

# *Mexican Police Caught Handing Over Youth to Armed Group*

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Mexico City, March 17 (RHC-teleSUR) -- Policemen in Culiacan, the capital of Mexico's notorious Sinaloa state, were filmed arresting eight young men before handing them over to what was believed to be an organized crime group, in an incident that echoes the circumstances that led to the disappearances of 43 students at Ayotzinapa teachers' college which sparked an outcry more than two years ago.

The video shot by neighbors on Wednesday night shows how the group of youths, bound with handcuffs, were arrested by agents outside a restaurant. As the lights of the police car flashed, the youths were then put into the vehicles of armed men, who were presumed to be part of one of the state's notorious criminal organizations. A number of people were seen walking around the area with large weapons.

Head of public security in Sinaloa, Victor Hugo Sanchez Mendieta, confirmed to media that police filmed in the video were municipal agents, who had actually admitted to handing over the arrested youth because they were threatened by the criminal group.

Sanchez Mendieta said that the police involved in the incident had already been arrested and that an investigation would be initiated. It was thought that the incident could have been part of a "clone" operation where police members wear plain clothes and pose as members of organized crime groups.

Sanchez Mendieta also encouraged citizens to denounce similar dishonest behavior by police. The identity and the current location of the youths that were handed over by the police remains unknown.

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