



SECURITY OVERVIEW

Ciudad de México – México

Unidad de Análisis Político y Seguridad Corporativa - UAPSC

August 01, 2024.

Security Overview

Ciudad de México, México

1. Situational Analysis

From its inception in 2018 until its retirement in mid-2023, Claudia Sheinbaum's government implemented a four-point strategy in Mexico City, which aimed to address the city's main risk generators. The points were: specialized attention to young people in vulnerable situations to steer them away from crime, improvement of conditions for the Police, reinforcement of intelligence work in sectors specifically affected by criminal actors, and optimization in communication between institutions such as the Police and the Fiscalía General. At the same time, during this period the police were given greater freedom to react to homicide cases, to investigate and receive complaints without having to go through all the bureaucratic procedures that would normally be required, thus making the process easier for citizens. According to multiple statistics and opinions, the strategy succeeded in improving security in the city and restoring public confidence. With the 16 newly elected mayoralties that make up the CDMX, it is necessary to be aware of the management of the new mayor's office in order to have a more complete picture of what to expect with these new administrations.

The most recent National Urban Public Safety Survey (ENSU), conducted by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (Inegi) during the first quarter of 2024, shows that the mayorships with the highest perception of insecurity are Iztapalapa and Xochimilco. The former has a perception of insecurity of 72% and also showed the highest increase compared to the last measurement (an increase of 10 percentage points). For its part, Xochimilco has a citizen perception of insecurity of 67%. In contrast, Benito Juárez has the lowest perception of insecurity, registering a rate of 11.1% ([Inegi](#), 2024).

In this document the Unidad de Análisis Político y Seguridad Corporativa (UAPSC) of 3+SC will carry out a Security Overview for the city of Ciudad de México, analyzing the dynamics that impact security, risk generating factors and criminal behavior based on statistics, with the main objective of making known the security situation of the city in order to establish prospective scenarios and recommendations that are useful for risk management, treatment and control.

2. Crime Analysis

In order to visualize the percentage changes and dynamics by crime in Ciudad de México, a crime analysis will be carried out below, showing the figures and trends in the variation of ten high-impact crimes for two periods: the years 2022-2023 and the January-June period of 2023 vs. 2024. Subsequently, each phenomenon will be analyzed in depth, as well as the risk scenarios present in the city, associating recent insecurity events and the areas in which they occurred.

CRIME STATISTICS IN CIUDAD DE MÉXICO	Year 2022	Year 2023	Variation % 2022 vs 2023	Jan-June 2023	Jan-June 2024	Variation % Jan-June 2023 vs 2024
HOMICIDES	1437	1467	2%	701	849	21%
THEFT FROM PERSONS	13769	11938	-13%	5953	5287	-11%
EXTORTION	357	496	38%	246	261	6%
KIDNAPPING	27	29	7%	17	18	6%
THREATS	18850	19658	4%	10304	10393	1%
RESIDENTIAL THEFT	3293	3433	4%	1694	1695	0%
CARJACKING	4307	3676	-15%	1806	1649	-9%
MOTORCYCLE THEFT	1994	2477	24%	1061	1476	39%
RETAIL THEFT	11161	12016	8%	6167	5232	-15%
LAND PIRACY	88	78	-11%	43	18	-58%
TOTAL	55283	55268	0%	27992	26878	-4%

Resource: Own elaboration with information from the Secretaría de Seguridad y Protección Ciudadana.

Note. Figures subject to change based on updating processes of the source.

According to figures from the Secretaría de Seguridad y Protección Ciudadana, in 2023 high-impact crimes maintained their trend, with no significant changes compared to 2022. During this period, the most frequent crime in Ciudad de México was threats, with 19.658 cases registered, which represented a 4% increase compared to the 18.850 cases in 2022. In the first half of 2024, threats continued to be the most prevalent crime, with 10.393 cases reported, reflecting a 1% increase compared to the 10.304 cases during the same period in 2023. In addition, there was a 4% decrease in the total number of crimes studied, from 27.992 cases in 2023 to 26.878 cases in 2024.

