MIRANDA INTELLIGENCE

Mexico Political Chatter

September 17, 2026

In the middle of a week of patriotic fervour, Washington's pressure on Mexico rose again in tone. In a memorandum sent to Congress, Donald Trump demanded that public officials who, according to the U.S. government, have collaborated with drug trafficking organisations be identified, detained and prosecuted, although he acknowledged the seizures and the cooperation of President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration. The message comes as Washington has turned visa revocations into an instrument of pressure on Mexican politicians, as in the recent cases of Puebla Governor Alejandro Armenta and Senator Julieta Ramírez, who rejected reports of an alleged agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice and days later was chosen as Morena's future candidate in Baja California.

Mexico's response came at the military parade marking the 216th anniversary of Independence, where the president reinforced her sovereignty message before the Armed Forces, asserting that Mexico "no se dobla, no se arrodilla y nunca se vende." The other notable feature of the ceremony was the absence, for the second consecutive year, of Omar García Harfuch, who did not accompany the president or the rest of the cabinet despite the participation of the heads of all 22 ministries; the Presidency offered no specific explanation.

In its internal process, Morena for the second consecutive day left out the profiles identified with López Obrador in its 2027 selections. Following Raúl Morón's defeat in Michoacán, the party displaced Rafael Marín Mollinedo in Quintana Roo, José Narro Céspedes in Zacatecas and Jesús Uribe in Baja California, naming Eugenio Segura, Verónica Díaz and Julieta Ramírez, all of them linked to the sitting governors. The pattern has already triggered protests among the rank and file, with shouts of "¡fraude!" in Quintana Roo and chants of "¡fuera el monrealismo!" in Zacatecas, while the PT declined to join some of the announcements after being left out in Guerrero. Chihuahua, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Tlaxcala, Nuevo León, Nayarit and San Luis Potosí are still pending.

The week was also marked by the femicide of Claudia Tacoronte Aguilera, a 21-year-old Spanish student on exchange at the Autonomous University of the State of Morelos (UAEM). The state prosecutor's office obtained an arrest warrant against the alleged perpetrator, and the case erupted at the Independence parade in Cuernavaca, where students and feminist collectives protested in front of Governor Margarita González Saravia. The University of Granada, Tacoronte's home institution, suspended its agreement with the UAEM and cancelled future student exchanges on security grounds. As other Spanish institutions review their exchange agreements with the state university, the case has drawn attention to the four femicides of UAEM students recorded so far in 2026.

And following up on the accusations against Andrés Manuel López Beltrán, Attorney General Ernestina Godoy ruled out the existence of arrest warrants against Morena's former Secretary of Organisation or against businessman Amílcar Olán, in the framework of the investigations into alleged fuel-tax fraud operations linked to Portacelis Gas and Oil, a company to which the SAT attributes potential losses exceeding 834 million pesos. In parallel, the asset and interest declarations of former Navy Secretary José Rafael Ojeda Durán remain classified on national-security grounds until

1 January 2030, despite the retired admiral having been called to testify in the judicial proceedings against his nephews over fuel-tax fraud offences.

Finally, the murder of priest Román de la Cruz Hernández in Hidalgo once again exposed the violence against community figures, with authorities yet to report a motive or any detentions. As Carlos Puig puts it: beyond the jockeying over candidacies, the question is what capacity the new "corcholatas" will actually have against organised crime's territorial power in states where large areas are under criminal influence.

US **Trump raises the pressure: visas, drugs and Mexican officials**

Donald Trump again raised the pressure on Mexico by demanding that public officials who, according to the U.S. government, have helped or collaborated with drug trafficking organisations be identified, detained and prosecuted. In a memorandum sent to Congress, the U.S. president acknowledged the seizures and the cooperation of Claudia Sheinbaum's administration, but maintained that Mexico must do much more against the cartels and their political networks. The message comes as Washington has in recent months used immigration measures such as visa revocations against Mexican officials and political figures.

In that context, the case of Alejandro Armenta gained relevance last week, following reports of an alleged withdrawal of his U.S. visa, though the Puebla government denied having received any notification and the governor himself stated that his documents are in order. The episode adds to the earlier controversy surrounding Julieta Ramírez: in January, the senator denied that her visa had been cancelled and went so far as to demonstrate her presence in the United States; in September, N+ reported an alleged agreement to cooperate with the U.S. Department of Justice, a version Ramírez rejected and called false; just days ago she was chosen as Morena's future candidate in Baja California. Visas, investigations and alleged approaches to Washington have thus become a new front of political pressure within Morena, particularly heading into 2027.

