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USMISSION GENEVA
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UNCLASS SECTION 01 OF 03 MEXICO 006896

CORRECTED COPY - ADDING INFO ADDEE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: FGOV, PHUM, ELAB, MX
SUBJECT: THE UN RAPPORTEUR'S VISIT TO MEXICO

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING HER JULY 12-23 VISIT TO MEXICO, ASMA JAHANGIR, UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRATLICIAL EXECUTIONS, TRAVELED WIDELY TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS), AND RELATIVES OF INDIVIDUALS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DENIED ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WARRANTED JAHANGIR'S VISIT, JAHANGIR CONFIRMED THAT SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN MEXICO AND HIGHLIGHTED IMPUNITY AS A CONTINUING PROBLEM. GOM OFFICIALS BRISTLED AT JAHANGIR'S BLUNT STYLE AND WITH A

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 30 JUN 2006 200502506

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HIGHLY CRITICAL REPORT LIKELY, MAY BALK AT THE
VISIT OF UNHCR ROBINSON SLATED FOR THE FALL. END
SUMMARY.

MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

2. (U) ASMA JAHGIR, THE UNITED NATIONS' SPECIAL
RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY
EXECUTIONS, WAS IN MEXICO FOR 11 DAYS ON HER FIRST
OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE COUNTRY. FROM JULY 12 UNTIL
JULY 23, SHE TRAVELED FROM THE SOUTHERN-MOST STATE
OF CHIAPAS TO THE NORTHERN BORDER TOWN OF CIUDAD
JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA, AS WELL AS GUERRERO STATE AND
THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

3. (U) FROM THE OUTSET, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
INSISTED THERE WAS NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT

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JAHGIR'S VISIT TO MEXICO. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER
MEETING WITH JAHGIR ON JULY 14, GOVERNMENT
SECRETARY DODORO CARRASCO TOLD THE PRESS THAT
MEXICO HAS "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO HIDE" AND THAT
THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR "DOES NOT COME TO MEXICO
PRESSURED BY ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES."
LIKewise, FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARY ROSARIO
GREEN REITERATED THAT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HAD
BEEN INVITED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AS PART ITS
POLICY OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COOPERATION.

4. (U) IN MEXICO CITY FROM JULY 12-16, JAHGIR
HELD MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT DODORO
CARRASCO, ATTORNEY GENERAL JORGE MADRAZO, THE
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PRESIDENT
MIREILLE ROCCATTI, ARMED FORCES' ATTORNEY GENERAL
RAFAEL MACEDO DE LA CONCHA, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS. JAHGIR CHARACTERIZED HER MEETING
WITH CARRASCO AS "VERY POSITIVE," BUT AFTER SEEING
MADRAZO SHE CRITICIZED THE CURRENT MEXICAN
JUDICIAL SYSTEM AS INCAPABLE OF HANDLING
INCREASING CRIME. AS PROOF OF THIS, SHE CITED THE
GOVERNMENT'S JUDICIAL REFORM EFFORTS. AFTER
MEETING WITH MACEDO, SHE REPORTED, A BIT
SURPRISED, THAT AS FAR AS THE MILITARY IS
CONCERNED "EVERYTHING IS PERFECT."

THE "I" WORD

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5. (U) THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, JAHANGIR EXPRESSED
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HER CONCERN ABOUT IMPUNITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF
PUNISHING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRES AND
EXECUTIONS. JUSTICE "BY SELECTIVE IMPUNITY," SHE
OPINED, "IS A POLITICAL ISSUE IN MEXICO... IT IS
THE RESULT OF A FLAWED POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL
SYSTEM." JAHANGIR ALSO AFFIRMED THAT THE MAIN
POINT OF HER VISIT WAS TO EXAMINE THE GOVERNMENT'S
COMMITMENT TO ENDING IMPUNITY. SHE SAID SHE FELT
A GOVERNMENTAL DISPOSITION TO COMBAT IMPUNITY. IN
CONTRAST TO JAHANGIR'S CONCERNS, FOREIGN RELATIONS
SECRETARY ROSARIO GREEN STATED ON JULY 13, THAT
SHE FELT IT WAS FUNDAMENTAL, WHATEVER JAHANGIR'S
CONCLUSIONS BE, THAT ONE THING SHE CONCLUDE IS
THAT THERE IS NO IMPUNITY IN MEXICO.

SEEKING JUSTICE IN GUERRERO

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6. (U) ON JULY 16, JAHANGIR TRAVELED TO GUERRERO
FOR MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GUERRERO HUMAN RIGHTS
NETWORK, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE KILLED IN
AGUAS BLANCAS IN 1995. THE HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK,
TOGETHER WITH FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS,
PRESENTED JAHANGIR WITH 20 CASES OF EXTRAJUDICIAL
EXECUTIONS, TORTURE, AND DISAPPEARANCES COMMITTED
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BY MILITARY PERSONNEL AS WELL AS FEDERAL AND STATE
POLICE SINCE 1995.

7. (U) REGARDING THE JUNE 1995 AGUAS BLANCAS AND
THE JUNE 1998 EL CHARCO CASES, JAHANGIR DECLARED
THAT SHE WOULD REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY
DECLARATIONS UNTIL SHE HAD MET WITH GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS AND STUDIED ALL OF THE INFORMATION
PRESENTED TO HER. IN HIS MEETING WITH JAHANGIR,
GUERRERO GOVERNOR RENE JUAREZ CISNEROS EXPRESSED
HIS ADMINISTRATION'S COMMITMENT TO PROTECT HUMAN
RIGHTS AND INTENSIFY THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY.

