

**Abstract:**

The Mexican government's highly militarized campaigns to counter Mexican drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) have proven disastrously counterproductive, as the level of violence created by cartels has consistently escalated since their inception. President López Obrador suggested integrating Demobilization, Disarmament, and Reintegration (DDR) of combatants and Transitional Justice (TJ) mechanisms into their efforts towards peace. The Mexican Drug War exhibits specific characteristics which make it uniquely intractable, such as high levels of violence and corruption, as well as ample availability of ungoverned spaces, and easy access to firearms and weaponry. Given the ineffectiveness of militarized efforts at tackling these challenges, attempting a new approach focused on DDR and TJ would be worthwhile. Conflicts in Colombia and Sierra Leone faced similar challenges and utilized DDR and TJ during their post-conflict periods. By assessing the successes and shortcomings of DDR and TJ in Colombia and Sierra Leone, I developed recommendations for the Mexican government in implementing these measures. These include rebuilding perceptions of government legitimacy, destroying forfeited weapons, and integrating gender into the construction of post-conflict peacebuilding mechanisms.