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ACTION IC-00

INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CA-01
	CCO-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	WHA-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	ED-01	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	OBO-00	HHS-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	M-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	OPR-01	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-00	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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R 121620Z FEB 03
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6828
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0771
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2684

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PGOV, SOCI, KWMN, ASEC, MX
SUBJECT: THE MURDERED WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ-FACT
AND FICTION

REF: A) JUAREZ 6117 B) 01 JUAREZ 2294 C) 01
JUAREZ 2145 D) 01 JUAREZ 2018 E) 00 JUAREZ
5266 F) 99 JUAREZ 2336

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1. SUMMARY: SINCE THE EARLY 1990S APPROXIMATELY
80 YOUNG, POOR WOMEN HAVE BEEN RAPED AND KILLED
BY ONE OR MORE SERIAL MURDERERS IN THE GREATER
METROPOLITAN AREA OF CIUDAD JUAREZ. THESE TRAGIC
EVENTS HAVE RECEIVED EXTENSIVE INTERNATIONAL
MEDIA COVERAGE AND TREMENDOUS ATTENTION FROM
NGO'S, STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATORS IN THE U.S.
AND THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR OF THE UN OFFICE OF
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WHILE 80
DEATHS REPRESENT A HORRIFIC FIGURE, FROM OUR
COUNT AT POST, THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF DEATHS CAUSED
BY A SUSPECTED SERIAL KILLER(S) IN CIUDAD JUAREZ
DOES NOT APPROACH THE 270-340 FIGURE HYPED BY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 12 SEP 2006 200502506

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SOME MEDIA OUTLETS AND NGO'S. IT IS TRUE THAT APPROXIMATELY 300 WOMEN HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THIS CITY OVER THE LAST DECADE, BUT MOST WERE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, WHILE OTHERS WERE LOST IN THE GRUESOME BODY COUNT IN THE ONGOING DRUG WAR. THE LOCAL PRESS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PERPETUATING THE INACCURATE BODY COUNT, BECAUSE ESCALATING NUMBERS SELL NEWSPAPERS. NGO'S ACCEPT AND USE THESE INFLATED NUMBERS TO BRING THIS ISSUE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD.

2. THE NUMBER OF WOMEN MURDERED BY SERIAL KILLER(S) IN CIUDAD JUAREZ IS ONLY ONE OF THE MYTHS SURROUNDING THIS ISSUE. CONSPIRACY THEORIES ABOUND. OTHER POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS INCLUDE THE BELIEFS THAT: 1) MEXICAN FEDERAL OR JUAREZ MUNICIPAL POLICE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR

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JURISDICTION OVER THE CASES; 2) THE FBI IS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE INVESTIGATION; AND 3) THE PERPETRATOR IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN OR LPR WHO COMMITS THE CRIMES AND SEEKS PROTECTION IN THE U.S. THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED TO DISPEL THE MISCONCEPTIONS AND TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW TO DATE. END SUMMARY.

THE PROBLEM

3. THE CHIHUAHUA STATE POLICE HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE INVESTIGATION OF THESE MURDERS, SINCE MURDER IN MEXICO IS A STATE, NOT A FEDERAL, CRIME. AS AN ORGANIZATION, THIS POLICE FORCE REPRESENTS THE PRIMARY OBSTACLE TO SOLVING THESE HEINOUS CRIMES. THE CHIHUAHUA POLICE ARE POORLY PAID AND TRAINED, HAVE APPARENTLY TAMPERED WITH EVIDENCE, INTIMIDATED POTENTIAL WITNESSES AND DETAINEES AND LACK THE MOST ELEMENTARY INVESTIGATORY SKILLS TO SOLVE THESE CRIMES. MOREOVER, FAILURE ON THE PART OF STATE POLICE TO KEEP THE PUBLIC ACCURATELY APPRAISED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASES HAVE ALLOWED BASELESS CLAIMS, ELABORATE SPECULATION AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES TO BE CONSIDERED FACT.

