

Forum: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Issue: Measures to combat drug cartels in Latin America

Student Officer: Kyveli Fourli

Position: President

INTRODUCTION

The illegal production, trade and distribution of drugs first started emerging as a business of limited range during the 1940s and 1950s in Latin America. However, it was not until the 1970s, when the demand for narcotics started rising in the United States of America, triggering the rapid expansion of the illicit drug industry.

During the same time period the first infamous drug cartels began to appear as a means of hosting, promoting and controlling the cultivation, manufacture, trafficking, and sale of narcotic substances, hence taking organized crime rates to a different, much higher level. Several countries have become either directly or indirectly involved in the process of drug production and illicit trafficking, but Colombia and Mexico amongst others, have been the ones to play the leading role as far as drug trade concentration is concerned.

With time and technological progress, drug trafficking has become a highly lucrative industry, as its annual profits roughly sum up to \$426-652 billion U.S. dollars, and it is estimated as the 1% of global trade. As drug cartels maximize their financial gains and political influence, the need for them to be combated intensifies. Besides, one must not overlook the fact that the illegal drug trade has heavily impacted the countries of its origin, causing regional crime rates to skyrocket, while also affecting their culture and economic growth. Nevertheless, in order for one to understand the reasons why the issue of drug cartels should be encountered, its effect and negative influence on a global scale should first be analyzed.



¹ Firstly, it is important to note that countries that are significantly involved in drug trade, such as Colombia and Mexico, rank at the top globally as far as violence is regarded. However, drug trafficking is not the only criminal activity that the Latin American cartels engage in. As a result of the constant drug-related tensions, friction and clashes between the opposing dominant powers are often caused,

leading to tens of thousands of homicides. Moreover, a series of other types of criminal enterprises, ranging from kidnappings and extortions to the theft of fuel and cargo are also committed in order to serve the interests of the various cartels, and

¹ Image: <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/threats-522612.jpg>

those of the people in charge of them. It also becomes self-evident that all of the aforementioned criminal activities induce plenty of collateral damage, as many people have fallen victim of the drug-related conflicts and turf wars, in spite of the fact that they had not been involved in drug trafficking. In the most severe cases, this has caused large portions of the population to be internally or externally displaced.

Taking into consideration all the different ways that drug cartels operate in the global scene, as well as the multiple kinds of organized crime and violations they partake in, the urgency for their actions to be regulated and for their power to decrease, escalates overtime. Nonetheless, dealing with this crucial situation steadily becomes more of a difficult task to achieve, and thus requires devotion and strategic thinking, as well as cooperation to have a significant result.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Narcotic

A narcotic is a psychoactive compound that can induce analgesia (pain relief), narcosis, and addiction. In several cases narcotics can also produce the feeling of euphoria. Narcotics, also known as drugs have the ability to alter one's brain function, influencing their mood, behavior, perception, consciousness, and cognition. Substances of that nature are used mainly for medical or recreational purposes, but also for a series of other purposes linked with spirituality, research or performance improvement. From a legal standpoint, narcotics are negatively perceived, and when the term is used in legal context, it refers to a substance which is subject to drug prohibition laws, and violates government regulation. Common drugs are cocaine, cannabis, opioids, etc.

Drug Cartel

A drug cartel is defined as “an illicit consortium of independent organizations formed to limit competition and control the production and distribution of illegal drugs. Drug cartels are extremely well-organized, well-financed, efficient, and ruthless. Since the 1980s, they have dominated the international narcotics trade.”²

War on Drugs

The effort that started during the 1970s in the U.S.A., with the goal to combat illegal drug use and trade, by enforcing intensive penalties, incarceration, and various interdictions for drug offenses, is known as the War on Drugs. The War on Drugs was declared by the U.S.A. president R. Nixon, when he characterized drug abuse as “public enemy number one”. Since the War on Drugs was declared, it has sparked a great deal of controversy internationally, mainly concerning the effectiveness of this set of policies, as well as the use of the term itself. The controversy around the War on Drugs appears to have peaked in June 2011, when

² Encyclopaedia Britannica

the Global Commission on Drug Policy released a critical report addressing the matter, declaring the global War on Drugs to have failed.

