



Despite organized crime, Mexico is no failed state

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Resorting to clichés is a formula clearly at play in commentary writer Ted Galen Carpenter's piece "[U.S. in slumber as Mexico drug war rages](#)" (USATODAY.com, Wednesday).

While my government does not minimize the seriousness of the challenge posed by organized crime, nor the dire threats to journalists posed by violent criminals, the proposition that Mexico is close to a "failed state," or that it is experiencing an insurgency, is simply misleading and wide off the mark.

A failed state, on the one hand, could never have issued an oversubscribed 100-year maturity bond in the international financial markets as Mexico did just this month. Which market or investor would bet money for such a long period on a failed state?

Insurgency, on the other, aims to destroy a state and to kill mayors and police officers, while organized crime needs and seeks corrupt mayors and corrupt police officers, and a weak but functioning state to be able to conduct its illicit business. If the facts don't fit the theory, adjust the theory, don't change the facts.

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