2.1 Theft from persons

Theft from persons in the CDMX is characterized in this Security Overview by the two main types of complaints defined by the Secretaría de Seguridad y Protección Ciudadana which are theft from pedestrians on public roads and theft from pedestrians in public spaces.

In the first five months of 2024 theft from persons experienced a reduction of 11% with 5.287 complaints compared to the same period of 2023 which presented 5.953. Despite this, it continues to be one of the crimes of highest materialization in the city, affecting the general population. The mayor's office that concentrates most theft in Ciudad de México is Cuauhtémoc, as it contains a large number of neighborhoods that have a high impact on crime. These areas are located in the central zone of the city and include the neighborhoods of Centro Histórico: Area 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, Morelos San Rafael, Tabacalera, Penitenciaría, Candelaria and Del Parque ([adn40](#), 2024).

A modality that has gained relevance in recent times in the metropolitan area of the CDMX is the so-called "Montachoques". This usually occurs on the city's roads, as well as in stores and supermarkets. It consists of generating chaos by means of a collision or an accident orchestrated by criminals so that the victim lowers his guard and it is easier to steal his belongings. In the specific case of vehicular collisions, the offender seeks contact between the two vehicles to make the victim get out of the car and thus intimidate him with threats of all kinds so that he will hand over money or belongings ([Infobae](#), 2024).

2.2 Theft in different modalities

Apart from theft from persons in Ciudad de México, crime has found ways to continue to profit from other types of theft, such as theft from residences, theft from businesses, theft from motorcycles, carjacking, and land piracy. Most of these types of crimes are committed by common criminal gangs or by individuals acting outside of a larger structure and with greater criminal capacity.

Although they do not operate under large criminal structures, the delinquents who carry out shoplifting and other types of theft have committed high-impact crimes that can affect key points in the city. For example, at the end of April of this year a group of assailants broke into the commercial offices of the Spanish Embassy in Mexico, in the well-known Polanco sector. There they managed to steal a safe containing cash and checks, after beating a security guard and intimidating him to achieve their goal. Although this exclusive sector of Ciudad de México is preferred by embassies and multinational companies, and is heavily guarded by the police, residents of the sector and people who use it for their work have complained on different occasions about the robberies and assaults that tend to occur. There have also been complaints from foreign diplomats in the country, who have been targets of common crime ([El País](#), 2024).

2.3 Homicides

According to the Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública, the month with the highest incidence of homicides in Ciudad de México was May, reaching a total of 156 cases. At the same time, in the first four months of 2024 alone, the number of intentional homicides reached 283. During the campaign for the presidency of the country, the former mayor of the CDMX, Claudia Sheinbaum, assured that this type of crime had decreased in the city, however, there are some inconsistencies with these figures and with the institutions that publish them, as there was an increase in the numbers of homicides without determining, despite there being an increase in criminal action ([El Heraldó México](#), 2024).

Mother's Day 2024 was one of the most violent in Mexico's recent history, registering a total of 72 homicides throughout the country. Ciudad de México was one of the territories with the highest number of reports of this crime, registering six in a single day ([Infobae](#), 2024).

2.4 Extortion, threats and kidnapping

During the 2024 election campaign for the election of legislators, governors, mayors and the president of the republic, various reports of threats and even assassinations against candidates by criminal groups surfaced. This was the case of the candidate for mayor of Cuauhtémoc, Alessandra Rojo de Vega, who suffered threats that ended in an attack with firearms against the van in which she was traveling on the night of May 11, in the Peralvillo neighborhood ([Infobae](#), 2024). According to the Instituto de Estadística y Geografía (Inegi), the municipalities that had an increase in the perception of insecurity during the campaigns and elections of 2024 due to threats and criminal actions were Benito Juárez and Azcapotzalco, presenting an increase of 70% and 21.2% respectively in the perception of insecurity of the inhabitants ([Infobae](#), 2024).

The Parroquia Cristo Salvador y Señor led by Father Abraham in the Iztapalapa municipality suffered threats for the payment of "derecho de piso", which is charged by criminal groups as a form of extortion. According to citizen complaints, this type of crime consists of charging a sum of money to merchants and inhabitants of vulnerable areas so that the criminal group will "protect" them from theft or vandalism. In the case of Father Abraham, the criminals sent him pigs' heads and made calls claiming that they were going to kill him for not paying their "floor fee" ([La Silla Rota](#), 2024).

