



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

Nuevo León Bolsters Police Capacity in Tough Times

In 2010, private businesses and local universities in the northern Mexico state of Nuevo León forged an unusual alliance with the government to design and implement sweeping law-enforcement reforms. At the time, powerful drug cartels were fighting increasingly bitter and bloody wars to control their turf—which intimidated an existing police service already hampered by low pay, weak morale, corruption, and disorganization. Public confidence in the state's ability to maintain order had evaporated. Over the course of the next five years, a public-private partnership oversaw the creation of an entirely new police service that, in tandem with other reforms, significantly strengthened the state's capacity to ensure public safety and helped rebuild public confidence.

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An earlier ISS case study entitled, [Reclaiming the City: Police Reform in Mexico City](#), profiles a related policing reform initiative in Mexico's capital city. Visit the ISS website for more case studies on [accountable policing](#).



An officer in Nuevo León's Fuerza Civil (Civil Force) interacts with a child as a part of community outreach. Photo permission provided by Fuerza Civil.

Featured ISS Interview

Robin Campbell relates his experience in working for police reform in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and other countries. He covers topics including recruitment and vetting, as well as the challenges of integrating and amalgamating different security forces with varying histories and organizational cultures into a new civilian police force. He also covers the role of nonstate security actors in developing countries and reflects on the difficulty of forging and managing a productive relationship between these groups and the official police force. He illuminates his experience in the developing world with reflections on the transformation of the Royal Ulster Constabulary into today's Police Service of Northern Ireland.

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