

## International Literature Project Series

Preparing Social Work Students to Practice in An Interconnected World

DRUG WARS, VIOLENCE

### NONFICTION FROM Mexico: [Violence and Drug-Trafficking in Mexico](#)

*A different kind of war: the causes and human costs of the drug-trafficking in Mexico.*

by Juan Villoro

SOURCE: Words Without Borders Campus ([wwb-campus.org](http://wwb-campus.org))

Click on the title above to access the reading and related multi-media teaching and learning resources, including author and translator bios and representations of socio-geographic-political and cultural context.

#### **SOCIAL WORK TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES**

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##### **Mexico's drug war as seen through the eyes of children**

[Aljazeera – An independent news organization funded in part by the Qatari government](#)

This article explores the depths to which cartel culture has infiltrated Mexican society, and the extreme distrust that citizens have toward their own government and police. Young adults and teenagers chant “narcocorridos,” ballads of the exploits of the narco-traffickers, while young children draw graphic pictures of the violence that surrounds them instead of happy scenes usually associated with children’s drawings.

##### **The Mexican child soldiers demanding action against drug traffickers**

[El País – A Spanish-language daily newspaper in Spain](#)

Fed-up with government inaction, the indigenous residents of a certain mountainous village take up arms side by side with their children to protest the lack of security and their vulnerability to drug cartel violence. While the children fire their guns ceremoniously during a protest rather than in actual combat, these types of self-defense groups are permitted under Mexican law and serve as a counter-balance against the dominance of the cartels, who attempt to impose slave like conditions on the local populace.

##### **Inside the life of a drug-trafficking teen**

[CNN](#)

Introduced to the cartel life when he was only 12 years old, Cesar became a drug runner for the notorious Los Zetas cartel. This article explores the extreme stress of the drug trade that drove him at age 15 to

have a nervous breakdown while attempting to escape the clutches of the cartel. It enumerates corruption on both sides of the border that enable such trafficking to occur, as well as the brutal methods used by the cartel to prevent people from leaving their clutches.

### **Mexico's children and youths face monstrous violence**

Deutsche Welle (DW) – Germany's International Broadcaster

The drug war in Mexico has a disproportionate effect on youth and children, who are often victimized by the cartels as a source of cheap labor. Police and federal authorities are sometimes complicit in these crimes either directly or by turning a blind eye to blatant abuses by the cartels. Thousands of children go missing in Mexico each year and the few that are found are typically discovered after they are already deceased.

### **Memory activism and Mexico's war on drugs: Countermonuments, resistance, and the politics of time**

Alexandra Delano Alonso, Benjamin Nienass, Latin American Research Review.

Justice is the central theme of this piece, which depicts a continuous search for justice occurring in Mexico, despite the indifference by the government and the extreme injustices perpetrated by the cartels against all levels of the society. The power of creating monuments and memorials for the victims of violence and injustice has a positive effect on bringing justice to the people.