UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01

CIUDAD 03981 01 OF 02 052230Z

INFO

LOG-00 AID-00 CG-00 CIAE-00 CTME-00 INL-00 DEA-00
DINT-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 SRPP-00 FRIE-00 UTED-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-00 L-00 NSA-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01
PM-00 P-00 SP-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 FMP-00 PM-00
DSCC-00 G-00 SAS-00 /003W

R 041622Z MAY 01
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SEC/STATE WASHDC 6747
AMBASSASY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0410
XMT AMBASSASY MEXICO

UNCLASSIFIED SECTION

01 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 3981

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/MEX, DS/OP/ WHA AND DS/ITA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, SNAR, PHUM, KCRM, CASC, MX
SUBJECT: NEW SPATE OF NARCO-KILLINGS IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

REF: A) CIUDAD JUAREZ 1578 B) 2000 CIUDAD JUAREZ 5184 C) 2000
CIUDAD JUAREZ 4820

1. SUMMARY. THE BLOODY WAR FOR CONTROL OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN
CIUDAD JUAREZ HAS RESUMED IN EARNEST WITH THIRTEEN NEW KILLINGS IN
THE PAST MONTH, NINE OF THESE OCCURRING IN THE PAST WEEK. THE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02

CIUDAD 03981 01 OF 02 052230Z

DEAD INCLUDE ONE, POSSIBLY TWO, FORMER POLICE OFFICIALS AND TWO
SISTERS AGED 16 AND 18. WHILE A FORMER POLICE COMMANDER WAS
GUNNED DOWN ON A BUSY STREET, MOST OF THE VICTIMS HAVE BEEN KILLED
OUTSIDE OF THE PUBLIC VIEW, LEADING THE HEAD OF THE JUAREZ OFFICE
OF THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE TO BREATH A PUBLIC SIGH OF RELIEF
THAT AT LEAST THE CURRENT MODUS OPERANDI IS LESS LIKELY TO CATCH
INNOCENT PARTIES IN THE CROSS FIRE. SO FAR THIS YEAR THERE HAVE
BEEN 24 APPARENT DRUG RELATED KILLINGS IN THE JUAREZ AREA. END
SUMMARY.

2. AFTER A SEVEN-WEEK LULL (FEBRUARY 16 TO APRIL 6), BULLET-
RIDDLED AND STRANGLED BODIES ARE ONCE AGAIN APPEARING ON THE
STREETS OF JUAREZ. THE RELATIVE QUIET ENDED ON APRIL 7 WITH THE
DISCOVERY OF THE TORTURED AND STRANGLING BODY OF JUAN ARMANDO RUIZ-

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

UNCLASSIFIED

3. THE MOST PROMINENT RECENT VICTIM IS FORMER MUNICIPAL POLICE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS BENJAMIN ALBERTO LOPEZ ZUQIGA WHO WAS KILLED

ON APRIL 27 BY AK-47 FIRE WHILE PARKED OUTSIDE THE JUAREZ MEDICAL CENTER, ONE OF PRINCIPAL HOSPITALS IN TOWN (AND ONE RECENTLY USED BY A CONSULATE OFFICER). LOPEZ HAD GONE TO THE HOSPITAL TO VISIT HIS NEW-BORN SON.

4. APRIL 30 SAW A TRIPLE MURDER ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY. JORGE MARTINEZ, AGE 34, AND TWO YOUNG WOMEN, 18-YEAR OLD LAURA MARQUEZ-VALENZUELA AND HER 16-YEAR OLD SISTER, FLOR IDALIA MARQUEZ-VALENZUELA, WERE FOUND SHOT TO DEATH IN A CAR IN A FIELD. MARTINEZ HAD SERVED TIME ON A DRUG-RELATED CHARGE. BOTH THE MOTHER AND AUNT OF THE TWO GIRLS ARE CURRENTLY IN JAIL ON DRUG CHARGES.

