R 110734Z APR 00
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1589
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
ALL USCONS MEXICO 0136

UNCLASSIFIED SECTION 01 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 1512

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PGOV, SOCI, PHUM, MX
SUBJECT: OVERTURNED SENTENCE IN WOMEN'S MURDERS REIGNITES JUAREZ CONTROVERSY

REF: A) CIUDAD JUAREZ 0189 B) 99 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2336 C) 98 CIUDAD JUAREZ 0414 D) 97 CIUDAD JUAREZ 1377

1. SUMMARY: ON APRIL 6, 2000 THE THIRD PENAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CIUDAD 01512 01 OF 02 111430Z

2. BACKGROUND: ON AUGUST 19, 1995 THE REMAINS OF A YOUNG WOMAN WERE FOUND ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF JUAREZ. SHE HAD BEEN SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND THEN STRANGLED. THE VICTIM'S FAMILY IDENTIFIED THE BODY AS ELIZABETH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 05 JUL 2006 200502506
CASTRO GARCIA, WHO HAD DISAPPEARED ON AUGUST 15. ONE YEAR LATER, ABDEL LATIF SHARIF, AN EGYPTIAN WITH A HISTORY OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGES AND IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS IN THE U.S., WAS DETAINED FOR THIS CRIME. ON MARCH 3, 1999, HE WAS SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IMPRISONMENT BY THE EIGHTH PENAL COURT IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY APPEALED THE SENTENCE. CONTROVERSY SWIRLED AROUND SHARIF FOLLOWING HIS SENTENCING BECAUSE OF THE LUXURIOUS LIFESTYLE HE LIVED IN JUAREZ PRISON UNTIL TRANSFERRED TO THE HIGH SECURITY UNIT IN CHIHUAHUA, WHERE HE REMAINS. END BACKGROUND.

3. ONE YEAR AFTER THE ORIGINAL SENTENCING, ON APRIL 6, 2000, THE THIRD MAGISTRATE COURT NULLIFIED SHARIF’S SENTENCE. THE DECISION OF THE MAGISTRATE IS BASED ON THE LACK OF CONSISTENCY IN THE AUTOPSY RESULTS. BACK UNCLASSIFIED

IN 1996, TWO CORONERS WERE CALLED BY THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ESTIMATE THE TIME OF DEATH OF THE BODY. ONE OF THE CORONERS DETERMINED THE REMAINS WERE OVER 10 DAYS OLD, LEAVING OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE REMAINS BELONGED TO ELIZABETH CASTRO. NEW FORENSIC DOCTORS NOW WILL BE CALLED TO DO TESTS. THE CASE HAS BEEN SENT BACK TO THE EIGHTH PENAL COURT TO REOPEN THE PROCESS AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL AUTOPSY RESULTS. AFTER THE FORENSIC DOCTORS REACH A DECISION, A NEW SENTENCE WILL BE HANDED DOWN.

4. ABDEL LATIF SHARIF IS POINTED TO BY THE STATE AUTHORITIES AS THE PERPETRATOR OF 4 WOMEN’S HOMICIDES AND AS THE CRIMINAL MIND BEHIND AT LEAST OTHER 7 SIMILAR CRIMES. ALTHOUGH RECENT PRESS STORIES INDICATE THAT THE STATE ATTORNEY FOR CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN PLANS TO ISSUE WARRANTS FOR SHARIF FOR 7 OTHER MURDERS, NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN. TO DATE POLICE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE IN ANY OTHER CASE AND SHARIF HAS ONLY BEEN CHARGED FOR THE HOMICIDE OF MS. CASTRO. HE IS NAMED AS THE RING LEADER FOR A GROUP OF BUS DRIVERS WHO WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED FOR OTHER WOMEN’S MURDERS. THE BUS DRIVERS SUPPOSEDLY IMPLICATED SHARIF AS HAVING PAID THEM TO COMMIT THE CRIMES TO DRAW SUSPICION AWAY FROM HIM. HOWEVER, BOTH SHARIF AND THE BUS DRIVERS NOW DENY THOSE ALLEGATIONS AND THE DRIVERS ALLEGE THEY WERE TORTURED INTO CONFESSIONING AND NAMING SHARIF.

5. EVEN THOUGH SHARIF HAS BEEN DETAINED SINCE 1996,
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PAGE 04 CIUDAD 01512 01 OF 02 111430Z

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PAGE 01 CIUDAD 01512 02 OF 02 111430Z

ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 MFA-01 NP-00 AID-00 A-00 CA-02 CCO-00
CIAE-00 CTME-00 DODE-00 DOE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00
ED-01 FBI-00 UTED-00 FBO-01 VC-01 HHS-01 H-01
SSA-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 L-00 M-00
AC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OCS-03 OIC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-01
OPR-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SCT-00
SP-00 IRM-00 SS-00 SS-00 STR-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00
USSS-00 ASDS-01 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-01 DRL-02 G-00
SAS-00 /023W

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R 110734Z APR 00
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1590
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
ALL USCONS MEXICO 0137

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 1512

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WOMEN'S HOMICIDES CONTINUE ON THE RISE IN THE AREA,
EMBARRASSING LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND
CAUSING WOMEN'S GROUPS TO DOUBT THE AUTHORITIES' COMMITMENT TO SOLVING THE CRIMES (REFS A AND B). LOCAL
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PAGE 02 CIUDAD 01512 02 OF 02 111430Z

EDITORIALS HAVE ATTACKED THE STATE ATTORNEY FOR NOT
ADEQUATELY DOING HER JOB AND CALLED FOR HER REMOVAL,
CITING 27 MURDERS OF WOMEN IN JUAREZ SINCE OCTOBER
1999. POLICE AUTHORITIES ARE NOW INVESTIGATING THE
DEATH OF AMPARO GUZMAN CAIXBA, A 17-YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM
VERACRUZ WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF
JUAREZ ON MARCH 31, 2000. HER DEATH FOLLOWS THE SAME
MODUS OPERANDI OF THE PREVIOUS MURDERS: A SEXUAL
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ASSAULT, STRANGULATION AND BODY DUMPED IN THE DESERT. ONCE AGAIN, AUTHORITIES HAVE NO LEADS AND FOR NOW ARE CALLING THIS A COPYCAT CRIME.

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