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## Merida Initiative

This multi-year program demonstrates the United States' commitment to work in partnership with governments in Mexico, the nations of Central America, the Dominican Republic and Haiti to confront criminal organizations whose illicit actions undermine public safety, erode the rule of law, and threaten the national security of the United States.

The Merida Initiative will provide equipment and training in support of law enforcement operations and technical assistance to promote the long-term reform, oversight and professionalization of our partners' security agencies. In 2008, Congress approved an initial \$400 million for Mexico and \$65 million for Central America, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

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### Fact Sheets on The Merida Initiative

The multi-year Merida Initiative will provide equipment and training to support law enforcement operations and technical assistance for long-term reform and oversight of security agencies. The initiative complements broader efforts by Mexico, the Central American nations, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic to fight criminal organizations and drug trafficking. [Full Text](#)» [Myths Vs. Facts](#)»

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### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Merida Initiative Bilateral Implementation Office Opens

As announced by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and Mexico's Secretary of Foreign Relations Patricia Espinosa in March 2009, the Merida Initiative Bilateral Implementation Office (BIO) opened in Mexico City. [Full Text](#)»

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