



## **Former Mexican president says U.S. should legalize all drugs**

By Catholic Online (NEWS CONSORTIUM)

10/20/2011

Catholic Online ([www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org))

In a bold statement, former Mexican President Vicente Fox said the United States should legalize all drugs. CNSNews.com asked Fox at a libertarian Cato Institute event in Washington, D.C. "Do you think the U.S. should legalize all drugs?" Fox said: "I do think so, but let's just start with marijuana."

LOS ANGELES, CA (Catholic Online) - "It will separate health from crime," Fox said. "It would benefit Mexico enormously at this moment when we are in deep problems. So, it's to the benefit of everybody."

Fox believes that the road to legalization should start with marijuana, as it will have enormous benefits for Mexico, where violence associated with drug trafficking has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths in recent years.

Fox says that Mexico already allows the consumption of any drug. Fox also suggested that in dealing with its narcotics problem, Mexico should legalize the sale, use, and production of all drugs as a means to end the nation's particularly disastrous drug war.

"Today [in Mexico], is not forbidden to consume marijuana or [cocaine] or any drug," Fox said. "You can consume whichever drug you like and there's no penalty for that. The penalty is for distributing and producing or [transporting] from there. So at least that exists in Mexico today. But I think we should go further ahead."

"My proposal is to legalize completely all drugs and the whole chain of production: the farming or production in factories; the distribution; the selling; and the collecting of the money."

"I don't see anything wrong [with legalizing all drugs]," he later added. "The figures I have is that, in Mexico, not more than a thousand people, not more, die from an overdose of drugs of whichever drug. In exchange, tens of thousands of people die from drinking alcohol in excess or die from smoking [tobacco] and getting cancer."

Fox said the reason he did not legalize all drugs in Mexico when he was president is because the drug problem there was not as bad as it is now.

Current Mexican President Felipe Calderón has launched an aggressive campaign against the drug cartels in his country upon taking office in 2006. Various estimates suggest that more than 40,000 people have died in direct relation to the drug war.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice's 2011 National Drug Threat Assessment, "Overall demand is rising, largely supplied by illicit drugs smuggled to U.S. markets by major transnational criminal organizations (TCOs)."

"Major Mexican-based TCOs continue to solidify their dominance over the wholesale illicit drug trade [in the U.S.] as they control the movement of most of the foreign-produced drug supply across the U.S. Southwest Border," reads the assessment. It further states, "Major Mexican-based TCOs will continue to dominate wholesale drug trafficking in the United States for the foreseeable future and will further solidify their positions through collaboration with U.S. gangs."