

Mexico's president vowed to halt murders of journalists. He hasn't been able to stop them.

By Emily Green

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MEXICO CITY — After decisively winning Mexico's 2018 presidential election, Andres Manuel López Obrador made a solemn vow in his victory speech: "We are not going to allow the assassination of journalists."

But that didn't help [Jesús Hiram Moreno](#), who was shot in the back in Oaxaca last week, despite being enrolled in a federal program meant to keep reporters safe. Moreno survived the assassination attempt, but reporter [Santiago Barroso](#) wasn't so lucky. He was shot dead on March 15 by armed gunmen when he opened the door to his home in the border city of San Luis Rio Colorado. And on Sunday, the body of sports journalist Omar Iván Camacho was found under a bridge in Sinaloa.

Journalists are still getting murdered with impunity under Mexico's new president. Six journalists have been murdered since he took office on December 1, adding to a grisly toll of 71 reporters that have been killed in Mexico over the past decade, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Mexico [ranks as the deadliest for journalists among](#) countries that aren't at war.

López Obrador, known as AMLO, inherited a country where corruption and impunity are rampant, and critics acknowledge change isn't going to happen overnight. But they also say the president hasn't articulated a concrete plan to address the dangers faced by journalists — and that doesn't bode well for the future.

"The problem is, these promises need to translate into meaningful policies in protecting journalists and combating impunity. And that's where the wheel stops turning. Because we haven't seen any real progress in what this government is proposing," said Jan-Albert Hootsen, the Mexico representative for the Committee to Protect Journalists, a press freedom group.