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Thousands of medallion taxi drivers block airport and major roads in Mexico City to protest influx of ride-sharing apps such as Uber

- **Medallion taxi drivers in Mexico City went on strike Monday to protest ride-sharing apps such as Uber**
- **Cab drivers blocker major roadways, complaining the apps had an unfair advantage**
- **Drivers argued the apps should comply with licensing, taxes and inspections**
- **Mexico City cab drivers said they will protest again next week if they do not see changes from the government**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS and ADRY TORRES FOR DAILYMAIL.COM
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Thousands of cab drivers shut down major Mexico City roads for several hours on Monday to protest the influx of ride-sharing apps such as Uber.

Drivers parked their pink-and-white cabs in the streets to demonstrate against foreign owned apps being legally permitted to operate in Mexico.

As part of the National Taxi Movement [Movimiento Nacional Taxista], traditional cab drivers are demanding an even playing field from the government by subjecting the apps to the same licensing, tax, inspection and testing as metered cabs.

'We want the laws enforced. We are not against anybody,' said Eduardo Elizalde, a veteran with 40 years behind the wheel of Mexico City cabs.

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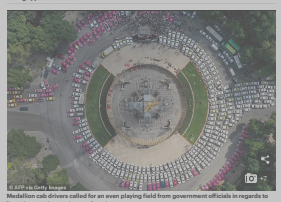
'But just as we have to pay taxes and pass exams, so should the apps.'

Taxi drivers blocked Mexico City's major avenues and its airport on Monday to protest ride-hailing apps such as Uber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Medallion cab drivers called for an even playing field from government officials in regards to licensing, tax, inspections and testing.

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Taxi drivers symbolically burn photo copies of their license plates to protest the apps in Mexico City

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The Mexican capital, a city of 9 million people, has around 140,000 medallion cabs, and probably that many ride-hailing cars and gypsy cabs.

The arrival of new entrants such as Chinese app Didi and Spanish app Cabify have swelled the ranks of app drivers and increased the concerns of metered taxi drivers worried over their business.

Deputy Interior Secretary Ricardo Peralta and Angel Morales of a national taxi group said at a news conference Monday that agreements had been reached for the government to consult with experts on the legality of the apps and in return for cab drivers to adopt new technology and refrain from blocking roads in the future.

Drivers also reportedly vowed to improve and modernize their service.

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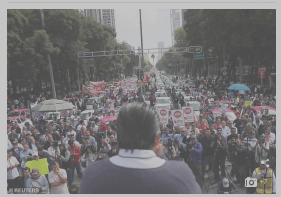
A cab driver wrote on the back of his car, 'I support my family. Foreign applications got to go'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Metered taxi drivers called for motorists operating under ride-share apps to be subject to the same regulations as metered cabs

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Hundreds of taxi drivers gathered around the Angel of Independence monument to protest ride-sharing apps

Beyond the convenience of being able to hail rides with their phones, many users say the apps are a safer and a more pleasant alternative to street cabs.

According to Mexican outlet **Milenio**, Mexico City mayor Claudia Sheinbaum downplayed the presence of the protesters, saying that barely 0.04 percent of taxi drivers protested while 99.6 percent backed the government's push to confront corrupt practices carried out by some metered cab companies.

Sheinbaum said the small fraction of upset drivers were just looking to complain about the strict measures that regulators have imposed, including making sure each taxi license plate corresponds to the driver operating the vehicle.

'The city is open to dialogue but let it be clear: the fight against corruption is not negotiable, we will not return to opaque practices that benefit a few and that affect the majority of taxi drivers and users,' Sheinbaum said.

'The city wants rights taxis and safe taxis and what we do not want is corruption.'

© SIPA USA/PA Images

Metered taxi drivers demonstrated against the influx of foreign ride-share apps in Mexico City

Peralta apologized to inconvenienced residents and said that 'desperation clouded our judgment' after three months of talks failed to yield progress.

By evening, hundreds of cars that had surrounded the capital's Independence Monument since the morning had melted away into the city.

Authorities and drivers will continue talks next week, Peralta said.

'If the government does not come through, we will return to the streets,' said Roberto Verónica, a driver from the nearby city of Toluca in the State of Mexico.

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Bloqueos de taxistas son por medidas contra corrupción: Sheinbaum

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Irene Forrester (pictured), 66, pounced on Linda Ann Forrester, 38, at their flat in Partick, Glasgow, in January, after telling her she was going to 'put her out of her misery'.

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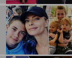
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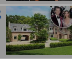
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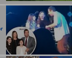
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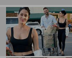
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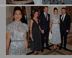
Showed off her athletic figure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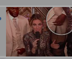
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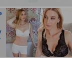
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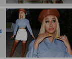
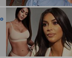

Cardi B shows off Parisian-influenced style as she sports brown leather beret and gives just a peek of her toned tummy in LA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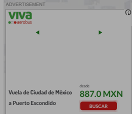

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