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Immigration Controversies Top Agenda at Annual Meeting of U.S., Mexican Legislators

by *Carlos Navarro*

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In a tense series of sessions, US and Mexican legislators met in the southeastern state of Campeche in mid-June to address bilateral issues, and as expected, immigration and Arizona's controversial SB1070 law topped the agenda, along with concerns about security, arms trafficking, and trade. The 49th annual meeting did not produce any agreements, but legislators pledged to work closely on these issues. Tensions regarding SB1070, which requires local law-enforcement officers to stop suspected immigrants and ask for identification, had also been expected to be an issue at the annual Border Governors Conference in September. But the event might not happen because the six Mexican border governors have announced they will not attend the meeting, scheduled to take place in Phoenix. This is compatible with the Mexican government's call to boycott Arizona because of SB1070 ([SourceMex, 2010-04-28](#)).

Focus on Arizona's SB1070, killings of two Mexicans at border

The atmosphere at the annual meeting between Mexican legislators and their US counterparts on June 11-13 was uneasy, not only because of SB1070 but also because the gathering occurred just days after US Border Patrol agents in separate incidents shot an undocumented immigrant at the border crossing between San Diego and Tijuana and a Mexican youth near the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez border. The Mexican delegation demanded that the US government investigate both incidents. "Mexico will only be satisfied with a thorough investigation, [satisfactory] results, and sanctions against the guilty parties," said Deputy Francisco Rojas Gutiérrez, who coordinates the Chamber of Deputies.

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