4. DESPITE THE CONTINUING NEGATIVE PUBLICITY, CHIHUAHUA STATE AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY LACK THE

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WILL TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING THESE CRIMES OR TO
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SEEK OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. DURING A RECENT
CONVERSATION, GOVERNOR PATRICIO MARTINEZ INFORMED

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INFO	LOG-00	MFA-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CA-01
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	M-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01
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	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00
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R 121620Z FEB 03
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6829
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0772
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2684

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, PGOV, SOCI, KWMN, ASEC, MX
SUBJECT: THE MURDERED WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ-FACT
AND FICTION

THE CONSUL GENERAL THAT THE MURDERS HAVE ALREADY
BEEN SOLVED. HE CITED THE NUMBER OF SERIAL
MURDER VICTIMS AS BEING IN THE RANGE OF 75Q80,
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BUT DISMISSED THE KILLINGS OF ALL WOMEN COMMITTED
SINCE HE ASSUMED OFFICE IN 1998 AS UNRELATED TO
THE SERIAL MURDERS OF THE EARLY 1990'S. THE
GOVERNOR STATED THAT HE BELIEVES IT IS
UNNECESSARY TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATING THESE
CRIMES.

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THE VICTIMS

5. SINCE THE EARLY 1990'S, THE ISSUE OF WOMEN'S DEATHS IN JUAREZ HAS STEADILY GAINED DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS ATTENTION. ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER OF WOMEN KILLED OVER THIS PERIOD VARY FROM 270 TO 340. MOST OF THE PRESS ATTENTION HAS FOCUSED ON A SMALLER PORTION OF THAT NUMBER THAT WERE FOUND DUMPED IN THE DESERT OUTSKIRTS OF CIUDAD JUAREZ, OFTEN IN GROUPS AND IN ADVANCED STATES OF DECOMPOSITION. A FACT THAT RECEIVES LITTLE ATTENTION IS THAT AT MOST 80 OF THESE DEATHS MATCH A PATTERN ATTRIBUTABLE TO A SERIAL OR COPYCAT KILLER. TO SAY THAT 80 WOMEN WERE MURDERED AND DUMPED IN THE SAND DUNES OVER A DECADE IS HORRIFYING. BUT IT IS MISLEADING TO USE THE 270-340 FIGURES. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE DEAD DO NOT MEET THE PROFILE OF THOSE MURDERED BY A SERIAL KILLER(S). FOR EXAMPLE, MOST DID NOT SIMPLY DISAPPEAR OFF THE STREET. MOST OF THE VICTIMS WERE NOT RAPED. MOST WERE NOT FOUND DISPOSED OF IN THE DESERT.

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MOST OF THOSE MURDERS WERE COMMITTED BY RELATIVES OR ACQUAINTANCES. FEMALE VICTIMS WHO MATCH THE SERIAL/COPYCAT KILLER PROFILE USUALLY ARE VERY POOR, VERY YOUNG, LIVE IN SHANTYTOWNS WITH DIRT ROADS, AND WALK TO CENTRAL PICK-UP POINTS TO RIDE EARLY MORNING OR LATE NIGHT BUSES TO MAQUILA PLANTS OR SCHOOL. MOST OF THESE VICTIMS SHOW SIGNS OF MUTILATION. ALL WERE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND EITHER STABBED OR STRANGLER.

THE DETAINED AND THE POLICE

6. BEFORE THE 1990'S, SOURCES INDICATE THAT THERE WERE A HANDFUL OF MURDERED WOMEN ANNUALLY IN CIUDAD JUAREZ, LESS THAN IN U.S. CITIES OF SIMILAR SIZE AT THE TIME. THEN THE SERIAL TYPE KILLING BEGAN, ACCOMPANIED BY A RISE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN INFLICTED BY RELATIVES, FRIENDS, OR FAMILY MEMBERS GOT LITTLE PRESS. THE LAW CONTAINED FEW STRONG SANCTIONS

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AND THE UNDERPAID, INCOMPETENT POLICE SEEMED NOT TO CARE. WITH THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF STRANGER-INFLECTED CRIME HOWEVER, THE AUTHORITIES WERE FORCED TO RESPOND IN SOME FASHION. NONE OF THEIR RESPONSES HAS PROVED SATISFACTORY.

7. THE CHIHUAHUA STATE JUDICIAL POLICE ARRESTED EGYPTIAN (AND FORMER U.S. LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT) ABDEL LATIF SHARIF SHARIF IN 1995.

