

# Letters To The Editor

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## Taking shots in the war on drugs

By Devika Parashar

*Re "U.S., Mexico in talks to bolster drug fight," Aug. 9*

Mexico President Felipe Calderon must realize that the responsibility for combating Mexico's drug issues primarily lies with his government, not with the United States.

The U.S. government has an obligation to keep drugs out, but stopping the flow lies with Mexico. Mexican drug lords are seeking to promulgate new markets in the U.S. while nurturing old ones. In addition, the illegal trafficking of guns across the U.S. border is because of Mexico's extreme gun laws. The lack of supply in Mexico is met from the United States.

A new surveillance system is exactly what the United States and Mexico need. In the drug war in Colombia, the use of street cameras in Bogota dramatically reduced the crime rate. The new system could also serve to relieve police, making them available for more direct action against drugs.

Calderon should stop blaming the United States and make a concerted effort to fight the drug war. Democracy and drugs are incompatible -- it is his responsibility to invigorate the Mexican people to be a nation without drugs or suffer the fate of the narco-state.

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