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Por **Sasha Hartzell**



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Por Seth Markowski hace 4 horas



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#### La congresista Kyrsten Sinema habla con estudiantes-veteranos antes de las elecciones de noviembre

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#### Adaptándose a la vida universitaria como un estudiante fuera del estado

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Hace 8 horas

## Encuesta



## Destacado del fin de semana familiar: la Asociación de padres y familias

Por Lauren Albrecht hace 8 horas



Sasha hartzell

Vestidos de rojo, miembros de *El Frente Popular Francisco Villa*, el *Frente Popular de Francisco Villa*, participaron en la marcha por el 50 aniversario de la masacre de Tlatelolco en el movimiento estudiantil de 1968. La organización marxista llevaba pancartas que decían: "No olviden el 2 de octubre, es la lucha combativa".

"Porros are, among other things, groups of aggressors, golpeadores, who are paid by UNAM's authorities or even sometimes by the same Mexican government, PRI. It's sort of cataloged as a paramilitary group," said Felix Roberto Lopez Roldán, a Philosophy student at UNAM.

Paramilitaries have been totally discredited in the country, however, according to Dr. William Beezley from the UA History Department. "No one in Mexico can rely on paramilitary again. But using porros is a way to get around it." In general, porros are technically students- it is less obvious they work for outside interests, sparking less public outrage.

In a recorded special message, UNAM Director Enrique Graue said the attack was staged by people "who represent outside outside interests that evidently want to destabilize the university," though he failed to specify who.

In the Sept. 3rd attack, cellphone footage captured UNAM security standing by, refusing to protect the protesters. One guard was recorded saying they had orders from above not to intervene. "For two hours porros attacked and UNAM's security didn't do anything — they were there and didn't do anything," said Camila Zuleta, a highschool student from the protest.

Fourteen students were injured and two hospitalized. "They got stabbed and one girl got hit in the head with a pipe. One of them even got a piece of his ear ripped off," said Roldán.

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## Eventos

5    6    7    8

- 8:45 am | ITCats Toastmasters
- 6:00 pm | Carnival of Illusion / Un viaje mágico alrededor del mundo
- 7:00 pm | Peter y el Starcatcher (la precuela de Peter Pan)



On Tuesday, Oct. 2, a group of UNAM students in Tlatelolco, Mexico City paste a print commemorating those killed in the 1968 student movement before joining in a city wide march. Students covered the walls of Tlatelolco buildings with messages about the 1968 movement, the 43 Ayotzinapa students who were disappeared in 2014, and the *porro* attack at UNAM in September.

These gangs of porros have historically been utilized to repress students in Mexico. "50-60 years ago it was some students and young people working for the government specifically to try to control other students," said Dr. Eugenia Allier, a UNAM professor who spoke at the UA last Thursday. "Now they try to control students but it doesn't work anymore, you cannot control half a million students, not in the same way as in 68."

Dr. Allier says now porros are only able to provoke- which is exactly what they did this September. Their attack provoked tens of thousands of students to take the streets in a new student movement, almost exactly 50 years after the last mass mobilization.

UNAM students and supporting faculty went on strike, closing most of the faculties in the main campus. On Sept. 5th, thousands of students rallied, turning the nearby metro stations and main campus into a sea of chanting bodies.

Again they mobilized on Sept 13th, marching miles through the streets of Mexico City to the Zocalo, the city's center. UNAM faculty and employees, community members, and participants from the 1968 student movement walked alongside current students in solidarity.

"The education model in México is very authoritarian and conservative. The student movement makes this structure shake," said Dr. Hugo Luis Sánchez Gudiño, a UNAM professor of Political and Social Sciences.



Sasha Hartzell

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, students in Mexico City marched from the sight of the historic Tlatelolco Massacre, where over 100 participants of the 1968 student movement were

killed, to the city center. The students organized themselves by college, gathering under banners and wearing matching bracelets to identify each other.

Through assemblies, UNAM students from all faculties have collaborated to draft a petition of seven demands: punishment for both the puppets and puppeteers who were responsible for the Sept. 3rd attacks, increased democratization of the university with more student, faculty and worker control and participation, increased funding for schools and students, increased security- particularly for women, the eradication of porros, the removal of University Director Graue and of the university's head of security, and the continuation of free tuition.

"The problem is the director, who is the highest authority in UNAM, is chosen by the government council, formed by people who are from the government- these last years from the PRI- so that has something to do with everything that's passed at the school," said UNAM biology student Vanessa Peláez, marching in the demonstration on the 13th. The students are demanding a system overhaul, making the director's election a democratic process within the school itself.

These issues have been simmering for a long time but the thing that made everything explode, made everyone take to the streets, was the attack of the porros, said Alejandra Lopez Lejano, a UNAM philosophy graduate, "The movement is not just from UNAM but has extended to all the public education in the country, even private universities are participating in topics that involve education and security."

**RELATED:** Q&A: author Todd Miller on migration, the media and militarization

Yet this budding, country-wide movement has been largely absent from US and international mainstream media. Dr. Hugo suggests the imminent historical change of political power in México could be responsible.

"Today, everyone wants to be well with the President-Elect, because they have kept silent on the subject," said Dr. Hugo. "Having dealt with the issue would have generated discomfort with the AMLO team." This December, PRI, the political party who held office for 77 of the past 89 years, will make way for the new leftist president-elect, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO).

La UA, que estableció una colaboración formal con la UNAM en 2015, está más cerca de los eventos en México que la mayoría. "Es importante que los estudiantes de la UA y otras personas vean cómo los estudiantes pueden involucrarse en la política y cambiar o intentar cambiar su sociedad", dijo el Dr. Beezley, quien habló el martes pasado en el Programa Especial de la UA, *México-1968*. Dijo que los estudiantes y los maestros de ambos lados deberían adoptar la actitud, "esta es la oportunidad de aprender realmente de otra persona", y luego hacerlo.

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