

# Tijuana Police Suspend Patrols After Soldiers Seize Their Guns

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TIJUANA, Mexico, Jan. 5 (AP) — The police suspended their patrols in this violent border city on Friday after soldiers sent by President [Felipe Calderón](#) seized most of their weapons in a crackdown on drug gangs and police corruption.

The Tijuana public safety secretary, Luis Javier Algorri, said that without weapons, it was too dangerous for the force of 2,000 officers to patrol the streets of Tijuana, where 13 officers were fatally shot last year.

“This is an unfortunate situation because it leaves agents defenseless and does not allow them to serve the community,” Mr. Algorri said at a news conference.

There have long been allegations by federal investigators that a network of crooked officers helps smugglers ship drugs into the United States. On Tuesday, Mr. Calderón sent 3,300 soldiers and federal police officers to Tijuana, and by Thursday soldiers were sweeping through police stations, confiscating officers’ guns for inspection. On Friday, soldiers monitored those leaving and entering Tijuana, while the federal and state police manned checkpoints within the city.

The mobilization was the second major military offensive against drug rackets by Mr. Calderón, who took office on Dec. 1 promising to crack down on organized crime.

Last month, he sent 7,000 troops to his native state of Michoacán in western Mexico, which has been plagued by execution-style killings and beheadings as rival gangs fight over marijuana plantations and smuggling routes.

Drug gangs were blamed for more than 2,000 killings nationwide in 2006 and have left a particularly bloody trail in Michoacán and Tijuana, where more than 300 people were killed last year.

On Friday, state officials said they had found seven bodies in a shallow grave in the city of Uruapan, in Michoacán.

The discovery was made after an anonymous call sent the police to an abandoned warehouse on Thursday in Uruapan, about 180 miles west of Mexico City. The grave was under a loose section of flooring, said Magdalena Guzman, a spokeswoman for the state prosecutors' office.

Officials found the bodies of three men and a woman late on Thursday. Their feet and hands were bound, and their mouths covered with tape. Three other bodies were uncovered Friday. All were in advanced stages of decomposition, indicating the victims were killed some time ago.

Opposition politicians and others have expressed doubt that Mr. Calderón's highly publicized drug crackdown would have much of an effect.

His predecessor, Vicente Fox, also assembled thousands of agents to fight drug traffickers, resulting in the arrests of several reputed narcotics kingpins during his six-year term. But those moves appeared to touch off more violence as other traffickers fought over the smuggling routes of those killed or detained.