

Border Agent Kills Immigrant; Mexican Government Protests

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BISBEE, Ariz., Jan. 17 —A Mexican immigrant was shot and killed on Friday by a Border Patrol agent in Arizona, prompting an investigation by federal authorities and condemnation from President [Felipe Calderón](#) of Mexico.

The immigrant, Francisco Javier Domínguez Rivera, 22, was shot as he and six others were being taken into custody by a Border Patrol agent, shortly after they crossed illegally into Cochise County in southeastern Arizona, between Naco and Douglas. Before he was shot, Mr. Domínguez Rivera scuffled with the agent, whose identity was not released, a Border Patrol spokesman said.

It was the first fatal shooting by a Border Patrol agent since Aug. 26, 2006, when an agent killed a man who was throwing rocks from the Mexican side of the border near Andrade, Calif., Xavier Rios, an agency spokesman, said.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Department and the federal [Department of Homeland Security](#), the parent agency of United States Customs and Border Protection, are investigating the shooting.

The [F.B.I.](#) is also looking at the case and will review the results of the other inquiries before determining whether to expand its investigation, said an agency spokeswoman in Phoenix.

“Any time there’s an assault on a federal agent, we’re involved,” Deborah McCarley, the Federal Bureau of Investigation spokeswoman, said. “As we go along, if information surfaces that there’s been a civil rights violation, then we obviously would take a look at that.”

Lt. Cmdr. Mark Dannels, a sheriff's department spokesman, said the shooting was prompted by stone throwing. A Border Patrol statement called it a scuffle but did not mention stone throwing.

Also, the two agencies' descriptions of where the shooting occurred differed by several miles.

Initial reports suggested that Mr. Domínguez Rivera was unarmed, Jesus Rodriguez, a spokesman for the Border Patrol in Tucson, said. Officials would not be able to say for certain until the investigation was completed, Mr. Rodriguez said.

President Calderón, who took office in December, said at a news conference on Sunday, "I want to begin by extending my deepest condolences, and then my most energetic protest over the death of our countryman, a native of Puebla, who died in Arizona from a gunshot after having been detained by the U.S. Border Patrol."

The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations sent a formal note to the State Department expressing "its serious concern over the recurrence of this type of incident."

At a news conference on Wednesday, Tom Casey, a State Department deputy spokesman said, "My understanding is we have received a diplomatic note from the government of Mexico on this incident."

Any response would depend on the outcome of the federal inquiries, Mr. Casey said.