

Is it a UFO? Sun halo sparks fear and jokes in Mexico

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A halo around the sun is seen in the sky above Mexico City on May 21, 2015

Was it a UFO? A sign that the end is nigh?

A rainbow-like halo surrounded the sun over Mexico City on Thursday, an [optical phenomenon](#) that triggered a social media frenzy of pictures and jokes about the end of the world.

Some weren't so amused.

"I have received some 30 [phone calls](#) from people who are scared and think that it's a bad omen, others think it means it will rain more than expected," the coordinator of the National Weather Service, Juan Manuel Caballero, told AFP.

"I've had to repeat several times: 'No, it doesn't hurt if you don't look at it directly,'" Caballero sighed.

But his science-based reassurances had no effect on many Chilangos—as the capital's residents are known—who had a field day on social media.

"The aliens have finally arrived! Prepare the sandwiches for the trip!" someone wrote on Facebook.

Others quipped that it was a government conspiracy to blind voters ahead of June 7 mid-term polls, with one Twitter user saying: "A sun halo days before elections. Coincidence? I don't believe it."

Scientists have a better explanation: Sun halos happen when sunlight passes through ice crystals, bending the light and creating the colorful ring.

"It's very common. The thing is that people never look up," Caballero said.

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