🔗 El País: Trump redoubles pressure on Mexico over drug trafficking: "They must arrest the corrupt officials"

MX **Sheinbaum asserts sovereignty; Harfuch again absent from the parade**

Claudia Sheinbaum used the military parade marking the 216th anniversary of Independence to reinforce her sovereignty message in the face of pressure from the United States. Before the Armed Forces, the president asserted that Mexico "no se dobla, no se arrodilla y nunca se vende," while claiming independence and the defence of national sovereignty as principles of her government. The message comes at a moment of growing pressure from Washington on Mexico over security, drug trafficking and alleged ties between officials and criminal organisations.

The other political story of the parade was the absence, for the second consecutive year, of Omar García Harfuch. The Security and Citizen Protection Secretary did not accompany Sheinbaum or the rest of the cabinet at the ceremony, despite the participation of the heads of all 22 ministries. The

Presidency offered no specific explanation for his absence, though the 2025 precedent was attributed by Sheinbaum to the official's work schedule; it has also been noted that Harfuch has maintained a particularly reserved profile at mass events since the attack he suffered in 2020.

🔗 Reforma: Mexico does not bow, does not kneel and never sells itself.- CSP
🔗 El País: Omar García Harfuch, absent for the second year at the Independence parade

🧩 Morena leaves out the López Obrador loyalists and tightens control ahead of 2027

For the second consecutive day, the profiles identified with Andrés Manuel López Obrador were left out of the 4T's selections for 2027. Following Raúl Morón's defeat in Michoacán, Morena left out Rafael Marín Mollinedo in Quintana Roo, José Narro Céspedes in Zacatecas and Jesús Uribe in Baja California, naming Eugenio Segura, Verónica Díaz and Julieta Ramírez respectively. The pattern is already generating internal friction: the three new profiles are politically linked to the sitting governors who will be replaced, while the displaced figures have closer ties to the López Obrador movement. In Quintana Roo, there were even shouts of "¡fraude!" against the selection of Segura, who is close to Mara Lezama; in Zacatecas, Narro's supporters interrupted Ariadna Montiel with chants of "¡fuera el monrealismo!"

The manoeuvring did not end with the results: the PT decided not to join some of the announcements, particularly after being left out in Guerrero, where Beatriz Mojica was named over its own hopeful; in Zacatecas, the PT denounced the continuity of monrealismo. Montiel came out to defend the method and warned that there would be no "second round," while Citlalli Hernández denied a rupture with the PT. The board left by this first round of selections reveals a dispute over Morena's territorial control: on one side, figures close to the governors and local structures; on the other, cadres with a López Obrador track record who are losing ground in the first decisions for 2027. Chihuahua, Baja California Sur, Sonora, Tlaxcala, Nuevo León, Nayarit and San Luis Potosí are still pending, where the gender factor will also weigh on the selections.

🔗 Milenio: López Obrador loyalists displaced in the 4T's candidacies

🚨 The Claudia Tacoronte case: arrest warrant and a protest that strikes Morelos

The Morelos prosecutor's office obtained an arrest warrant against Francisco Javier "N," alias "El Trompas," identified as the alleged perpetrator of the femicide of Claudia Tacoronte Aguilera, a 21-year-old Spanish student on academic exchange at the Autonomous University of the State of Morelos (UAEM). The warrant was granted by a specialised judge on the basis of investigative work, security camera footage and evidence provided by citizens. The prosecutor's office also issued a search notice and, together with state and federal authorities, deployed an operation to locate him. Claudia was murdered on 12 September in Cuautla, allegedly during an attempted robbery with a bladed weapon.

The case escalated on Wednesday to the Independence parade in Cuernavaca, where UAEM students and feminist collectives interrupted the procession to demand justice for Claudia and greater security for the university community. In front of Governor Margarita González Saravia, they chanted slogans, staged an "antigrito" and displayed messages against femicidal violence; the governor stated that she shares the pain of the family and the students and is personally following the case. The protest turned one of the state government's main public events into a stage for political pressure, while the University of Granada, Claudia's home institution, suspended its agreement with the UAEM and cancelled future student exchanges on security grounds.

🔗 El Universal: Morelos governor assures Claudia Tacoronte's family and students that she "shares their pain"; says she is personally following the case

⚓ Ojeda's assets, under double protection

The assets and whereabouts of retired Admiral José Rafael Ojeda Durán, Navy Secretary during the López Obrador administration, are once again under scrutiny. According to El Universal, his asset and interest declarations remain classified on national-security grounds and cannot be publicly consulted until 1 January 2030, making it impossible to know in detail the evolution of his holdings, investments and savings. The shielding takes on greater interest given the context surrounding the former official: Ojeda was called to testify in the judicial proceedings against his nephews, accused of offences related to fuel-tax fraud, while since leaving the Navy Ministry he has remained virtually off the public radar. The newspaper also questions that, despite the significance of his time in the cabinet and the investigations reaching members of his family circle, there is no accessible information about where he currently resides, what his activities are, or how his assets stood at the end of his tenure.

