

**Topics**

- **Ebrard faces his first major crisis as Mexico City Mayor**
- **Another police official is assassinated**
- **Santiago Creel blames Senate for failing to approve media law**
- **IFE rejects energy reform referendum**
- **Government applauds passage of Merida Initiative**

**Key Dates**

- 5/13-7/22: Energy debate*
- 7/06: Nayarit state elections*
- 7/27: PRD "Citizen Consultation" on energy reform*
- 9/01: Presidential Informe*
- 9/28: Coahuila state elections*

A botched police raid on a discothèque has created the most serious political crisis yet for **Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard**. The June 20 raid on the News Divine club led to the deaths of three policemen and nine civilians, mostly teenagers. Internet videos showed the youths desperately trying to get out while a police cordon blocked the doors, and also showed police refusing to provide assistance to the dead and injured. Ebrard fired the borough president and 17 police officials, and the official in charge of the operation has been indicted on homicide charges. However, while acknowledging "serious errors" in the operation, Ebrard has defended his minister for Public Security, Joel Ortega, against growing demands for his resignation. Columnist Sergio Sarmiento noted that, "Joel Ortega and Marcelo Ebrard are fixated on maintaining a good public image since both have future political ambitions." (Reforma 6/25)

A **federal police commander**, Igor Labastida, was **assassinated** in a Mexico City restaurant. Labastida was considered "the right hand" of Edgar Millan, the former head of regional security of the Federal Police, who was killed in May. According to the Secretary of Public Security, Labastida was working on a smuggling case. (Reforma 6/27)

PAN Senator Santiago Creel characterized as "lamentable and grave" the failure of Congress to approve the **changes to the radio and TV law** made necessary by last year's electoral reform of the Constitution. The proposed laws would have created stiff sanctions for media companies that violate the electoral laws, including the possible loss of their concessions, "We had a constitutional obligation to do it, and we failed," Creel said. The PRD president of the Radio and TV Commission, Carlos Sotelo, accused the two parties for "blowing the reform and succumbing to the pressures of the TV companies....They are responding to interests other than the public interest." (Reforma 6/24, Proceso 6/25)

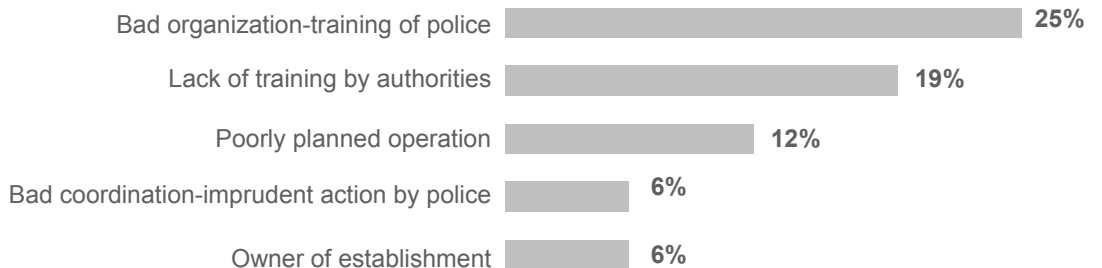
The IFE rejected carrying out the **energy reform referendum** proposed by the PRD, saying it did not have the legal authority to carry out such a referendum. "The organization of a referendum by the IFE would violate the principles of legality, certainty, and objectivity," said IFE head Leonardo Valdez. PRD president Guadalupe Acosta Naranjo warned that "If the IFE decides not to participate in any way, we will seek a citizen's organization, with moral authority, to organize the referendum." (Universal 6/27)

Government officials applauded the passage by the U.S. Senate of the US\$400 million **Merida Initiative**. "Both governments will carry out consultations in order to define together the processes and timetables for the transfer of equipment, technology, and training programs identified by Mexican agencies," said Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa. (Reforma 6/28)

**Polls**

**The next newsletter will be published on July 14, 2008.**

**Who is responsible for the deaths of 12 persons at News Divine?**



A *Universal* poll (6/30) showed that most respondents blamed the police for the deaths at the News Divine disco. However 75% also said that they supported continued police raids to crack down on underage drinking and drug use.