In April, the Fiscalía General captured and prosecuted the gang known as "Los Jeremías", dedicated to kidnapping in Ciudad de México and the State of Mexico. For at least two years, this group carried out more than 30 kidnappings in central Mexico for extortion purposes. The criminals selected their victims and located a desolate area near their homes to capture them and then demand ransom from the families ([Infobae](#), 2024).

3 Risk Generating Factors

3.1 Micro-trafficking and criminal groups

Distribution of GDO and GDCO in Ciudad de México

Mapa del crimen en la Ciudad

Delitos

-  Narcomenudeo
-  Extorsión
-  Secuestro
-  Invasión de predios
-  Invasión de restaurantes
-  Trata de personas
-  Extorsión a transporte público
-  Lavado de dinero
-  Robo a casa-habitación
-  Clonación de tarjetas
-  Robo a transporte público
-  Robo de autopartes

Fuente: SSC

Células delictivas y áreas de operación

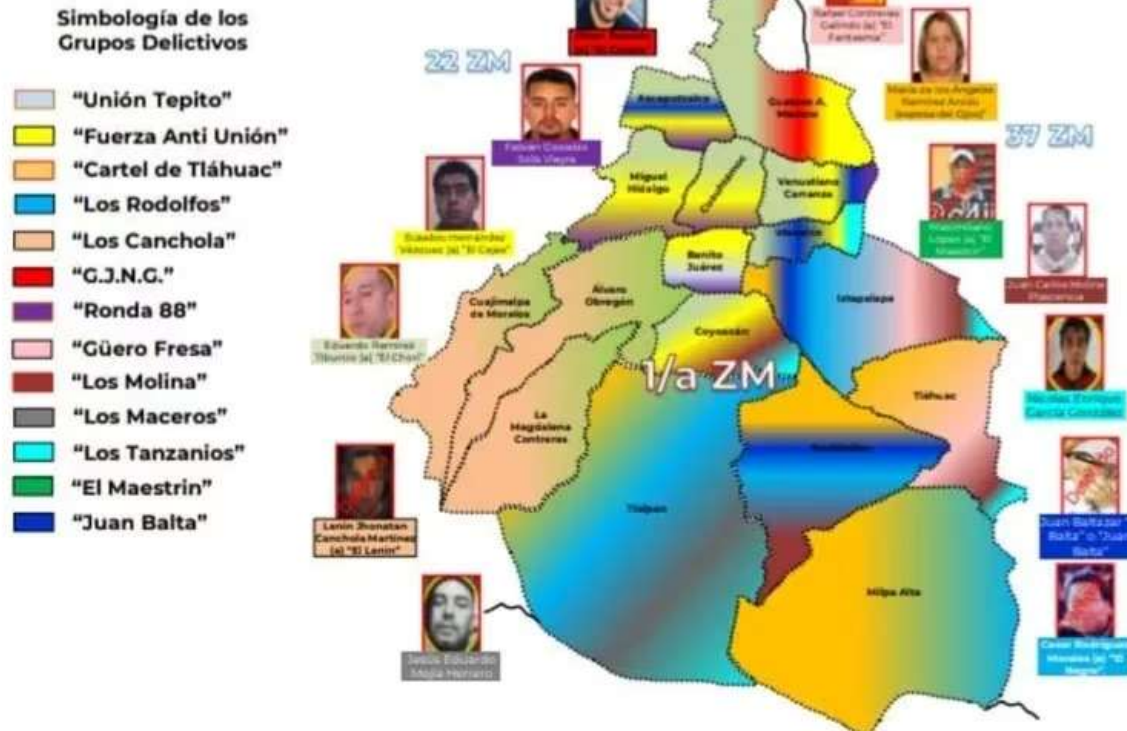
-  La Unión Tepito
-  La Anti-Unión Tepito
-  Los Rodolfos
-  Los Molina
-  Los Pozoles
-  Cártel de Tláhuac
-  Los Panchos
-  Los Pitufos
-  Los Colombianos
-  Los Spring Breakers
-  Los Ruterros
-  Los Yonkeros



Resource: El Universal, 2024.