🔗 El Universal: Admiral Ojeda's assets and fortune, under double protection; his whereabouts a mystery

⚖️ FGR rules out arrest warrants against Amílcar Olán and Andy

The Attorney General's Office ruled out the existence of arrest warrants against businessman Amílcar Olán and Andrés Manuel López Beltrán, "Andy," amid the investigations into alleged fuel-tax fraud operations linked to Portacelis Gas and Oil. Attorney General Ernestina Godoy responded on Wednesday that there is "nothing" against Olán and that there is no warrant against López Beltrán either. The statement comes after the Finance Ministry asked the FGR to bring criminal charges against the owners of Portacelis, a company linked to Olán, to which the SAT attributes potential losses exceeding 834 million pesos from fuel import operations.

🔗 Reforma: There is no arrest warrant against Amílcar or Andy.- FGR

MIRANDA INTELLIGENCE

⛪ Priest murdered in Hidalgo; the Church demands the crime be solved

Priest Román de la Cruz Hernández, parish priest of Santa Cruz, Huejutla, Hidalgo, was murdered on 15 September and found dead beside the Tolago-Tetlapaya highway in the municipality of Lolotla. The clergyman had gunshot wounds, and a placard with a warning message was found next to the body, while a pickup truck with Baja California plates was also located at the scene. So far, authorities have not disclosed the motive for the killing nor are there any detainees. The Diocese of Huejutla and the Mexican Episcopal Conference condemned the crime and demanded a thorough investigation to clarify it and prevent it from going unpunished.

🔗 Latinus: Priest murdered in Hidalgo; Mexican Episcopate demands the crime be solved and justice served

🗣️ Opinion express

- **The Green Kid beat the Burgundy Kid — Carlos Loret de Mola**
  Loret de Mola argues that the selection of Gino Segura for Quintana Roo represents a win for Jorge Emilio González, "El Niño Verde," over Andrés Manuel López Beltrán, "El Niño Guinda," in a dispute that reveals the internal deals and tugging ahead of 2027. The columnist recalls that since 2021 Quintana Roo had been a position negotiated between Morena and the PVEM, but that the pact became complicated when AMLO and Andy López Beltrán pushed Rafael Marín Mollinedo to displace the Green group. For Loret, Segura's selection confirms that the Green Party managed to retain a strategic position and that Andy failed to impose the profile close to the López Obrador movement.

🔗 El Universal: The Green Kid beat the Burgundy Kid

- **Femicides, a normalised sting — Salvador Camarena**
  Camarena places the femicide of Spanish student Claudia Tacoronte as an uncomfortable mirror of violence against women in Mexico and questions the normalisation of these crimes. The columnist contrasts the official narrative on falling homicides with the persistence of femicides and points to responsibilities running from police who do not protect and local authorities who do not respond, to state governments and a Presidency that, in his view, privilege the statistics. Tacoronte's murder in Morelos thus once again puts on the table the distance between security data and the everyday experience of those facing gender-based violence.

🔗 El Financiero: Femicides, a normalised sting

- **An INE without checks and balances — Luis Carlos Ugalde**
  Ugalde warns about the concentration of powers within the INE following the reform that allowed the institute's presidency to unilaterally appoint its executive directorates. The former councillor notes that the change alters the body's internal balance and reduces the checks among its members, at a particularly delicate moment for the electoral authority. His

argument focuses on how the new rules may affect the INE's autonomy and decision-making in a political scenario where its internal control mechanisms are also in dispute.

🔗 Reforma: An INE without checks and balances

- **What do the "corcholatas" bring to curb violence? — Carlos Puig** Puig scrutinises Morena's recent selections for the 2027 governorships and poses an uncomfortable question: what can the new "corcholatas" actually do against organised crime's territorial power. Drawing on a Data Cívica report on political-criminal violence, the columnist questions how much can change in states where large areas are under criminal influence simply by replacing a governor. The argument shifts the discussion from candidacies and internal manoeuvring to a deeper problem: what capacities, strategies and conditions those who reach these governments will need to confront political and criminal violence.

🔗 Milenio: What do the "corcholatas" bring to curb violence?

📝 Agenda in brief

September 19 | Second National Drill 2026 at 12:00 hours.

September 28-29 | Mexico and the United States postponed by a week the fourth round of negotiations for the USMCA review. Both governments are seeking to refine their regulatory and commercial positions before the end of the year.