

TONI CANO

35 daily newspapers are published in Mexico City, and the Federal District is home to some of the continent's most advanced journals. These, however, are clear exponents of an atavistic servitude. Freedom of information is a difficult matter. A journalist either receives "the envelope" or dies of hunger or of a shot in the head. Mexico is the country where most reporters are murdered, according to the Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP): close to a hundred over the past twenty years, and 44 under the government of Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The Printing Act, in force since 1917, has yet to be fully reformed despite the good intentions of some congressmen. In the first three months of this year, a half-dozen reporters have been the object of more or less violent harassment by the judiciary police.

The author lists the most important and widely read newspapers. The paper with most readership is "La Prensa", 50% of which is owned by Jesús de Polanco since last year. Control of the press in Mexico is directly proportional to the influence of the media. Television censorship, for instance, is unrelenting.