

MERIDA INITIATIVE

U.S. Security Assistance to Mexico. 2008-2015



October 2015- The State Department withheld 15% of conditioned Merida Initiative funding. Security Assistance Monitor looks at what the initiative funds.



\$5 Million

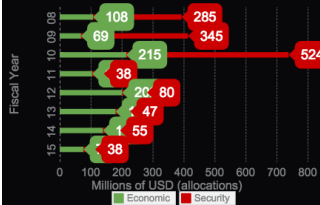
Funds withheld this year(1)

\$1.4 Billion

Funds delivered to Mexico through the Merida Initiative (FY08-15)(2)

\$2.5 Billion

Funds allocated to Mexico through the Merida Initiative (FY08-15)(2)



Merida Initiative funding can be broken down into economic (green) and security assistance (red) some of which is conditioned on the Mexican Government's demonstration of human rights progress. See footnote (6) for more details on security assistance to Mexico.

Programs: Security Foreign Military Financing (FMP) (until 2012) and a portion of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) Economic Economic Support Fund (ESF) and economic portion of INCLE

Merida Initiative Assistance 2008-2015(5)

15% of INCLE (security designated) and FMP funds are annually withheld until the State Department certifies that Mexico has met the following(7):

1. Increase transparency and accountability of the federal police
2. Establish a dialogue between civil society groups and the government
3. Ensure military and police accused of human rights abuses are tried in civilian courts
4. Enforce the prohibition on testimony obtained through torture

Pillars of Merida

1. 'Disrupt Capacity of Organized Crime to Operate'

2. 'Institutionalize Capacity to Sustain Rule of Law'

3. 'Create a 21st Century Border Structure'

4. 'Build Strong and Resilient Communities'

What Each Merida Pillar has Funded(8)

1. Over 20 aircraft (9 Blackhawks), telecommunications and secondary inspection points at border crossings
2. Correctional facility accreditation, vetting program, criminal justice system transition and academy improvements
3. 300 canines, remodeling 6 building of canine training facilities and border security technology (NIIE)
4. Citizens watch booths in 73 municipalities, drug treatment courts and junior high 'Culture of Lawfulness' curriculum

Resources

1. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/americas/us-blocks-some-anti-drug-funds-for-mexico-over-human-rights-concerns/2015/10/14/>

2. Congressional Research Service U.S.-Mexican Security Cooperation: The Merida Initiative and Beyond 05/07/2015 <https://www.fas.org/irp/crs/row/R41348.pdf>

3. 10 were unnamed civilians <http://www.thequintanaroo.com/world/2015/10/03/mexican-soldiers-ordered-to-kill-in-san-pedro-limon-claim-rights-activists/>

4. <http://news.vice.com/article/ayotzinapa-a-timeline-of-the-mass-disappearance-that-has-shaken-mexico>

5. Data from Congressional Budget Justifications(2010-2015) INCLE funds were divided between Security and Economic. Funds designated in the justification as 'Economic and Security' were included in Security and those designated 'Governance, Justice and Democracy' were included in Economic assistance.

6. FMP was no longer included in Merida starting in 2012 to hasten delivery of equipment. <https://www.fas.org/irp/crs/row/R41348.pdf>

7. Congress has overruled the following security funds from conditioning: assistance to promote transparency, anti-corruption, border, and maritime security, and respect for the rule of law within the army and police. (<https://www.congress.gov/113/plaws/publ35/PLAW-113-act035.pdf>)

8. The U.S. also supplies Mexico with security assistance through Department of Defense Counterterrorism programs (1004 & 1033), IMET, MARD and others. See Security Assistance Monitor for more. Funds for Central America were also appropriated within Merida from FY2008 to FY2010 after which when Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI) was authorized. These funds are not included in the above chart.

9. Merida Initiative for Mexico and Central America: Funding and Policy Issues (2010) Appendix A page 29 <https://books.google.com/books?id=2u0DkA0CkmcC&pg=PA140#v=onepage&q=Merida%20initiative+human+rights+conditions&asid=KLU9Dm8A&aspg=100#v=onepage&q=Merida%20initiative>

10. U.S. Embassy to Mexico Fact Sheet 07/20/15 <http://photos.state.gov/libraries/mexico/102291/15/MeridaInitiativeOverview-Jul15.pdf>