# United States Pauses Avocado and Mango Shipments Inspection from Michoacán after Attack on USDA Inspectors



The United States has paused inspections of avocado and mango shipments from Michoacán, Mexico, following an attack on two employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). The incident occurred on Saturday in the Michoacán municipality of Paracho, where the inspectors were attacked and held against their will by protesters in Aranza. Although the workers have been released, the suspension aims to ensure their safety.

United States Ambassador to Mexico, Ken Salazar, confirmed the halt, emphasizing that the inspections will remain paused until security protocols are re-evaluated and implemented. The incident has led to concerns about delays in the movement of avocados into the U.S. Michoacán is a crucial exporter, often referred to as the source of Mexico's "green gold."

Michoacán's governor, Alfredo Ramírez Bedolla, acknowledged the attack but downplayed its severity, stating that the inspectors were stopped during a protest and were never at serious risk. Discussions between Mexican and U.S. officials are ongoing to resolve the situation.

This suspension echoes incidents in early 2022 when threats to inspectors prompted a similar pause, which lasted for about a week. Mexican authorities are now working on measures to safeguard U.S. inspectors, with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announcing plans to ensure their safety.

The temporary halt could significantly impact Michoacán, where the avocado industry generated $3.2 billion and employs around 300,000 people. Despite this, the pause does not affect operations in other Mexican states.