

## U.S. Executive Kidnapped in Mexico; Policeman Slain in Chase

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An American who is a leading hotel executive in Mexico has been abducted in the beach resort of Acapulco, the first publicly known kidnapping of an American citizen in the crime wave that has terrorized Mexico.

Vincent Carrozza, manager of the Acapulco Princess, a famous pink pyramid that is the resort's largest hotel, was dragged from his car inside the hotel complex on Tuesday morning by nine rifle-bearing kidnapers dressed in the black uniforms of the Mexican federal police, according to local police and a statement issued today in New York by the hotel's parent company.

Local police gave chase to two vehicles driven by the kidnapers. In a wild shootout on a palm-lined avenue that is the main road between the downtown and the airport, one policeman was killed and another critically injured, a senior state police commander said.

The kidnapers got away, and the shootings turned the abduction into a public news event.

Mr. Carrozza's abduction, apparently for ransom, is part of a three-year-old crime epidemic that has driven Mexicans toward desperation.

This week the country's main lawyers' group, the Mexican Bar Association, went as far as to call on President Ernesto Zedillo to declare a state of emergency, at least in Mexico City. Such a move would allow him to suspend most legal rights of people caught in the act of kidnapping, armed robbery or other organized crime.

The Bar Association proposed eliminating the right of these suspects to have a lawyer present during police questioning, and it urged that they be given expedited trials with no chance for bail or appeal.

President Zedillo, acknowledging that his crime policies "have clearly been insufficient," on Tuesday sent Congress an ambitious overhaul of Mexico's penal code in which he proposed to limit legal protections for violent criminals, although not as drastically as the lawyers urged.

Judy Blatman, the spokeswoman for Princess Hotels International in New York, said the company would not say whether the kidnapers had demanded ransom. Mr. Carrozza, a regional vice president of the chain, has lived and worked in Mexico for 19 years, she said.

The charge d'affaires of the American Embassy here, Charles Brayshaw, said recently that "not more than 10" Americans have been victims of ransom kidnappings in the last few years in Mexico. But the crimes were kept secret by families fearing that press and police attention might drive the kidnapers to murder the hostage.

At least 30 Spaniards have been kidnapped, Spanish consular officials said, including two who were killed. Spanish executives have been preyed upon by a vicious ring in Mexico City that police officials say is led by two brothers, Daniel and Aurelio Arizmendi Lopez.

Today Mexico's attorney general announced a \$625,000 reward for the capture of the Arizmendis, whose trademark is cutting off their hostages' ears with machetes and delivering them to relatives to speed up ransom payments.

At a hearing before state legislators on Tuesday, Antonio Hernandez Diaz, the Attorney General of the state of Guerrero, which includes Acapulco, said he had been overwhelmed by handling 104 kidnappings in two years in the state.

Mexico has just formed an elite anti-kidnap unit, Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said this week, made up of 34 police officers who received three months of special training.