Actividad delictiva

Delincuencia Organizada.



Resource: Secretaria de Seguridad Ciudadana de la CDMX, 2024.

According to figures from the Secretaría de Seguridad Ciudadana and the Ciudad de México Police, at least 15 criminal structures responsible for the majority of crimes operate in the city's 16 mayoralties. Among the most prominent are cells of the Jalisco Cartel - New Generation (CJNG), the Sinaloa Cartel, La Familia Michoacana, La Union Tepito, Los Rodolfos, Los Tanzanios, and the Tláhuac Cartel. In addition, there are groups with less operational capacity, such as Los Maceros, dedicated to drug distribution, arms trafficking, extortion and kidnapping ([Infobae](#), 2024).

These criminal groups in the CDMX are the main generators of high-impact crimes, such as drug dealing and robberies. Although there is the presence of organizations with national impact, such as the CJNG and the Sinaloa Cartel, the operation in the city of autonomous gangs, such as La Unión Tepito, Los Rodolfos and the Tláhuac Cartel, fuels competition for territorial control and illegal rents. This constant competition exacerbates violence and deteriorates citizen coexistence ([Infobae](#), 2024).

At the end of June, city authorities dismantled a CJNG cell that had safe houses in the mayorship of Miguel Hidalgo and Alvaro Obregón, where it stored large amounts of money, drugs and high-caliber weapons. This cell apparently had connections with the group known as Unión Tepito in order to have a much wider presence in the capital. This was done through the display of "narco-banners" that were unfolded around the city announcing the arrival of the powerful cartel in the CDMX. This could be a subcontracting pact to take advantage of the CJNG's name to boost the criminal activities of both groups ([Infobae](#), 2024)

3.2 Extortion

Extortion in the Mexican capital has been growing over time, becoming a major security problem. The arrival of armed actors with high capacities for action and intimidation has turned this crime into a high-risk factor in the city due to the high impact it has begun to have. During the 2024 election campaign, different candidates for mayor of Mexico City and for the different mayorships addressed this issue in their proposals, since the concern of citizens demanded a concrete plan to react to this criminal action. During 2023 and so far in 2024, extortion figures have skyrocketed and therefore have become a concern for the public administration. In addition, new groups specialized in perpetrating this crime have emerged due to the high amounts of money they can collect through the materialization of this activity, specifically towards small and medium-sized businesses in problematic sectors of the city ([Expansión Política](#), 2024).

In May 2024, flyers were distributed in different neighborhoods in the municipalities of Iztapalapa, Tláhuac and Milpa Alta, in the southeast of the CDMX, encouraging business owners in the sector to send a transfer receipt of 3.000 Mexican pesos to an account belonging to the criminal structure "La Familia Michoacana". This was supposedly to protect the business owners, their families, their clients and the establishment itself ([Infobae](#), 2024). Similarly, a public service route that runs from the town of Mixquic, in the mayorship of Tláhuac, to the General Anaya subway line in the municipality of Coyoacán, has been threatened by an unidentified group to pay a "protection" fee. On one occasion the offices of the bus line were shot at as a way of threatening extortion payments ([Infobae](#), 2024).

