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ACTION ARA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-08 ACDE-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
       DOE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 ED-01 FBlE-00 UTED-00
       HHS-01 H-01 IM-01 SSA-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00
       LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 MMP-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02
       OIG-04 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 P-00
       CIO-00 SP-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00
       DSCC-00 PRM-10 PRME-01 DRL-04 G-00 SAS-00 /040W

R 231442Z FEB 98
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 0414

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, ELAB, SOCI, KPRP, MX
SUBJECT: GOVERNOR BARRIO OPENS A SPECIAL OFFICE TO
COMBAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

REF: 97 CIUDAD JUAREZ 1377

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING A RECENT HIGHLY-PUBLICIZED
VISIT TO JUAREZ BY A GROUP OF WOMEN CONGRESISTAS
FROM MEXICO CITY, CHIHUAHUA GOVERNOR BARRIO
ANNOUNCED CREATION OF A NEW STATE SPECIAL FISCAL
OFFICE AGAINST VIOLENCE TO WOMEN. THE NEW SPECIAL
OFFICE, HEADED BY A WOMAN, WILL INVESTIGATE

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HOMICIDES AND CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES OF WOMEN. END
SUMMARY.

2. Three months ago, as reported REFTEL, female
NGO groups headed by the Umbrella Group QWomen for
Juarez, Q commemorated the International Day
Against Violence to Women with marches, protests
and a demand for a special fiscal. Their
spokeswoman Esther Chavez—a PRD leader—attacked
local authorities for their alleged indifference
to the rape and murder of eighty-one young women,
many Maquila workers, in Juarez the past five
years. Judith Galarza, leader of an independent
human rights group, also threatened to present a
complaint with United Nations.

3. More recently, sixteen congresspersons from
Mexico City, mostly women and mostly from PRD
(Democratic Revolutionary Party), visited Juarez
to again call attention to the plight of young
women here. Shortly after their departure,
however, the skeletal remains of two more women
who disappeared over a year ago were found in
Qlamas de Polo, Q. This is the same isolated area
on the outskirts of Juarez that has become
infamous as a dumping ground for female victims
since 1993. The body of a third rape victim was
found about the same time at the city dump.

4. POST spoke to Juarez state attorney Jorge
Lopez-Molinar, who claimed that the real agenda of
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His office continues working on those, as well as the remaining 22 unsolved cases. López Molinar stated that although he does not minimize violence against women, statistics show that only 70% of violence in Juárez is against women.

5. The National Commission for Human Rights has also expressed a special interest in the cases of murdered women. Officials recently met with state police, who continue to investigate involvement by the gang QLOS Rebeldes. Some gang members are already in jail for alleged serial killings. The gang is also reputed to have links with a longtime suspected serial killer, an Egyptian US-legal resident by the name of Shariff-El Shariff.

6. Governor Barrio, in the face of mounting pressures and more victims, has finally bowed to the demands of women for Juárez and has announced a new special office to combat violence against women. He appointed female attorney María
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 0414

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ANTONIETA ESPARZA, WHO PREVIOUSLY HEADED SMALL POLICE UNIT SPECIALIZING IN FEMALE CRIMES, TO HEAD THE NEW OFFICE. THE STATE HAS PROMISED MS. ESPARZA ALL POSSIBLE RESOURCES, INCLUDING A CADRE OF TOP-RANKED STATE POLICE OFFICIALS AND FEDERAL PROSECUTORS.

7. CHIHUAHUA STATE ATTORNEY ARTURO CHAVEZ-CHAVEZ

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OPINED THAT, DESPITE THE FEARS OF JUAREZ WOMEN, THE WORK OF THE STATE POLICE IN CHIHUAHUA SHOULD BE COMMENDED. HE POINTED OUT THAT HOMICIDES HERE HAVE DECREASED SINCE 1996. HE ADMITTED THAT THE QLOMAS DE POLEOQ CASES AND THE NARCO-EXECUTIONS HAVE GIVEN THIS AREA A BAD IMAGE, BUT CLAIMED THAT, CONTRARY TO LOCAL BELIEF, JUAREZ IS NOT THE MOST VIOLENT CITY IN MEXICO - IT RANKS NINTH.

8. COMMENT: BOTH CHAVEZ CHAVEZ AND JORGE LOPEZ-MOLINAR HAVE PUBLICLY OPPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL OFFICE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. LOPEZ-MOLINAR HAS INSISTED THAT THE STATE AND FEDERAL POLICE WERE ALREADY CONDUCTING ADEQUATE INVESTIGATIONS, AND HAD CHALLENGED QWOMEN FOR JUAREZQ TO FIRST LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ONGOING STATE POLICE INVESTIGATIONS. HE CLAIMS THAT ONLY ONE QWOMANS GROUP HAS ACTUALLY DONE SO. POST BELIEVES THAT THE QWOMEN FOR JUAREZQ, OTHER NGOQS AND SOME OF THE VICTMSQ RELATIVES, MAY BE MORE WILLING TO VISIT AND WORK WITH THE NEW OFFICE AND ITQS FEMALE CHIEF. END COMMENT.

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