Balkanization

The term balkanization is a geopolitical term, named after the Balkan Peninsula, and refers to the process of division, separation, or fragmentation of a specific region or state into smaller regions or states that share hostile and uncooperative relations with each other. In the context of drug cartels, the term balkanization is used to indicate the constant alterations that the borders between each cartel's areas of influence undergo.

Smuggling

The term smuggling is defined as the clandestine conveyance, or movement of objects, substances, information, or even people, against certain applicable laws or regulations. Smuggling might be committed in order for the smuggler to avoid customs duties, or restrictive legal regulations. Additionally, the participation in illegal trade, such as in the drug trade can be a further motive for smuggling.

Narcoterrorism

The term narcoterrorism is believed to have been first used by Peru's president Belaunde Terry in 1983, and thus it is attributed to him. Since the term was coined, it has been interpreted in several different ways. It initially signified violence used by drug traffickers with the aim to influence the government's political decisions, in order to hinder the government's efforts to put a halt to drug trade. Nevertheless, in recent years, narcoterrorism denotes cases in which terrorists may use drug trafficking as a way to finance their other enterprises.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

³Drug trafficking and cartels throughout the years

The illegal drug trade in Latin American countries mainly regards the production and trafficking of cocaine and cannabis, including the international shipment, and smuggling of those vastly illegalized substances in Europe and in the U.S.A. The crop cultivated to produce cocaine, namely the coca plant is



Image 2: International drug routes

³ Image: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:CIA_Map_of_International_illegal_drug_connections.gif

grown as a cash crop in the South American Andes, more specifically in Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru, and some coca crops have been also discovered in Mexico. Although all of these countries are involved in drug trade, the major drug cartels are concentrated in Mexico and Colombia. In the course of time there have been various changes in the leadership and areas of influence of each drug cartel, as well as the main trafficking routes that the drugs follow while being shipped internationally. Despite the constant alterations though, the most infamous cartels, either known for their sophisticated operation, or the excessive violence involved, are still distinguishable in history. Some of those are the Juarez, Tijuana, the Los Zetas, Beltran-Leyva, Gulf, Sinaloa, and La Familia cartels in Mexico, and the Cali, Medellin, and Norte del Valle cartels in Colombia.

The cartels have also managed to maintain similar structure throughout the years. The structure of a drug cartel commonly consists of four authorization gradients. The lowest position is that of the falcons, who are responsible for supervising and tracking the moves of the police, the military, and other, rival groups. The next position is that of the hitmen, whose duties are to carry out assassinations, kidnappings, extortions, etc. They also defend their cartel in turf wars and against the police and the military. Above the hitmen rank the lieutenants. They supervise the actions of the falcons and the hitmen. Finally, the drug lords rank the highest in any drug cartel. They supervise the whole drug industry, plan high-profile assassinations, and form alliances.

1960s-1970s

⁴The late 1960s and early 1970s were the time when drug cartels first began to emerge in Latin America, due to the rising drug demand in the U.S.A. Mexico was hosting the production and supply of marijuana, and later on also branched out to cocaine production. At that time, drug trafficking was starting out with relatively modest goals, and gradually grew to be the international multibillion empire that it is today. In the mid-1970s marijuana traffickers in Colombia started attempting to smuggle small quantities of cocaine to the U.S.A. hidden in suitcases. At that point, the process costs of cocaine were at about 1500\$/kilo. The illicit narcotic could first be refined in jungle labs and then traded on the streets of America for about



Image 3: Bricks of cocaine, a form in which it is commonly transported.

50,000\$/kilo. Cartels were constantly seeking ways to remain undercover and maximize their income, while engaging in smuggling and plenty of other criminal activities. Soon, drug trafficking was elevated for the sake of efficiency, and a newly introduced, and highly applied innovation was the transportation of drugs via airplane. One of the drug trafficking leaders (drug lords) that stood out throughout the 1970s and 80s was

Pablo Escobar, leading the Medellin cartel.

1980s-1990s

⁴ Image: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Drugpackscorpion.png>

During the 1980s and 90s drug trade was really going through a surge period, as many drug cartels started to emerge simultaneously in Mexico, and Colombia, while trying to be established as dynamic syndicates. The Tijuana cartel arose in the late 1980s in Mexico, created by the Arellano-Felix family. It ultimately grew to become one of the most powerful Mexican drug cartels, responsible for the highly profitable shipments of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine to the U.S.A. Although the Tijuana cartel was a particularly strong one, several rival cartels, like the Juarez, Gulf, and Sinaloa cartels soon started to pave their own way towards drug trafficking, and harsh, competitive relations were formed between them.

