



BANCO DE MÉXICO®

## Anti-counterfeiting actions

2022

**Uso Público**

Información de acceso público.

## Collaboration agreement with the Attorney General's Office (PRG, for its acronym in Spanish)

In order to form a united front to prevent and fight currency counterfeiting, in November 2001, Banco de México and PGR, currently the Prosecutor General's Office (FGR, for its acronym in Spanish), signed a General Collaboration Agreement, which was renewed 10 years later, in November 2011. Under this agreement, both institutions committed themselves to:

- Taking joint actions to fight crimes against the legal right of safe monetary circulation;
- Undertaking joint training activities;
- Developing programs to prevent currency counterfeiting/alteration or any other crime that violates or endangers the legal right of safe monetary circulation; and
- Taking all actions that may be of common interest for both institutions, within the scope of their respective powers.

One of the first actions from signing this agreement was the establishment of the "Permanent Working Group PGR (now FGR) – Banxico", which is responsible for implementing training, counterfeit prevention, and the strategic analysis of activities related to currency counterfeiting in Mexico.

Within FGR, the areas involved in this group are the Deputy Attorney General's Offices for Legal and International Affairs; the Organized Crime Investigation Office; the Regional Control Office, the Criminal Proceedings and Court Protection (Amparo) Office; the Human Rights, Victim Assistance and Community Services Office; the Federal Ministerial Police; the National Center for Planning, Analysis and Information to Fight Crime; and the Directorates General of Expert Services and Social Communication. Banco de México is represented by the Directorate General of Administration, the Directorate General of Currency Issuance, the Directorate General of Legal Affairs; and the Directorate of Institutional Liaisons and Communications.

Under this agreement, Banco de México provides training courses on identifying paper currency to Public Prosecutor's Offices, the Ministerial Police, and Legal experts.

In September 2018, the process of certifying legal experts specialized in "Questioned documents" was established in the released Standard of Competence, which was prepared jointly by the PGR professional training area and Banco de México and is known as "The Authentication of national and foreign banknotes upon request of the competent authority", through the National Council for Standardizing and Certifying Labor Competences (CONOCER, for its acronym in Spanish), of the Ministry of Public Education.

Under the aforementioned agreement, in August 2012, the Prosecutor's Office Specialized in Currency Counterfeiting/Alteration was created as part of the then Attorney General's Office (PGR), the agency directly responsible for receiving counterfeit complaints filed by Banco de México.

## Federal Police

Since 2007, training has been one of the main areas of collaboration with the Federal Police. During the first bimester of 2013, close to 200 public servants from this agency were trained by Banco de México in "Paper Currency Authentication ", both on-site and online. In the first half of 2015, 68 federal police officers were trained in identifying authentic banknotes.

In March 2012, the Scientific Division was created as part of the then Federal Public Security Ministry (known today as the National Security Commission), which has a Graphology, Documents and Coins Unit. This unit is made up of 21 specialists, who, among other tasks, conduct analysis to determine the authenticity of paper currency.

## Other instances of Procurement of Justice

In order to strengthen the interinstitutional coordination and step up the fight against currency counterfeiting at the federal level, Banco de México participated in the XVIII and XXVII Plenary Assemblies of the National Conference on Procurement of Justice, held in 2007 and 2012, respectively. On both occasions, training was offered to state attorneys general and district attorneys on identifying domestic and foreign currency with a focus on public prosecutors' offices, experts, and investigative police.

As a result of this collaboration, Mexico's attorneys general and district attorneys general became aware of the problems that this crime represents in the country and committed to support the federal authority in reporting all cases of currency counterfeiting in Mexico's states.

Between September 2012 and March 2013, courses were given to nearly 1,000 public servants across 13 states of Mexico.

In July 2014, a general collaboration agreement was signed between the Ministry of the Interior and Banco de México, where both parties committed to set up and develop collaborative support strategies, in accordance with their respective legal and constitutional powers, to exchange information on training, crime prevention, and investigation of counterfeiting, alteration, production, distribution and destruction of currency or any other activity of interest to both institutions.

Finally, in December 2015, an agreement was signed between the Public Safety Agencies in 32 Mexican states and Banco de México, which laid the foundation for collaboration to prevent and fight currency counterfeiting, fostering a culture of legality and legal certainty through the exchange of information and training in this field.

