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Criminal Threats to Mexico's Energy Revolution

Discussion Meeting

Gustavo Mohar

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Arundel House, London

Tuesday, 30 September 2014

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Date: 30 September 2014



Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has signed into law his most ambitious reform package, ending more than 70 years of state monopoly over the oil and gas sector. Foreign investment in energy is crucial to boost economic development in one of the world's ten largest oil producers. But how safe is the energy infrastructure in Mexico?

Despite a significant decline in homicides related to the fight against well-armed illegal groups, criminal activity surrounding the energy sector has been on the rise. The criminal underworld in Mexico has diversified into extortion, oil theft and smuggling. The state oil company, PEMEX, has said that criminal groups stole over US\$1 billion in hydrocarbon resources during 2012 and 2013.

Exploring such a strategic sector will involve simultaneous security and economic challenges for Mexico. This discussion panel explores the evolution of the criminal underworld there and the prospects for the coming energy revolution.

***Gustavo Mohar** has had a longstanding career in national security. As General Secretary of CISEN from 2007 to 2011, he was on the front-line of the fight against organised crime. Among his various responsibilities, he was in charge of coordinating intelligence agencies and operations, particularly against drug cartels and other subversive groups. Previously, he was Director of International Affairs at CISEN, Undersecretary of the Ministry of the Interior and Chief Negotiator for Immigration Affairs at Mexico's Foreign Ministry.*

***Juan Carlos Boué** is an oil industry consultant. He worked at the international trading arm of Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX), served as special advisor to the Venezuelan minister of Energy and Petroleum and sat on the boards of most of Petróleos de Venezuela's (PDVSA) refining ventures abroad. He has written widely on the industrial economics of the oil and gas exploration, production and refining industries, as well as on the political economy of oil in general.*

The discussion was chaired by **Antônio Sampaio**, Research Analyst for Security and Development, IISS. It will take place at [Arundel House](#) in the Council Room.

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