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Ruling Party & Opposition In Michoacan Continue To Clash Over December 6 Election

by Carlos Navarro
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Violent clashes between supporters of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) continued into the new year in some communities in Michoacan state, following allegations of massive fraud in the Dec. 6 municipal elections. During a hearing before the state electoral commission on Dec. 16, PRD leader Jorge Luis Tinajero Escobedo said he had uncovered enough evidence of fraud to question the results in at least 40 municipalities. The list included the state capital of Morelia and the cities of Apatzingan, Lazaro Cardenas and Uruapan, among others. On Dec. 17, the Michoacan state electoral commission released a final official tally of the elections. According to the commission, the PRI won 74 mayoral elections, followed by 33 for the PRD, four for the PAN and one for the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (Partido Autentico de la Revolucion Mexicana, PARM). According to Agence France-Presse, on Jan. 1, three persons died and 13 others were injured in the town of Yucarero when PRD supporters staged a demonstration to prevent the newly elected PRI candidate from taking office. A similar confrontation caused four deaths in the town of Turiacato in late December. On Jan. 4, Michoacan PRD secretary Efrain Garcia said the party was asking the federal Interior Secretariat (Gobernacion) for a review of results in 29 cities where the PRD was questioning the legitimacy of PRI victories.

(Sources: Uno Mas Uno, 12/17/92; La Jornada, 12/18/92; Agence France-Presse, 01/01/93; Notimex, 12/16/92, 01/04/93)

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