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ACTION OCS-03

INFO LOG-00 AMAD-00 CA-01 WHA-00 DS-00 UTED-00 H-01
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FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1382
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0529
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 2294

CA/OCS/ACS/WHA - ALICE F. SEDDON AND RUTH BRANSON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, PHUM, KWMN, MX
SUBJ: TWO BUS DRIVERS ARRESTED IN THE WOMEN'S

HOMICIDES CASE

REF: A) JUAREZ 2145 B) JUAREZ 2018 C) 00
CIUDAD JUAREZ 5266 D) 99 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2336

1. TWO BUS DRIVERS, VICTOR JAVIER GARCIA URIBE
AKA: "EL CERILLO" AND GUSTAVO GONZALEZ MEZA AKA:
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"LA FOCA", HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN THE MURDERS OF
ELEVEN WOMEN. ACCORDING TO ARTURO GONZALEZ
RASCON, STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE TWO
DETAINEES CONFESSED TO THE KIDNAP, RAPE AND
MURDER OF 8 WOMEN FOUND ON NOVEMBER 6 AND 7 IN A
COTTON FIELD IN JUAREZ (REF B). GUSTAVO GONZALEZ
"LA FOCA" ALLEGEDLY CONFESSED TO KILLING THREE
OTHER WOMEN WHOSE BODIES HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN
FOUND (REF C). BOTH ARRESTEES PROVIDED THE FULL
NAMES OF THEIR VICTIMS, ALL OF THEM BEING
BETWEEN 15 AND 20 YEARS OLD. AT LEAST 6 OF THE
GIRLS WERE MAQUILA WORKERS. VICTOR JAVIER GARCIA
URIBE BELONGED TO THE GROUP OF BUS DRIVERS
ARRESTED IN 1998 FOR AT LEAST 20 OF THE SEXUAL
MURDERS (REF D). GARCIA WAS RELEASED, AS THERE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 05 JUL 2006 200502506

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WAS NO EVIDENCE TO CONNECT HIM TO THE WOMEN'S HOMICIDES AT THAT TIME. WITH THE ARREST OF GARCIA AND GONZALEZ, STATE JUDICIAL POLICE (PGJE) AUTHORITIES HAVE CLOSED THE INVESTIGATION.

2. ON NOVEMBER 12, VICTOR JAVIER GARCIA AND GUSTAVO GONZALEZ WERE BROUGHT TO THE THIRD PENAL COURT TO OFFER THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS. BOTH GARCIA AND GONZALEZ DENIED ALL THE ACCUSATIONS. ACCORDING TO THEIR STATEMENTS, ON NOVEMBER 10 THEY WERE KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP OF PGJE AGENTS AND TAKEN TO THE POLICE ACADEMY, WHERE THEY WERE BEATEN, BURNED WITH CIGARETTES, THREATENED AND FORCED TO CONFESS.

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3. COMMENT: RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS, NGOS AND THE GENERAL COMMUNITY HAVE OPENLY EXPRESSED THEIR FEELINGS THAT THE BUS DRIVERS ARE BEING USED AS "SCAPE-GOATS" TO COVER THE INABILITY OF THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO SOLVE THESE HIGH PROFILE CRIMES. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL APPEARS GENUINELY CONVINCED OF THE BUS DRIVERS' GUILT IN SPITE OF THE LACK OF EVIDENCE SURROUNDING THE CASE AND ALLEGATIONS OF CONFESSIONS OBTAINED UNDER TORTURE. END COMMENT.

VAZQUEZ

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