3.3 Social Unrest

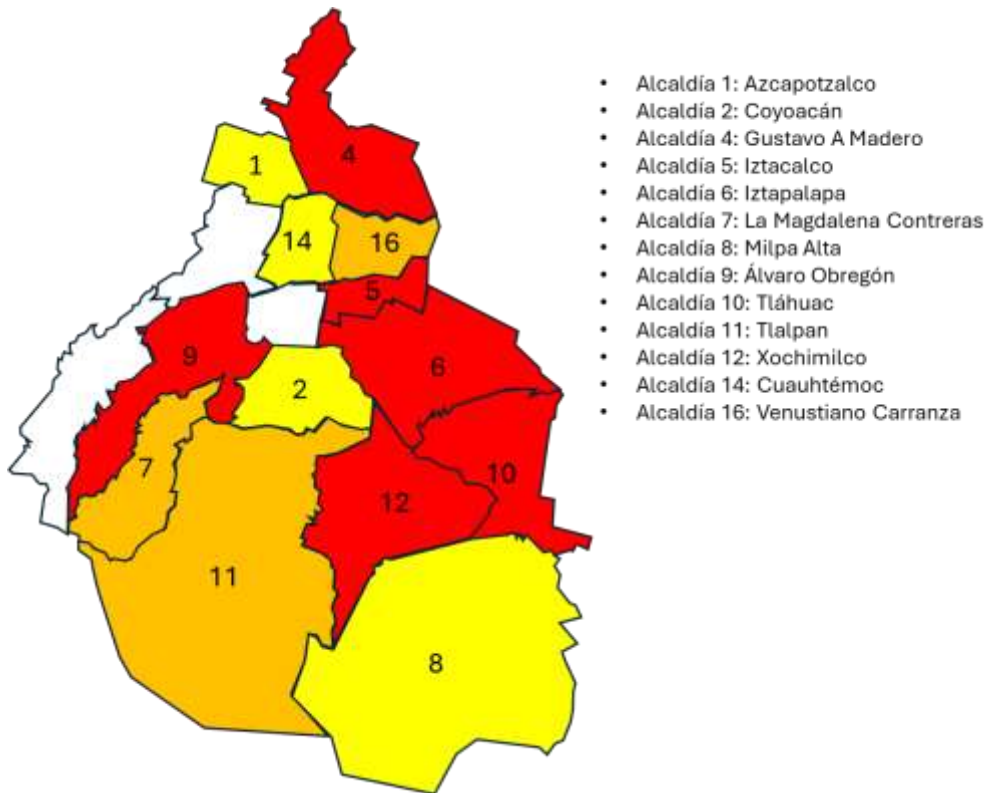
Social protest is a democratic mechanism through which citizens can express their discomfort or disagreement about a situation or circumstance that they consider negative for their lives. Ciudad de México, being the capital of the country, concentrates a large part of the protests and gatherings that take place in México, which can sometimes lead to violence or civic disorder, generating risk factors to be taken into account. In recent times we have seen how different sectors of society have taken the decision to demonstrate, for example different political sectors with the objective of supporting their determined candidate for the elections.

In March, while a demonstration was taking place on Paseo Reforma by the Triqui community, who were demanding that the mayor's office give them permission to sell their goods in the Plaza de la Constitución, citizens upset with the blockade of the road in both directions insulted and intimidated

them. This eventually resulted in a confrontation between protesters and citizens, forcing the authorities of the Secretaría de Seguridad (SSC) to intervene ([Infobae](#), 2024).

4. Risk Level

These risk level analyses are aimed at identifying the areas where, according to institutional statistics, there is a greater possibility of violence and high-impact crimes occurring. In the case of this Security Overview-Ciudad de México, the characterization will be based on the security and coexistence statistics of the National Urban Public Security Survey (ENSU) of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (Inegi). The most problematic areas of the city will then be identified through two indicators: homicide and theft from persons.



Resource: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (Inegi), 2024.

Medium Risk Level: Azcapotzalco, Cuauhtémoc, Coyoacán and Milpa Alta mayorships.

The mayorships of Azcapotzalco, Cuauhtémoc, Coyoacán and Milpa Alta are classified as medium risk because the occurrence of high-impact crimes is lower than in the rest of the city. Homicides and robbery have less impact than in other mayorships. The presence of criminal groups, in the cases of

Cauhtémoc and Azcapotzalco, is moderate and mostly isolated to specific neighborhoods that are also well controlled by the Public Force. In the case of Milpa Alta, the problem of criminal groups is more present, but with an equally moderate crime rate. According to the National Survey of Urban Public Security, these mayorships show a moderate perception of security in relation to their inhabitants, and in some cases with a tendency to improve, as in Milpa Alta.

