

# Newly Elected Congresswoman Kidnapped on Highway in Mexico. More than 120 Politicians and Candidates Have Been Killed Since September 2017

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Hidalgo, Mexico: Norma Azucena Rodríguez Zamora, who was elected on July 1 as part of the center-left Party of the Democratic Revolution, was driving along a highway when two men shot at her vehicle, causing it to flip and injure an assistant and Rodríguez's driver. The congresswoman was then pulled from the vehicle and forced to leave with the gunmen. She was elected to represent one of Mexico's most violent states, Veracruz, and would have taken office next month. More than 120 Mexican politicians and political candidates have been killed since September, 2017. More than 200,000 people have been murdered since 2006. -GEG

Mexican congresswoman was kidnapped at gunpoint on Tuesday, just a month and a half after she was first elected.

Norma Azucena Rodríguez Zamora, who was elected on July 1 as part of the center-left Party of the Democratic Revolution to represent Veracruz state, was driving along a highway in central Hidalgo, [the BBC reported](#). Two men shot at her vehicle, causing it to flip and injuring an assistant as well as Rodríguez's driver. The elected congresswoman was then pulled from the vehicle and forced to leave with the gunmen.

According to the driver, the two men had their faces covered with hoods. It was also reported that the men were driving a black car.

Photos shared by Mexican media showed the politician's car turned on its side, with emergency officials and bystanders inspecting the damage. Smoke billowed from the vehicle and glass was scattered along the highway.

Rodríguez, who was voted to represent one of Mexico's most violent states, was set to officially take office on September 1. She previously served as the mayor of the Veracruz town, Tihuatlán.

The politician's kidnapping came after Genaro Negrete Urbano, the mayor of Naupan, was abducted along the same Hidalgo highway in July. He was later found shot dead earlier this month.

Mexico's recent election—which was the **largest ever** in the country's modern history—was also hailed **as the nation's bloodiest**. More than 120 politicians and political candidates were reported killed since September 2017.

More than 35,000 people in Mexico have gone missing, and over 200,000 have been murdered since 2006. Last year saw a **record number** of killings, with the country's interior ministry reporting 29,168 in total—the highest level since the government started keeping records in 1997.

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