



The Missing 43

Protests in Mexico

Disappearance

- 43 students in Iguala, Guerrero Mexico went missing on Sept. 26, 2014.
- Police "intercepted" and then students were handed over to Guerreros Unidos (United Warriors) after arrest



Background

- Students hijacked three buses on way to protest hosted by the mayor
- Police interfered and started a shoot out
- Several students forced unto ground and into police vehicles (among the missing)
- "I peeked through a window and saw where the police were piling a number of compañeros in the police trucks and taking them away." Jorge Vazquez, first year
- Second attack short after once journalists arrived, several shots fired

Reaction

- Not much in the beginning because of unclear details and explanations, lack of evidence
- Human remains confirmed to not be missing students - outrage from the public



Protests

- Chilpancingo (state capitol) students smashed windows and set fire to government buildings
- Municipal place sacked and burned by protesters



Drug War

- More than 100,000 Mexicans have been and are being killed in the Mexican Drug War and at least 20,000 disappearances that are becoming less rare every day
- For many the Iguala case was "the straw that broke the camel's back"



Aftermath

- A few days following the disappearance, on September 30th the Police Chief, Mayor, and his wife all went into hiding.
- On October 4, the state prosecutor found three mass graves outside of Iguala.
- The following day a man confessed that he had "murdered, burned, and buried" the students in the grave.

Sources

- <https://stories.californiasunday.com/2015-01-04/mexico-the-disappeared-en>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2014_Iguala_mass_kidnapping#Protest_and_s_hootout
- http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/28/world/americas/mexico-officially-declares-missing-students-dead.html?_r=0
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