As far as Colombian cartels are concerned, the Medellin cartel also started facing competition from another, newly emerging cartel, the Cali cartel. The Cali cartel was far more sophisticated and subtle than the Medellin cartel, its operation was highly secretive and it was re-investing its profits into legitimate businesses. Due to the intense competition between the Cali and Medellin cartels, the two cartels were continuously trying to overthrow each other, while trying to gain primacy. The Cali cartel went far enough to collaborate with the Colombian police and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in order for them to track down the Medellin cartel's leader, Pablo Escobar. Eventually, Escobar, and the Medellin cartel lost power, after the famous criminal was tracked down and killed in 1993. With the downfall of the Medellin cartel, the Cali cartel started thriving for a short time period, however its leaders were soon discovered as well, leading to its disbanding by the end of the 20th century.

2000s-present

In the early 21st century, the Sinaloa cartel in Mexico was one that was steadily gaining power, led by the infamous Joaquin Guzman Loera, broadly known as El Chapo. The Sinaloa cartel was responsible for the majority of drugs trafficked to the U.S.A. It made use of violent means to acquire its power, and discovered innovative ways to smuggle drugs, notably by transporting them through tunnels. Nonetheless, in the early and mid-2000s the Mexican government, assisted by the U.S.A., launched more missions aiming to weaken drug cartels. It also proceeded to imprison plenty of their leaders.

After 2010 it has gradually become much harder to track down the cartels by power or influence, due to the fact that the constantly occurring turf wars have caused the spread of balkanization. That basically means that the previously powerful cartels have fragmented into smaller groups. Therefore, the research around the Mexican cartels is now centered on three main regions, and the drug cartel clusters in each one of them. These are the Tamaulipas state, the Sinaloa State, and the Tierra Caliente region.

Regarding the Colombian drug cartels, after the turn of the millennium and the destruction of the Medellin, and Cali cartels, the drug traffickers came to the realization that large drug cartels were vulnerable and easier to be tracked down than smaller ones. Consequently, smaller, more secretive drug trade organizations started being formed in Colombia. The DEA and the Colombian police suspect there might be more than 300 active drug smuggling organizations in Colombia at present.

Areas of Cartel Influence in Mexico



Image 4: Areas of Cartel Influence in Mexico, 2019

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Mexico

Mexico is a country that has hosted drug cartels and their various illegal enterprises for decades now. A factor that has contributed to the drug cartels' power gain overtime, is corruption. Using their vast drug profits, Mexican cartels have often bribed judges, police, politicians, and other officials. The Mexican police and military have been also criticized for years, and accused of committing a series of human rights violations, like torture, extrajudicial killings, and forced disappearances. The mysterious disappearances of 37,000 people since 2006 have definitely contributed to the rise of doubt and suspicion.

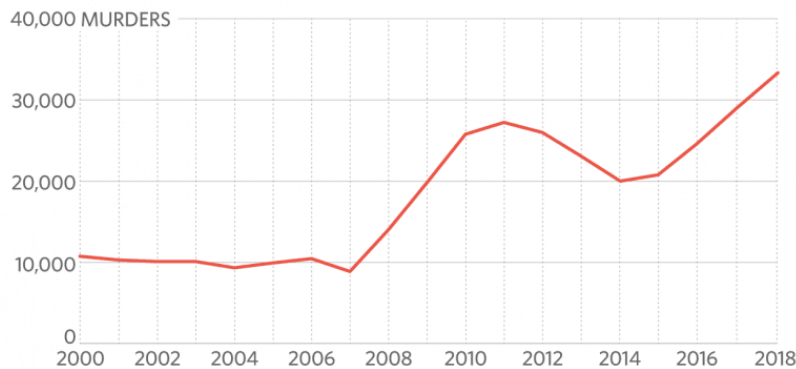
According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Mexican drug cartels are the largest foreign suppliers of heroin, methamphetamines, and cocaine to the U.S.A. (United States of America). Mexican suppliers account for the heroin,

⁵ Image: https://www.stratfor.com/sites/default/files/styles/wv_large/public/mexico-cartel-map-all-011419_0.png?itok=byFJ7rYL

methamphetamine, and vast marijuana production, whereas cocaine is produced in other Latin American countries and then smuggled into the U.S.A. through Mexico. It should also be noted, that heroin production has increased by 37 percent in less than two years. The effort launched by the Mexican authorities, in partnership with U.S. administrations with the aim to combat drug cartels and drug trafficking, is called the Mexican Drug War. The military began its intervention in 2006, with the

Mexico: Total Murders by Year

In 2018, the number of murders in Mexico, many of them drug-related, reached its highest level ever.



Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI)

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initial goal to mitigate drug-related violence. However this asymmetrical war has not had particularly evident, nor successful results. Up to this date, a large portion of the Mexican population has fallen victim of this ongoing dispute, including a large percentage of children. In 2018 the conflict hit a new record of murders,

namely more than twenty-eight thousand, many of which were connected to drug cartels. Overall, Mexico's casualties to homicide linked to organized crime are⁶ estimated at about 150,000 between 2007 and 2018.

Consequently, Mexico is a country deeply influenced by narcoculture, and has suffered the violent consequences of drug trafficking since it first started flourishing.

United States of America

The U.S.A. is country also greatly affected by drug cartels. Firstly, it is the largest user of illegal drugs globally. Secondly, a large percentage of the drugs produced in Latin American countries, are then smuggled, trafficked, and sold to the U.S.A. in violation of its own laws. Thus, the U.S.A. invests huge amounts of money in its efforts to combat drug trafficking, also known as the US War on Drugs. It spends an estimated \$78.5 billion annually so as to fund this cause, which includes healthcare, addiction treatment, and the involvement of law enforcement. It has also provided assistance to Mexico, in the Mexican Drug War, by investing billions of dollars to the Merida Initiative, with the aim to combat drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, and money laundering. Additionally, according to a study conducted by the White House in 2014, it seems like nearly a trillion dollars were spent across the U.S.A., in the process of purchasing illicit narcotics over the past decade. It hence becomes clear, that drugs cost the U.S.A. an extremely large amount of money, which obviously gives it enough reason to advocate against it.

⁶ Image: https://www.stratfor.com/sites/default/files/styles/wv_large/public/mexico-annual-murders-011419%20%281%29.png?itok=v_A2iEMl

According to a 2018 DEA report, the Mexican drug cartels that pose the most serious danger to the U.S.A. are the Sinaloa, Jalisco New Generation, Juarez, Gulf, and Los Zetas cartels, as well as the Beltran-Leyva Organization. Drugs are smuggled into the U.S.A. via the more than 300 ports of entry, or legal crossings across its border with Mexico. Those are monitored by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), is the country's federal law enforcement agency, responsible for preventing and combating the smuggling and distribution of illicit drugs into the U.S.A.



Image 6: Drugs are in some cases smuggled from Mexico into the U.S.A. through the more than 300 ports of entry, or legal crossings, which are controlled by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Colombia

As previously mentioned, another country with a critical role in drug trade is Colombia. It produces about 43% of the world's coca production as a whole. This is obviously a large share, and the country's involvement in the cocaine trade clearly imposes damage to Colombia's political, educational, economic, and health infrastructure, and to its environment.

The Colombian government has been launching an effort against the country's thriving drug trafficking, which is known as the Colombian conflict. However, it is important to note that since the fall of Colombia's drug cartels in the late 1990s and early 2000s, they have been replaced by small drug trafficking groups, such as narco paramilitary groups, guerillas, and the remnants of old drug cartels. These groups engage in an ongoing dispute over territorial influence, while the Colombian

⁷ Image: https://cfrd8-files.cfr.org/sites/default/files/styles/large_xl/public/image/2019/01/Mexico_Map.png

government strives to minimize their power. The development of connections, and cooperative relations between the guerillas and the drug traffickers has also generated problems to the Colombian government. Guerilla soldiers namely protect the traffickers' fields and labs in exchange for hefty tax payments, which the guerillas later invest in further munitions for the ongoing conflict. This vicious circle goes on and benefits both traffickers, and guerillas, while making the efforts of the authorities increasingly difficult.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC is a UN (United Nations) office, which has multiple aims and goals, one of them being the provision of assistance and guidance to governments hindered by illicit drug trafficking. It has mainly responded to the problem by providing regional initiatives in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the Regional Programme for Central America.

