MIRANDA INTELLIGENCE

Foreign Press Chatter

August 7, 2026

Crime and security headlines dominated foreign press coverage this week: the shocking murder of an influencer in Culiacán, the arrest of Guerrero's former governor in connection with the Ayotzinapa case, escalating US pressure on CJNG targets, and a halt to government activities in Michoacán in response to a "threat against American interests".

César Gastélum, 24, whose comedy videos had earned him around 600,000 TikTok followers, was livestreaming content with friends outside a KFC joint in Culiacán on Tuesday when two men pulled up on a motorcycle; the driver shot Gastélum point blank in the head and fled. A security expert quoted in the New York Times noted that violence against influencers is "...a national phenomenon, but it's been accelerating because of recent changes within cartels". The Guardian reported that, according to local sources, at least 12 social media influencers have been killed in Culiacán since the Sinaloa Cartel intra-cartel war began in 2024.

Attorney General Ernestina Godoy announced another high-profile arrest in the Ayotzinapa case: Ángel Aguirre, who was governor of Guerrero at the time of the atrocity, was arrested on charges of obstruction of justice and forced disappearance. Aguirre allegedly ordered the destruction of video evidence of the students' deadly encounter with police in Iguala on the night that 43 of them disappeared. Ángela Buitrago of the GIEI told Reuters that investigators had suspected Aguirre as far back as 2015, reiterating that "it is a state crime, regardless of whether it was committed by state or federal authorities".

Reuters and the LA Times reported on the sudden statewide security alert from the US Embassy in Michoacán, which also halted avocado inspections. The federal government sent 1,500 soldiers to reinforce security in the state (where a significant cartel boss was arrested last weekend) and Sheinbaum said her administration is coordinating a "work plan" with the embassy. Mexican produce has had a rough few weeks in the press more broadly: first the US blamed lettuce from Guanajuato for a cyclosporiasis outbreak, and this week suspicion turned to salmonella-tainted jalapeños from Sinaloa, prompting Chipotle and Qdoba to remove the peppers from some locations.

Sheinbaum's approval ratings recovered to their highest level since January (57 per cent), according to polling conducted for Bloomberg by Atlas Intel, which the outlet credited to cooling inflation and the president's "more vocal opposition" to the US immigration crackdown. The Economist likewise noted the president's tactical shift towards "a fierier, more leftist tone" since March. On the home front, Sheinbaum is threading the needle on fracking following a review of findings from the expert commission she convened. Bloomberg reported that the government has announced it will not allow unconventional drilling in the large Tampico-Misantla shale basin in

Tamaulipas and Veracruz, citing risks to the environment and local population, but is continuing to explore other options as "Mexico seeks to wean itself off US gas".

The Financial Times reported on Mexico becoming the "surprise cornerstone" of the US AI boom, now supplying 40 per cent of US imports of computer servers used in AI data centres. The rapid rise has pushed servers past cars as Mexico's top export to the US, though as the report notes, local benefits are far more limited than in automotive manufacturing and will not be enough to lift Mexico's "limp economy" more broadly.

Bloomberg also took a crack at the "international art fight" that has filled Mexico's cultural headlines this year, with a thorough recap of the saga of the Gelman Collection, which is now preparing for departure to Spain (the works are supposed to return for exhibition in Mexico in 2028). The activists who have been filing lawsuits and keeping the issue alive in public debate continue their efforts, "in hopes of protecting local masterpieces and keeping them at home for good". Alma Guillermoprieto, in *The New York Review of Books*, took on the latest round of Frida-mania, arguing that beneath the mugs, socks and endless iconography there is still a formidable artist worth recovering from her own myth.

Notable blogs in English on Mexico

On CrashOut, Ioan Grillo took a step back in time delving into DFS files in the national archive at Lecumberri prison, which include the investigation into Lee Harvey Oswald's 1963 visit to Mexico City, reflecting on the "enduring mystery" surrounding the Kennedy assassination. The Mexico Political Economist reviewed the government's "simultaneously ambitious and desperately lagging" national AI plan. In Mexico Decoded, Viri Ríos advised that Mexico should take a tougher stance on US economic bullying by highlighting US dependence on its exports, while also taking a page from China's playbook on development, asserting that "no country has ever developed by obediently following every rule imposed by rich countries". And Miranda Intelligence's daily Substack covered key developments in energy, fintech, public affairs, and politics in Mexico.

Top Stories on Mexico

Mexican Influencer Is Shot Dead During a Livestream in Sinaloa
05/08/2026, NYT, Annie Correal

Mexican influencer shot dead while streaming live on social media
05/08/2026, The Guardian, Oscar Lopez

Former Mexican governor arrested for allegedly destroying evidence tied to 43 missing students
06/08/2026, Reuters, Lizbeth Diaz

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US offers $25 million reward targeting US citizen who reportedly leads Mexico's most powerful cartel
05/08/2026, AP, Megan Janetsky

DOJ Charges Top Members of Jalisco Cartel With Trafficking, Scam
05/08/2026, Bloomberg, Alex Vasquez and Gonzalo Soto

Mexico avocado group says US inspection halt unlikely to disrupt supply
06/08/2026, Reuters, Cassandra Garrison

Mexico assigns troops to improve security as U.S. halts avocado imports over 'threat'
06/08/2026, LA Times, Kate Linthicum

Jalapeños linked to a US salmonella outbreak are tracked to a Mexican farm and a distributor
06/08/2026, AP, Mike Stobbe

Contraband fuel: Smuggling gasoline into Mexico earns cartels millions
03/08/2026, LA Times, Patrick J. McDonnell

Sheinbaum's Approval Jumps as Mexico Inflation Cools to Five-Year Low
06/08/2026, Bloomberg, Gonzalo Soto

Mexico Is Winning the Trade War Through Hospitality
06/08/2026, Bloomberg, Juan Pablo Spinetto

Mexico's Sheinbaum weighs pilot fracking projects to boost gas production, sources say
05/08/2026, Reuters, Adriana Barrera and Ana Isabel Martinez

Mexico Bans Oil and Gas Fracking in Key Basin, Sheinbaum Says
06/08/2026, Bloomberg, Scott Squires

How Mexico became a surprise cornerstone of America's AI boom
31/07/2026, Financial Times, Christine Murray and Alan Smith

Prized Frida Kahlo Paintings Take Center Stage in International Art Fight
05/08/2026, Bloomberg, Andrea Navarro and David Alire Garcia

Fridas for Everyone

20/08/2026, NYRB, Alma Guillermoprieto

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Mexican Sovereignty in the Era of the Donroe Doctrine
04/08/2026, Jacobin, Alexander Aviña

Mexico’s president stops turning the other cheek
03/08/2026, The Economist, Staff

BlackRock Jostles Rivals Like Apollo in Bid for Mexican Projects
03/08/2026, Bloomberg, y Michael O'Boyle and Silla Brush

Mexico's largest meat exporter SuKarne explores sale, sources say
03/08/2026, Reuters, Abigail Summerville and Cassandra Garrison

Notable blogs in English on Mexico

- CrashOut Media – Mexico’s Lee Harvey Oswald Files
- MXPE – Mexico’s national AI strategy
- Mexico Decoded – An Economic Recipe for Defeating Trump
- Miranda Intelligence daily reports on Substack

Photo of the Week



Kahlo's *Self Portrait As A Tehuana Diego On My Mind*, center, on display at Mexico City's Museum of Modern Art, once hung in the home of Jacques and Natasha Gelman.*Photographer: Fred Ramos/Bloomberg*Jose Luis Gonzalez/Reuters