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ORIGINALLY ACCUSED OF THE RAPE AND KIDNAPPING (NOT MURDER) OF ONE GIRL, HE WAS LATER RELEASED ONLY TO BE ARRESTED AGAIN IN LATE 1995 AND PUBLICLY ACCUSED BY THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR A DOZEN MURDERS. HOWEVER, SHARIF WAS SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGED WITH THE ATTACK AND DEATH OF JUST ONE WOMAN, AND SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS FOR THAT CRIME. THE CONVICTION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY OVERTURNED IN 2000 BASED ON A LACK OF COMPLETE FORENSIC REPORTS. CHARGES WERE REFILED AND SHARIF REMAINS IN PRISON IN CHIHUAHUA CITY AWAITING SENTENCING.

8. IN SPITE OF A LACK OF EVIDENCE, SHARIF HAS FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE STATE'S CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND SUBSEQUENT ARRESTS OF OTHERS ACCUSED OF WOMEN'S MURDERS. IN EARLY 1996, THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE ARRESTED 10 MEMBERS OF THE GANG "LOS REBELDES" IN A RAID ON DOWNTOWN JUAREZ BARS

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	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	ED-01	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	OBO-00	HHS-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	VCE-00
	M-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIC-02	OMB-01
	OPIC-01	OPR-01	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00
	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-00	ECA-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	PRM-00	DRL-01	G-00	SAS-00	/014W		

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FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6830
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0773
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2684

E.O. 12958: N/A
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SUBJECT: THE MURDERED WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ-FACT
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AND PUBLICLY ACCUSED THEM OF COMMITTING EIGHT
MURDERS, SUPPOSEDLY ON ORDERS FROM SHARIF, WHO
PAID THEM 1000 PESOS (APPROX. 100 USD) TO DO SO

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TO CREATE AN ALIBI FOR HIM. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF
THE GANG WERE RELEASED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE OR
BECAUSE THEY WERE MINORS. THE REMAINDER WERE
FINALLY CHARGED WITH FIVE MURDERS BUT HAVE NOT
BEEN SENTENCED AND REMAIN IN JAIL.

9. SHARIF WAS AGAIN NAMED AS THE MASTERMIND IN
1999 WHEN FIVE MORE BUS DRIVERS WERE DETAINED FOR
MURDER. ORIGINALLY ACCUSED OF A DOZEN MURDERS,
AGAIN ALL SUPPOSEDLY AT THE REQUEST AND FUNDING
(THIS TIME FOR 2500 USD PER HEAD) OF SHARIF, FOUR
OF THE DRIVERS WERE FINALLY CHARGED WITH SEVEN
KILLINGS AND ONE WAS CHARGED IN JUST ONE CASE IN
WHICH THE VICTIM SURVIVED AND POSITIVELY
IDENTIFIED HER ATTACKER. BY THIS TIME THE
CONSPIRACY THEORY HAD BEEN COMPLETELY DISCREDITED
AND THE CLOSEST OBSERVERS AND MOST ARDENT CRITICS
OF THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING PROMINENT
FIGURES IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUPS, REGARD SHARIF
AS A CONVENIENT SUSPECT ON WHICH THE STATE POLICE
CAN BLAME MULTIPLE MURDERS AND CLEAR THEIR
DOCKET. THE BUS DRIVERS ALL ALLEGE THEIR
CONFESSIONS WERE OBTAINED UNDER TORTURE.

10. PRESSURE FROM THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS LED
THE MEXICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO
INVESTIGATE. ITS 1998 REPORT DENOUNCED
IRREGULARITIES IN THE INVESTIGATIONS. IN RESPONSE
THE CHIHUAHUA STATE GOVERNMENT CREATED THE
SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HOMICIDES.
SINCE ITS INCEPTION, NINE DIFFERENT SPECIAL

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PROSECUTORS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THAT DIVISION,
SUPERVISED BY EIGHT SEPARATE DEPUTY ATTORNEYS
GENERAL IN JUAREZ UNDER FOUR DIFFERENT STATE
ATTORNEYS GENERAL, ALL WITH NO VISIBLE RESULTS.
IN 2002, PRESIDENT FOX ORDERED THE FEDERAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (PGR) TO ASSIST IN
SOLVING THE CRIMES. TO DATE, NO RESULTS HAVE
BEEN REPORTED.

