who want to attend college, only 33 have the financial or logistical means to do so. Calzada underscored the need to address this deficit in education. Mexicans with unequal access to education cannot compete with their northern neighbors and other highly skilled workers in the global marketplace. Yet education is about more than just competition between the United States and Mexico. It is also about cooperation.

Currently, only 14,000 Mexican students attend U.S. community colleges or universities and 7,000 students from the United States are taking classes in Mexico. In comparison, 274,000 Chinese students and 54,000 Saudi Arabian students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities in 2014. On a July 2014 gubernatorial trade mission to Mexico, California’s Governor Jerry Brown signed an agreement with Mexico’s Ministry of Education with the goal of increasing the number of exchange students between the two countries.

Calzada reiterated the importance of an enhanced educational alliance, stating a goal of 100,000 Mexican students in the United States and 50,000 U.S. students in Mexico. For the governor of Querétaro, Mexico’s cooperation with the United States in education underscores the importance of recognizing and seizing joint potential.

Querétaro is not immune from security threats afflicting other parts of Mexico. Calzada noted that safety is a constant concern. It is also one that requires hypervigilance, given that the country’s most traveled interstate, Highway 57, cuts through the state. Querétaro’s accessibility via plane, car, truck, and passenger bus, makes the state’s 40 permanent police and military-monitored checkpoints an essential ingredient in maintaining security within the state’s borders.

Governor Calzada’s time in office may be waning, but Querétaro’s rising star is not. Through policies aimed at increasing incomes, investing in infrastructure, and improving local manufacturing, Calzada has emphasized his concern for what he calls a single bottom line: that citizens feel they are better off today than they were yesterday.

José Eduardo Calzada Rovirosa is governor of the Mexican state of Querétaro. He spoke for CLAS on January 23, 2015.

Brittany Arsiniega is a JD/Ph.D. student in Jurisprudence and Social Policy at UC Berkeley.

Reporting Under Threat

By Yolanda Martinez

A grainy video implicates Baja California’s State Attorney General of trying to take control of organized crime in Mexicali with the help of the Sinaloa Cartel, one of the most powerful and violent drug trafficking organizations in Mexico. In the video, a man who claimed to run the Mexicali cell of the cartel said that his team was asked to kill policemen who were stealing merchandise. The man in the video was tortured, killed, and left in a car in front of the house of the Attorney General’s girlfriend.

This video was delivered to several news outlets in Baja California, but only Zeta, a Tijuana-based weekly, uploaded it and investigated the allegations. After publishing the story, journalists at Zeta saw that nothing happened: the Attorney General stayed on the job and faced no consequences.

Bernardo Ruiz’s 2012 documentary, “Reportero,” recounts the history of Zeta, from its foundation in 1980 to the assassination of several of its journalists by organized crime. The story is told through Sergio Haro, a serious photojournalist who is so dedicated to his job that he has continued to work, even after receiving death threats from drug cartels.

Told primarily through archival video footage of known cartel members, photos of Zeta’s founders, and video interviews, the film pulls back and shows that the violence faced by journalists in Mexico began before President Felipe Calderón’s drug war.

Over time, the physical and psychological toll of this conflict has shredded journalists’ ability to report. Since January 2007, more than 42 members of the press have been murdered, and several have disappeared. Because they were fearful of retaliation, the other news outlets that also received the video confession implicating the Attorney General did not pursue the story. Only Zeta.

To safeguard the individual journalists, explosive stories that might elicit threats are published under an anonymous byline: Investigaciones Zeta. Taking advantage of its proximity to the United States, Zeta prints its paper...
on the California side of the border. But for a small regional paper, anonymous bylines and printing outside of Mexico can only offer so much protection.

In the talk that he gave as part of the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism’s Unity Film Series — an event organized by the student chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and CLAS — Ruiz stated that, while he and his crew never felt like they were in direct danger during the two-year production, Zeta’s editor-in-chief, Adela Navarro, did receive threats while filming “Reportero.” Ruiz explained that the threats did not stem from her participation in the film, but from Navarro’s “ongoing reporting that looked at the nexus between political corruption and the narcos.”

In the film, Adela Navarro said that in Mexico, criminals have impunity. Zeta publishes the names of corrupt politicians, investigates the murders of their own journalists, and does not shy away from drug-trafficking criminals who have impunity. Zeta’s editor-in-chief, Adela Navarro, did receive threats while filming “Reportero.” Ruiz explained that the threats did not stem from her participation in the film, but from Navarro’s “ongoing reporting that looked at the nexus between political corruption and the narcos.”

In the United States. Ruiz then frames each subject in an international context with which we have to look to the press,” Ruiz said.

During the two-year production of “Reportero,” Ruiz and his crew witnessed how Zeta leverages its position in a border city to protect itself. They are independent and aggressive — a bit sensationalistic for some readers — but their will for strong reporting never falters. New, younger journalists continue to join their ranks, learning from Haro, Navarro, and other journalists who have been reporting for decades.

The death of a journalist is rarely investigated, corrupt officials never leave office, and people continue to be murdered by cartels. But now, the people of Mexico have taken to the streets to protest corruption and violence and to support freedom of the press.

“I think the question remains, what kind of support do they have from the international community?” Ruiz concluded.

Bernardo Ruiz is an independent filmmaker based in New York. On March 30, he spoke at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism’s Unity Film Series event organized by the student chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and CLAS.

Yolanda Martinez is a multimedia student at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.