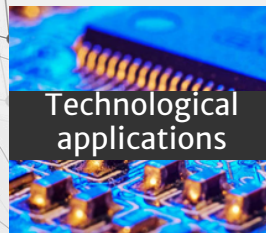
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Fernando Jiménez Sánchez

He is a collaborator of CIS Strategic Thought; researcher at SECIHTI-El Colegio de Jalisco; coordinator of the Interinstitutional Working Group on Metropolitan Security, GTISM, of El Colegio de Jalisco; Citizen Advisor of the Citizen Security Council of Jalisco; member of SNII-1 and of the University Seminar on Studies on Democracy, Defense, Dimensions of Security and Intelligence of the UNAM. He is a commentator on the Strategic Report Podcast and holds a PhD from the Carlos III University of Madrid, a Master's degree from the Rey Juan Carlos University and a Political Scientist from the UNAM.

@fjimsan



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