Timeline of events

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1971	U.S. President R. Nixon declares a War on Drugs and considers drug abuse as the country's biggest threat.
1973	The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is established by President Nixon.
1981	The Medellin cartel is founded in Colombia by drug lord Pablo Escobar, and other traffickers.
1984	Colombia's justice minister is killed by drug cartel hitmen. Escobar is suspected and indicted for the assassination, and flees to Panama. A huge cocaine production facility is discovered by the DEA and the Colombian police deep in the Colombian jungle.
1985	The U.S.A. cracks down maritime drug smuggling routes via the Caribbean. Drug traffickers and cartels start smuggling drugs through Mexico.
1993	Pablo Escobar is tracked down and killed by the Colombian police, assisted by the U.S.A. The Medellin cartel collapses, while the Cali cartel

	powerfully dominates the trafficking scene in Colombia.
1996	The Cali cartel is disbanded. The Mexican Gulf and Los Zetas cartels' dominance is rising.
1997	Incarceration for drug abuse rates in the U.S. increase by an astounding 69%, from 50,000 in 1980 to 400,000 in 1997.
2000	U.S. President Bill Clinton funds Plan Colombia by giving the country \$1.3 billion.
2001	Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman escapes from the Mexican prison he was serving his sentence in.
2006	The Mexican Drug War starts. From now on, the violence between the authorities and the cartels escalates.
2011	Thousands of disappearances, homicides and severe human rights violations have been committed up to this point. The Global Commission on Drug Policy releases a report on the War on Drugs, declaring it to have failed, with a devastating impact on individuals and societies globally.
2015	According to a Mexican official investigation, between 2000 and 2014, 103 journalists have been murdered, and 25 disappeared. The Mexican drug lord El Chapo, makes his second escape, from a maximum-security prison.
2018	The number of murders in Mexico, many of which were linked to drug trafficking and caused by cartel violence, reached its highest level ever. This environment indicates, that the violence and frequent conflicts will continue raging through 2019, with a possibly hefty human toll.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

The CND was formed on the 15th of February 1946 and it is one of the functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. It is a body responsible for drug-policy making within the UN, having drafted many resolutions on this topic.

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961

As amended in 1975, this Convention aims to firstly limit the production, manufacturing, trade and distribution of drugs exclusively to medical and scientific purposes. Secondly, it aims to combat illicit trafficking through international cooperation.

Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971

Entering into force on the 16th of August 1976, this Convention seeks to establish an international control system for psychotropic substances.

United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

This Convention was adopted by a United Nations Conference dedicated to the adoption of this Convention, held at Vienna from the 25th of November to the 20th of December, 1988. It provides comprehensive measures against drug trafficking, and against money laundering, and the diversion of precursor chemicals. It also calls for international cooperation as a means to combat drug trafficking.

United Nations Resolution 2016/19

Adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council on the 26th of July 2016, this resolution promotes the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development.

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/197

Adopted on 19 December 2017, it aims to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, and other commitments of similar nature, in order to form a development-oriented drug policy and simultaneously address socioeconomic issues

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 73/192

Adopted on 17 December 2018, this resolution calls for international cooperation to address and combat the global drug problem.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The Mexican government's response

The Mexican government has reacted to the drug cartel threat by primarily sending military and security forces, which has actually led to the further escalation of the violence. Its efforts are more commonly known as the Mexican drug war, declared by Mexican president Felipe Calderon. Between 2006 and 2012 the Mexican military managed to either capture or kill about 60% of Mexico's drug lords. However, taking away the power of Mexico's largest cartels only caused them to search for new trafficking strategies, such as forming smaller, more violent syndicates. While trying to manage the sudden surge in drug related violence, police and military brutality reached unprecedented levels, and so did cartel linked homicides. Consequently, the different methods that the Mexican authorities have tried to follow over the years, have only caused more turmoil, rather than actively minimizing organized crime and drug cartel influence.

The U.S.A.'s stance

The U.S.A. has mainly contributed to combating the threat of drug trafficking crime through providing financial help to the Merida Initiative, a security cooperation agreement between the U.S.A, Mexico, and the countries of Central America.

It has also attempted to weaken cartels by conducting multiple arrests through the DEA and subjecting those involved in trafficking to incarceration.