Medium-High Risk Level: Venustiano Carranza, Magdalena Contreras and Tlalpan mayorships

These mayorships have been classified as Medium-High Risk Level zones due to different factors. The presence of organized criminal groups in these mayorships increases in most cases, resulting in disputes between more violent organizations. Extortion also increases in these territories due to the greater presence of criminals and the same disputes. At the same time, citizen perception of security decreases significantly in the case of Tlalpan, where more than 50% of citizens feel unsafe in their mayorships.

High Risk Level: Gustavo A Madero, Iztacalco, Iztapalapa, Álvaro Obregón, Tláhuac and Xochimilco mayorships.

In these mayorships, the presence of highly influential criminal groups such as the Sinaloa Cartel, the Jalisco Cartel - New Generation (CJNG) or the Tláhuac Cartel is more prevalent, which is why there are more violent disputes over micro-trafficking or other illicit rents. At the same time, common crime gangs may become more active in the case of subcontracting processes, generating a spike in extortion statistics, theft from persons or robbery in different modalities. These municipalities also show the most deteriorated perception of citizen security in percentage terms and increase. For example, Iztapalapa reached 72% in perception of insecurity, which indicates that the incidence of crime is high.

5. Foresight Design

During the first semester of the year 2024, elections were held in Ciudad de México for the different mayorships that make up the Mexican capital, as well as for the city's highest government. In this case, Claudia Brugada of the Morena party won the government of the CDMX, and the ruling coalition won in all of the local mayorships. This may give a prospect of continuity and even expansion of the policies that the previous mayor, Claudia Sheinbaum, had promoted throughout her government. This means that initiatives aimed at minimizing the power of criminal gangs among young people, empowering the police to act more effectively, or dealing criminal blows to the big leaders and not to the lowest links, remain the main initiative.

Likewise, the fact that the former mayor has won the presidency of the country may signal that national policies will have a similar tinge to that seen in the city government, and thus national criminal structures operating in the CDMX can expect similar treatment to that seen by local gangs. Despite all of this, criminal structures in Mexico, and therefore in Ciudad de México, continue to gain influence in both military and political arenas. This does not bode well unless the Mexican government's vision of security is changed. A recent event that may be of concern due to its consequences is the recent capture of "El Mayo" Zambada, who was one of the top leaders of the Sinaloa Cartel, which could generate internal disputes within this structure, or an increase in activities by other cartels to try to gain ground from the Sinaloa Cartel. This should be studied and we should remain attentive to the implications for the conflicts in Ciudad de México.

6. Recommendations

- Always maintain a high degree of situational awareness, which allows you to identify risks or threats derived from situations external to the place or areas where you travel.
- Taking into account the description of the Risk Level provided in this document, identify the mayorships with a high risk level in the city. This in order not to transit through them or to foresee safety and self-care plans.
- In case of traveling by means of a private vehicle, perform a route analysis and have alternate routes that will allow you to resolve any new developments along the route.
- Do not transit or travel late at night in neighborhoods or mayorships that, according to this document, have registered some type of criminal phenomenon or show high levels of interference by criminal actors, for example, the mayorships of Gustavo A Madero, Iztacalco, Iztapalapa, Álvaro Obregón, Tláhuac and Tlalpan.
- For the movement of expatriates or foreigners within Ciudad de México, evaluate the likelihood of having systems to monitor their movements remotely from a Command Center.
- If you are in crowded places such as restaurants, shopping malls or bars, always take care of your personal belongings and avoid engaging in conversations with people who suddenly ask for favors or want to approach you.
- Avoid having detailed or sensitive information about your family members and the organization you work for on your cell phone.
- Be careful with the information you publish through your social networks, taking into account that, with less privacy, your work and personal data and those of your family members are exposed on the network, which can lend itself to extortion or kidnapping processes.
- If you are a victim of telephone extortion, do not hang up, try to take notes, do not give your name or ID number and, if possible, record the call.
- If you are a victim of threats in any of its modalities, contact the authorities immediately and do not give in to the requests of the offender.
- If possible, train yourself in defensive and evasive driving to increase your ability to save your life or that of your family in the event of an assault on public roads.
- If you are in a highly vulnerable situation and are likely to be a victim of robbery, mugging or carjacking, do not put up any resistance.

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