11. IN SPITE OF THE ARRESTS, BODIES CONTINUED TO
BE FOUND. IN NOVEMBER 2001, AFTER EIGHT MORE
VICTIMS' REMAINS WERE DISCOVERED NEAR A BUSY
INTERSECTION, POLICE ARRESTED TWO DRIVERS OF THE
BUS FLEETS EMPLOYED BY THE MAQUILA INDUSTRY.
POLICE CLAIMED BOTH HAD CONFESSED AND NAMED THEIR
VICTIMS. THE DRIVERS SHOWED SIGNS OF TORTURE
AFTER THEIR ARREST. AN ALLEGED WITNESS
BACKTRACKED ON HER INITIAL STATEMENT. THE
DRIVERS' DEFENSE ATTORNEY WAS PURSUED IN A HIGH-
SPEED CHASE AND SHOT TO DEATH BY MEMBERS OF THE
STATE JUDICIAL POLICE, WHO ORIGINALLY CLAIMED HE
DIED IN A CAR CRASH. IN FEBRUARY 2003 THE
STATE'S CASE WAS FURTHER DAMAGED WHEN A POLICE
INFORMANT STATED THAT THE POLICE KNEW ALL ALONG
THAT THE PERSON IN THE CAR WAS THE ATTORNEY. NOT
SURPRISINGLY, AN INTERNAL POLICE INVESTIGATION

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EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE LATTER THEORY WAS EVER PRESENTED. IN 1999, THREE PROFILERS WERE SENT FROM THE FBI'S NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ANALYSIS OF VIOLENT CRIME IN SUBURBAN VIRGINIA TO REVIEW THE CASES OF THE WOMEN'S HOMICIDES. AFTER A WEEK OF INVESTIGATION, THE TEAM OF FBI AGENTS CONCLUDED

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	PRM-00	DRL-01	G-00	SAS-00	/014W		

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R 121620Z FEB 03
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6831
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0774
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2684

E.O. 12958: N/A
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THERE WERE NO SERIAL KILLERS AT WORK IN THE AREA
AND THE MURDERS HAD BEEN INDIVIDUAL CASES. IN
2002, GOVERNOR PATRICIO MARTINEZ CONCURRED WITH A
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REQUEST FROM THE NEW MAYOR OF CIUDAD JUAREZ TO
PETITION THE MEXICAN FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL TO
REQUEST FBI ASSISTANCE. THIS REQUEST WAS LIMITED
TO ONLY/ONLY TRAINING OF STATE AND LOCAL POLICE IN
INVESTIGATORY METHODS AND PROCEDURES, NOT FOR
INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ACTUAL INVESTIGATIONS. THE

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FAILURE OF STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO CLARIFY THE LIMITED ROLE OF THE FBI HAS LED TO SPECULATION AND MISINFORMATION IN THE PRESS ABOUT THE FBI INVOLVEMENT.

THE ROLE OF NGO'S

13. IN THE MID-1990'S, ESTHER CHAVEZ CANO, DIRECTOR OF A SHELTER FOR BATTERED WOMEN CALLED CASA AMIGA (WHICH HAS RECEIVED INL FUNDING), BEGAN DRAWING PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE NUMBER OF WOMEN'S DEATHS IN JUAREZ (APPROX. 200) SINCE 1993, NOT DIFFERENTIATING AMONG THOSE PERPETRATED BY SERIAL KILLERS OR BY OTHERS. THUS THE HIGHER GENERAL MURDER FIGURE BEGAN TO BE APPLIED TO THE SERIAL MURDER VICTIMS. THIS WAS DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE POPULATION OF CIUDAD JUAREZ WAS ON A TRAJECTORY TAKING IT FROM ABOUT 750,000 INHABITANTS TO WELL OVER 1.5 MILLION IN THE SPACE OF 7 OR 8 YEARS. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF IMMIGRANTS, AMONG THEM MANY YOUNG WOMEN, HAS FLOWED INTO JUAREZ FROM ALL PARTS OF MEXICO SEEKING JOBS IN THE NAFTA-CREATED JUAREZ MAQUILA INDUSTRY. CHAVEZ PERCEIVED AN URGENT NEED TO

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BRING THESE TYPES OF CRIMES TO THE PUBLIC'S ATTENTION.

14. NGO'S AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE WELL INTENTIONED AND HAVE BEEN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN MAKING THE CIUDAD JUAREZ MURDERS PART OF THE MEXICAN AND AMERICAN

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