5. A SECOND TRIPLE MURDER WAS UNCOVERED ON MAY 3 WHEN THREE BODIES WERE FOUND IN AN EMPTY LOT BesIDE A FACTORY. THE VICTIMS HAD ALL BEEN TORTURED AND STRANGLED. INITIAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT ONE OF THE VICTIMS COULD BE EFREN HERRERA CORRAL, A FORMER STATE JUDICIAL POLICE OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE 1997. HERRERA HAD PREVIOUSLY SURVIVED SEVERAL ATTEMPTS ON HIS LIFE.

6. OTHER RECENT KILLINGS WHICH APPEAR TO BE DRUG-RELATED INCLUDE:
--APRIL 24. AN IDENTIFIED MALE IS FOUND SHOT TO DEATH BESIDE THE JUAREZ-CASAS GRANDES HIGHWAY.
--MAY 1. A MALE BODY IS FOUND IN A CANAL ADJACENT TO JUAREZ'S MOST PROMINENT COUNTRY CLUB. THE PRESS REPORTS THAT POLICE ON THE SCENE TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED THE VICTIM AS A CRIMINAL KNOWN AS EL
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04   CIUDAD  03981  01 OF  02  052230Z

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED   PTQ2275

PAGE 01   CIUDAD  03981  02 OF  02  052231Z
ACTION DS-00

INFO    LOG-00  AID-00  CG-00  CIAE-00  CTME-00  INL-00  DEAE-00
DINT-00  DODE-00  WHA-00  SRPP-00  FBIE-00  UTED-00  TEDE-00
INR-00  IO-00  L-00  NSAE-00  NSCE-00  OIC-02  OMB-01
PM-00  P-00  SP-00  TRSE-00  USIE-00  FM-00  PMP-00  PM-00
DSCC-00  G-00  SAS-00  /003W

R 041622Z MAY 01
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6748
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0411
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 3981

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/MEX, DS/CP/WHA AND DS/ITA

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7. SOME OF THE KILLINGS MAY BE TIED TO A SERIES OF RECENT
LEVANTONES, OR KIDNAPPINGS, THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT DAYS.
TWO UNIDENTIFIED MALES WERE FORCED INTO VEHICLES AT MAJOR
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02   CIUDAD  03981  02 OF  02  052231Z
INTERSECTIONS WITHIN A MILE OF THE CONSULATE. A THIRD WAS GRABBED
OUTSIDE OF A PIZZA HUT IN THE SAME AREA.

8. COMMENT. THE SPADE OF KILLINGS IS LIKELY THE RESULT OF
CHAOTIC LINES OF AUTHORITY IN THE DRUG TRAFFIC AND SUBSEQUENT TURF
WARS AND SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS AND DEALS GONE BAD. IF THERE IS ANY
GOOD NEWS TO BE GLEANED FROM RECENT EVENTS IT MAY RESIDE IN THE
RELATIVE PAUCITY OF VIOLENCE DURING TWO PERIODS OF TIME WHEN A

UNCLASSIFIED
CONTINGENT OF 600 FEDERAL PREVENTIVE POLICE WERE DISPATCHED TO JUAREZ TO ASSIST WITH STREET PATROLS. AS SOON AS THEY WERE WITHDRAWN, HOWEVER, THE KILLINGS RESUMED. AS IS USUAL, THERE HAVE BEEN NO ARRESTS MADE IN ANY OF THE RECENT INCIDENTS. IN MARCH THERE WERE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SPECIAL POLICE GROUP ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE NARCOTICS RELATED KILLINGS HAD OBTAINED AT LEAST THREE ARREST WARRANTS, BUT NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE AND NO INFORMATION RELEASED ON THE IDENTITIES OF THOSE INDICTED. DIRECTOR OF THE STATE JUDICIAL POLICE OFFICE IN CIUDAD JUAREZ RICARDO VAZQUEZ-SANTIESTEBAN’S STATEMENT EXPRESSING RELIEF THAT THE INCIDENTS DURING THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE NOT INVOLVED PUBLIC GUNFIRE PROVIDES AN INDICATION OF JUST HOW LOW POLICE, AND PUBLIC, EXPECTATIONS HAVE FALLEN.

VAZQUEZ

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