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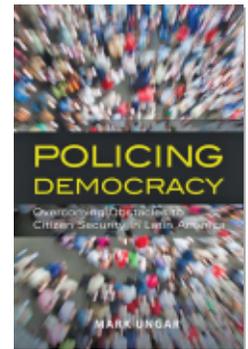
## Policing Democracy

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Project MUSE., <https://muse.jhu.edu/>.



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# Glossary

***arraigo:*** A form of preventive detention used as an alternative to arrest, in which a suspect is placed in a facility such as a “safe house” guarded by police during the investigation

***averiguación de antecedentes:*** The police act of detaining someone to check his or her police record

***barrio:*** A low-income urban neighborhood in Venezuela and other countries

***cifra negra:*** Number or percentage of unreported crimes

***cocaleros:*** Coca growers who formed a powerful movement in Bolivia

***código de faltas/contravenciones:*** Misdemeanor code

***colonias:*** Defined residential areas in Honduras

***comisaría:*** Police station

***comisario:*** Police officer

***criterio de oportunidad:*** A rule allowing prosecutors to refrain from prosecuting, often needed to decongest the prisons of petty criminals and those who cooperate with an investigation

***cuadrantes:*** Urban blocks used in community-oriented policing, in which separate units are responsible for all areas of security

***defensoría del pueblo:*** Ombudsman

***desestimadas:*** Dismissed or overruled cases

**expediente:** Generally meaning a file or record, but usually used as the term for police report on a crime presented to prosecutors (*fiscale* )

**fiscal** Public prosecutor

**Fiscalía General/Ministerio Público:** Public prosecutor's office, in charge of criminal investigation and prosecution

**inspector:** Police detective

**Judicial Police:** The police agency conducting a criminal investigation, usually under the direction of the Public Ministry

**juez de ejecución:** Judge of the sentencing court

**Mara 18:** One of the largest youth gangs—one of the two *super-clikas*—in Central and North America

**Mara Salvatrucha (MS):** One of the principal *maras* in Honduras and the rest of Central America

**maras:** The criminally oriented gangs of Central America, Mexico, and the United States

**medidas cautelares:** Preventive measures

**mesas:** The term commonly used for citizen forums

**organic law:** The founding and basic law in an area of the law

**patronato:** In some countries, the title of the head council of a neighborhood

**penal code:** The legal code specifying and defining acts that constitute crime

**penal process code:** The legal code specifying the processes for investigating crimes and prosecuting suspects

**Preventive Police:** The main division in most police agencies responsible for basic street policing

**Proceso:** Short for Proceso de Reorganización Nacional (Process of National Reorganization), the official name of Argentina's 1976–83 military regime

**razzias:** Mass police roundups, usually in poor neighborhoods

**tutela:** Direct legal suit

**villa:** The term used for low-income neighborhoods in most of Argentina