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Stockholm, Sweden

After a week of searching for an elusive Russian submarine, the Swedish Navy called off the hunt on Oct. 24, according to The Guardian. The Swedish officials decided that whatever vessel had entered their waters, it had left. The military operation, although it failed to find anything among the 30,000 islands in the search area, was Sweden's largest since the cold war, according to the BBC. Russia denied any of their submarines being involved and called the operation "tragicomedy."

Wallops Island, Virginia

After being delayed on Monday by a sailboat drifting into the danger zone, an Antares rocket was launched Tuesday — only to explode seconds after take off, according to the Washington Post. The rocket was operated by Orbital Science and contracted by NASA to bring 5,000 pounds of supplies to the International Space Station. Shortly after the explosion, Orbital tweeted "there has been a vehicle anomaly. We will update as soon as we are able." NASA confirmed that there were no injuries. The cause of the explosion remains unknown.

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

This Thursday, the Parliament of Burkina Faso will debate allowing the sitting president to serve for five more years, according to the BBC. Thousands of protesters turned out demanding that President Blaise Compaore step down when elections are held next year, as Compaore has already served for 27 years. The protesters threw rocks and burned tires, while police responded with tear gas. The protesters bore signs, including some bearing the message "Blaise = Ebola," while women waved wooden spatulas as a symbol of defiance.

Helmand Province, Afghanistan

American Marines and British troops departed their bases (Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion) last Sunday, according to the Atlantic. The last British soldier to enter the helicopters, bearing a folded Union Jack, marked the effective end of British military engagement in Afghanistan. According to the BBC, the government has said troops will not return "under any circumstances." The Helmand province was one of the bloodiest battlefields in the 13-year war against the Taliban. Both camps, covering some 6,500 acres, were turned over to the Afghani army.



Mayor Abarca flees town after massacre of students

BY AMOL GARG
STAFF WRITER

Six people killed. Forty-three people missing. Twenty-five students wounded. Twenty-two police officers arrested. Mayor José Luis Abarca on the run.

This was the outcome of the recent Mexican shooting near the town of Iguala on Sept. 26, 2014. As the students from Raúl Isidro Burgos Ayotzinapa Normal School were returning to Ayotzinapa after seeking funds for materials for their teachers college, the shooting broke out.

"The buses stopped, and that's when I saw the bullets were coming toward us," said a first-year student at the Ayotzinapa Normal School to VICE News. "We saw that there were 10 police cars surrounding us. We had nowhere to run and no rocks to defend ourselves (with)."

In an attempt to survive the attack, many of the students fled the location only to be shot down or never seen again. Authorities suspect that the students were either kidnapped and delivered to the drug cartel Guerreros Unido or massacred.

"We thought that they were going to kill all of us," said survivor of the attack and student at the Ayotzinapa Normal School David Flores, to VICE News. "They were hunting us."

President Enrique Peña Nieto ordered a search in an attempt to find the 43 missing students. Over five mass graves were discovered on the outskirts of the town, yet none of the bodies belonged to the missing students.

The alleged mastermind behind the shooting is Mayor José Luis Abarca. After the abduction and shooting of the students, Abarca fled.

"The Mexican drug cartels are ruthless, and it is a shame that a lot of the politicians and law enforcement officers have been corrupted by the money they can offer," said Assistant Professor of Political Science Robert Duncan. "The Mexican people need to rise up against this degree of violence; however, they are so outgunned in comparison that I do not see any type of solution for this kind of vehemence anytime soon."

Almost a month after the event, officials revealed that Abarca had close ties with the Guerreros Unidos, and that he regularly

received a hefty sum from the cartel for supporting their selling of opium paste.

"Mexico has a long tradition of drug cartels linked to local government and local politicians," said Professor of Political Science Xuezhi Guo. "The government pays the leaders significantly less in comparison to the drug cartels, which may pay up to 10 times as more. So, in order to succeed, local officials may accept the money. This type of corruption can be expected in Mexican politics."

Speculation by Mexican officials and locals suggests that Abarca may have ordered the shooting of the students over fear that their protests and demonstrations would disrupt his profits.

"The mayor of the town, José Luis Abarca, staged this 'mass disappearance' (most probably murder) of these protesting students to cover up his own practices of downright nepotism and underworld connections within his town," said Pratham Chhabria, a junior Early College student who has been following the event closely. "Abarca recognized the students were unhappy with his 'drug mafia lord' sort of business in the town and had them disappear so they could not reveal his practices to the world in the rally they were going to attend."

Authorities have issued an arrest warrant for Abarca, his wife María de los Ángeles Pineda Villa and police chief Felipe Flores.

The images below show the missing students from Iguala, Mexico.

