

# *Kidnapping in Mexico Up by Nine Percent in October*

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Mexico City, November 20 (NNN-EFE-RHC)-- Mexico officially recorded 194 abductions last month, an 8.9 percent increase from October 2013, when 178 cases were registered, the Association to Stop Kidnapping said Wednesday. Six kidnappings occur every day in Mexico, according to the non-governmental organization.

"Men are most vulnerable to the crime of kidnapping," accounting for 71 percent of all victims, while the 21-30 age group is most often targeted, representing 24 percent of those abducted, the NGO said.

The central state of Mexico led the nation in kidnapping cases with 59, followed by the northeastern state of Tamaulipas with 32, the Federal District (Mexico City) with 23, the southern state of Guerrero with 12 and the central state of Morelos and the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, which each recorded 11.

October's figures do not include the 43 students from a teacher-training facility in the rural town of Ayotzinapa, Guerrero, who went missing on September 26th in the nearby city of Iguala, a case that has attracted global attention, the NGO said.

The Association to Stop Kidnapping documented 5,361 abductions in Mexico between December 2012, when current President Enrique Peña Nieto took office, and October of this year.

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