## Public outreach

Banco de México and the Prosecutor General's Office (FGR) have jointly launched preventive communication campaigns through radio and television spots, as well as through the distribution of flyers and posters.

To answer questions related to banknotes and coins, Banco de México has made available to the public the telephone number 800-BANXICO (800-226-9426), the e-mail [dinero@banxico.org.mx](mailto:dinero@banxico.org.mx), and has engaged in social media through the following accounts on **Facebook**: Banco de México (BancodeMéxico), Banxico Educa (Banxico Educa); on **Twitter**: EmisiónBanxico (@EmisionBanxico), Banco de México (@Banxico) and Banxico Educa (@BanxicoEduca); and on **Instagram**: Banco de México (banco\_de\_mexico). Similarly, Banco de México has offered training on identifying paper money through the e-mail [soportecursobilletes@banxico.org.mx](mailto:soportecursobilletes@banxico.org.mx)

## Results

Some of the results of collaboration with these agencies are:

- In 2003, a workshop located in Xalostoc, in the municipality of Ecatepec, Estado de México was dismantled, where counterfeit metal coins were manufactured, and two individuals were arrested and later sentenced to 5 years in prison for the crimes of manufacturing and storing counterfeit currency.
- In 2005, a printshop dedicated to counterfeiting banknotes and other official documents in San Juan del Río, Querétaro was dismantled and one individual was arrested.
- In December 2005, three premises were searched, where six people were arrested and materials and equipment, which were related to the counterfeiting of 100 US dollar banknotes identified as "22301", were seized. The criminal network manufactured said counterfeit currency in Guadalajara and distributed it in California. Over a period of three years, an equivalent of 8.1 million dollars was introduced into the United States, and at that time it was the major counterfeit circulating in that country.
- In November 2012, four individuals were arrested by the Federal Police and materials allegedly related to the counterfeiting of 50-peso polymer banknotes were confiscated. The first pieces of this counterfeit were detected in June 2010. From 2010 to 2012, the counterfeiters put into circulation four different variants, each one with improvements over the previous one. A little more than 220,000 pieces of this counterfeit were captured. Among those arrested was the alleged leader of the criminal group, who was likely responsible for both the design of the counterfeit banknotes and negotiating the sale of the counterfeits, and who was a specialist in printing systems, including offset and silkscreen printing.
- In May 2014, the Attorney General's Office, with the support of the Mexican Secretariat of the Navy, conducted four searches, three on May 21 and one on May 31 on the premises located in the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, in the state of Jalisco. Six alleged members of the criminal group responsible for counterfeiting 500-peso banknotes were arrested (at the time this was the major counterfeit). During the same search, materials and equipment used in this criminal activity were confiscated.

- In November 2014, seven locations were searched in the state of Guanajuato, in the municipalities of Celaya and Salamanca, in which the Federal Ministerial Police and the Army arrested 8 individuals and confiscated materials and equipment used in the production of counterfeit 500-peso banknotes.
- In November 2014, a location in Mexico City was searched by the Federal Ministerial Police based on a search warrant for crimes against health, where two individuals were arrested and materials and equipment used to produce counterfeit 500-peso banknotes were seized.
- In December 2015, the Federal Police dismantled a criminal cell dedicated to the production and distribution of counterfeit 500-peso banknotes. After conducting a search of four properties, two in Nezahualcóyotl, Estado de México, and two in Mexico City (one in Iztapalapa municipality and another one in Colonia Morelos), 4 individuals were arrested and imprisoned.
- In May 2018, a search warrant was executed on two properties located in Bellavista Residential Unit, Iztapalapa, where 4 individuals were arrested.
- In December 2018, a search warrant was executed at 7 premises, as a result of which 9 individuals were arrested. Eight of them were charged with crimes of currency counterfeiting (storage, distribution and production) and organized crime.
- In December 2019, the FGR carried out a search warrant at the premises located in Iztacalco municipality in Mexico City, where counterfeit pieces resembling banknotes were manufactured; 6 individuals were arrested, who were presumably members of a criminal cell dedicated to counterfeiting currency.

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