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TAGS: NAS, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, PREL, XM, MX
SUBJECT: SPECIAL PROSECUTOR NAMED FOR JUAREZ MURDERS

REF: A. MEX 10230
    B. MEX 10502

CLASSIFIED BY: POL M/C J.C. KENNEDY

1. (U) SUMMARY: GOM ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A NEW FEDERAL
   PROSECUTOR FOR THE MURDERS IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) ON 30 JANUARY, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (PGR) ANNOUNCED
   THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL FEDERAL PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE
   THE MURDERS OF WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ, AND NAMED MARIA LOPEZ
   URBINA FOR THE JOB. THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR WILL TAKE OVER THE
   JOINT TASK FORCE ('FISCALIA MIXTA') COMPOSED OF THE PGR AND
   THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA GENERAL ATTORNEY'S OFFICE (PGJE) THAT
   CURRENTLY OPERATES IN CIUDAD JUAREZ.

3. (U) LOPEZ URBINA WAS BORN 1 SEPTEMBER 1961 IN TOLUCA,
   MEXICO. SHE HOLDS A LAW DEGREE FROM UNAM, AND EARNED A
   MASTERS IN LAW FROM THE UNIVERSIDAD JUAREZ, DURANGO, WITH A
   SPECIALIZATION IN CRIMINAL LAW. LOPEZ URBINA HAS WORKED
   WITHIN THE PGR FOR MOST OF HER CAREER, HAVING SERVED AS ITS
   DELEGATE IN SEVERAL STATES, MOST RECENTLY IN COAHUILA. SHE
   WAS CONSIDERED AMONG THE TOP 2003 PERFORMERS IN TERMS OF
   EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY AMONG PGR DELEGATES WHO
   COORDINATE THAT INSTITUTION'S WORK AT THE STATE LEVEL.

4. (U) THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR WILL OPEN AN OFFICE IN CIUDAD
   JUAREZ, WHERE SHE WILL REVIEW THE FILES OF OVER 300 MURDERS.
   THE PGR REPORTS IT HAS CREATED A DATABASE OF INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 06 JUL 2006  200502506
RELATED TO THE WOMEN'S MURDERS THAT WILL PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR REVIEW OF THE CASE INVESTIGATIONS, AND ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF CASES WHERE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS JURISDICTION TO PROSECUTE.

5. (U) THUS FAR, THE PGR HAS TAKEN OVER 14 CASES OF MURDERED WOMEN WHERE THERE IS A NEXUS TO FEDERAL CRIMES, SUCH AS POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING IN ORGANS, WEAPONS VIOLATIONS AND USE OF FALSE CURRENCY.

6. (U) ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE PGR IS DRAFTING A PROPOSAL FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS THAT WOULD ALLOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROSECUTE CRIMES WHICH INVOLVE GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS THAT TRANSCEND A SINGLE STATE'S INTEREST, SUCH AS THOSE IN CIUDAD JUAREZ.

7. (C) IN A CONVERSATION WITH POST'S LABOR COUNSELOR,

8. (U) AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS ANNOUNCED A MARCH TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 14 IN CIUDAD JUAREZ TO DEMAND AN END TO IMPUNITY. THE DAY WILL INCLUDE DISCUSSIONS ON GENDER VIOLENCE. MANY WOMEN'S AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS, POLITICAL LEADERS AND CELEBRITIES ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE EVENT.

9. (C) COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PROSECUTOR WILL SIMPLY CREATE ANOTHER LAYER OF BUREAUCRACY, OR ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF INVESTIGATIONS. WHILE ITS DATABASE MAY PROVE EFFECTIVE TO CORRELATE INFORMATION, WITHOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO PROSECUTE MORE CASES, IT IS DOUBTFUL THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE TO THE RESOLUTION OF OVER 300 JUAREZ MURDERS. END COMMENT.

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