Plan Colombia (Peace Colombia)

The U.S.A.'s foreign aid initiative, directed at combating drug cartels and left-wing insurgent groups in Colombia was initially known under the name Plan Colombia. Plan Colombia in its initial form existed until 2015. It later was replaced by a new program, called "Peace Colombia" (Paz Colombia) which seeks to provide Colombia with aid, after the country's government engaged in peaceful negotiations and contributed to the implementation of the Peace Agreement with the FARC in 2017.

Overall, successful attempts aiming towards combating drug cartels and illicit trafficking have been limited. Although multiple cartels have fallen and many drug cartel leaders have been tracked down and captured, in the long run the battle against drug cartels still remains violent and complicated. Therefore, the problem needs to be approached more strategically in the future.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

⁸ The Latin American countries' government and the U.S.A. have tried implementing aggressive measures while trying to abate the power of drug cartels. However, increased punitive enforcement against cartel leaders has not managed to cause serious irreversible impairment to the drug trafficking industry. Doubt against the violent approach to the issue has been voiced in multiple occasions in the past. One organization that suggests that drug cartels and trafficking should be handled differently, is the Global Commission on Drug Policy (GCDP). This panel of world leaders and intellectuals advocates the decriminalization of drug use, to a



Image 7: Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former president of Brazil, and commissioner of the GCDP speaks at a press Conference on June 22, 2011.

certain extend.

According to the GCDP, enabling access to opiate-based medications for pain, to all those who are not granted it yet, should be included in each nation's policies. Apart from decriminalization being applied in the medical sector, the GCDP even proposes for nations to take bigger steps and stop criminalizing use and possession of drugs. It has also expressed its opposition to "compulsory treatment" for those, whose only offence is drug use or possession. One of the GCDP's argument to support this opposition, is that nonviolent participants in the drug trade, such as farmers and couriers should not be subjected to criminal punishment like imprisonment, due to the fact that their involvement in drug trade serves merely as a means of survival. Moreover, the GCDP believes that there is no evidence that criminalization and incarceration can reduce drug-related problems or discourage people from partaking in similar activities. Instead of incarceration for nonviolent offenders, the GCDP proposes community based sanctions that can save financial resources and perhaps have a greater effect. Access to more jobs, achieved through long term socioeconomic developments, could ultimately draw people to professional fields away from illicit trade.

Another standpoint that the GCDP has is that the militarization of efforts against drug cartels and trafficking are counterproductive and provoke the outbreak of further violence. It calls for a more responsible approach to the appliance of drug laws, so that further human rights abuses are avoided in the process of law enforcement.

Lastly, legal but restricted access to illegalized drugs, such as cannabis, the coca leaf, and certain novel psychoactive substances is also recommended by the GCDP.

⁸ Image:

https://img.huffingtonpost.com/asset/559de2b71700002500325e04.jpeg?ops=scalefit_960_noupscale

The current president of Mexico, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, also chose to have a radical approach to the problems generated by drug trade and production. He promises to put a halt to the Mexican drug war through the withdrawal of military forces, and their replacement with a better trained, more reliable police. As a part of ⁹his plan, he also considers to review and rewrite drug laws, so as to regulate marijuana and perhaps, opium poppy. The pardoning of nonviolent offenders is also included in his strategy. Last but not least, he wants to provide support for victims of the drug war, ensure the availability of job alternatives, and strengthen education and social programs in conflict torn regions.



¹⁰ The ideal way to combat drug cartels has not been discovered yet. However, for one to be found, a coordinated effort from all parties to the issue needs to be made. The limitation of the violence involved in drug trafficking is certainly a priority. Perhaps a combination of previously enforced policies and the introduction of some new, innovative ideas to the solution finding process would have more effective results, than simply repeating failed strategies of past leaders. Education should serve as a key. By informing the new generations about the mistakes past ones have made, they could refrain from falling in the same traps. In any case, in order for drug cartels to be combated, the will for cooperation is of prime importance.

Image 8: Protesters advocating for the end of the Drug War.



Image 9: A police agent confiscates illegal poppy flowers during an operation in Sinaloa State, Mexico on March 15, 2018.

⁹ Image:

https://img.huffingtonpost.com/asset/559de2b71700002600325e03.jpeg?ops=scalefit_960_noupscale

¹⁰ Image: <https://cdn.vox->

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