EXECUTIONS AND MILITARIZATION IN CHIAPAS

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8. (U) DURING HER VISIT TO CHIAPAS, THE UN
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR CONCENTRATED HER ATTENTION ON
FIVE CASES OF EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION, INCLUDING:
THE JANUARY 1994 HOMICIDES IN OCOSINGO; THE
DECEMBER 1997, MASSACRE OF 45 INDIGENOUS PERSONS
IN ACTEAL; AND THE JUNE 1998 EVENTS IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF EL BOSQUE. IN ADDITION, JAHANGIR
RECEIVED INFORMATION ON SIX OTHER EXECUTION CASES.

9. (U) IN CONTRAST TO HER RETICENCE IN GUERRERO,
JAHANGIR NOTED THAT EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS HAVE
OCCURRED IN CHIAPAS, IMPUNITY HAS PREVAILED IN
MANY CASES, AND THE POLICE HAVE DEMONSTRATED A
LACK OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. JAHANGIR
OBSERVED THAT IMPUNITY CAN ALSO BE INVOLVED WHEN
10. (U) "SUBCOMMANDER" MARCOS, A LEADER OF THE ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (EZLN), DELIVERED A MESSAGE TO JAHANGIR STATING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAD "LOST ALL CREDIBILITY AND LEGITIMACY" AND CITED THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION'S BOMBING OF KOSOVO AS THE ACT THAT SEALED THE UNITED NATION'S DEMISE. MARCOS FURTHER CHARGED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN AN ACCOMPlice IN THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S WAR OF extermination AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. JAHANGIR THANKED MARCOS FOR HIS COMMENTS AND ADMITTED THAT NO ORGANIZATION IS PERFECT. AT THE SAME TIME, THOUGH, SHE DEFENDED THE UN AS AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT PARALLEL AND UNDERLINED THAT SUBCOMANDANTE MARCOS SENDING HER A MESSAGE IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS PROOF THAT THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR MUST HAVE SOME CREDIBILITY.

11. (U) AFTER MEETING WITH FAMILY MEMBERS AND SURVIVORS OF ACTEAL, JAHANGIR COMMENTED THAT THE MASSACRE SHOWED "PEOPLE'S WORST AND MOST BARBARIC SIDE, AND WE CANNOT ALLOW BARBARISM TO CONTINUE ITS VICIOUS CYCLE." SHE ALSO SPOKE WITH VICTIM'S FAMILIES AND WITNESSES TO THE JANUARY 1994 EXECUTIONS OF ZAPATISTA COMBATANTS IN OCOSINGO. THE REPRESENTATIVES OF 12 NON-GOVERNMENTAL UNCLASSIFIED ORGANIZATIONS PRESENTED HER WITH REPORTS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CHIAPAS, INCLUDING A LIST OF 50 EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS IN CHIAPAS.

12. (U) AT THE END OF HER VISIT TO CHIAPAS, JAHANGIR SAID TENSIONS CONTINUE BECAUSE THERE IS NO MANAGEMENT OF THE SITUATION. SHE ARGUED THAT THE STATE'S EXCESSIVE MILITARIZATION "IS NOT A SOLUTION BUT RATHER PART OF THE PROBLEM."

GENDER BIAS IN CIUDAD JUAREZ
13. (U) ACCORDING TO NGOs IN THE STATE OF
CHIHUAHUA, 194 WOMEN HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN AND
AROUND CIUDAD JUAREZ SINCE 1993. EIGHTY PERCENT
OF THE VICTIMS WERE BETWEEN 14- AND 17-YEARS OLD
AND WORKED IN THE NEARBY IN-BOND INDUSTRIES. IN
AN EMOTIONAL MEETING ON JULY 15 IN MEXICO CITY
PRIOR TO HER VISIT TO CIUDAD JUAREZ ON JULY 23,
RELATIVES OF FOUR OF THESE VICTIMS SHARED THEIR
TESTIMONIES WITH JAHANGIR. AFTERWARDS, EXPRESSING
HER PROFOUND ANXIETY AT THE SEXIST OBSERVATIONS
MADE BY SOME OFFICIALS, SHE STATED THAT IT WAS
TIME GOVERNMENTS REALIZED THAT THIS IS

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NSAE-00 QIC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00 PRS-00
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UNACCEPTABLE, AND THAT WOMEN WILL NOT TOLERATE IT

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UNCLASSIFIED
14. (U) ON JULY 16, THE CHIHUAHUA GOVERNMENT DENIED NGO ALLEGATIONS OF OFFICIAL LACK OF ATTENTION TO THESE CASES. INDEED, A STATE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ASSERTED THAT UNDER THE CURRENT INSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRI) ADMINISTRATION, WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1998, THE MURDERS OF WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ AND THE IMPUNITY SURROUNDING THEM HAD COME TO AN END. FOR THEIR PART, THE STATE'S NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (PAN) TOOK EXCEPTION TO REPORTS THAT ASMA JAHANGIR HAD CRITICIZED THE FORMER PAN GOVERNMENT OF FRANCISCO BARRIO FOR PROMOTING IMPUNITY AND LACKING THE WILL TO RESOLVE THE MURDERS.

STEPPING OUT OF BOUNDS?

15. (U) IN HER FINAL DAY IN MEXICO, JAHANGIR HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UPCOMING 2000 ELECTIONS AND STATED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN MEXICO IS CONFRONTED WITH MANY CHALLENGES. JAHANGIR ANNOUNCED THAT SHE EXPECTED TO RELEASE HER REPORT 45 DAYS HENCE TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. BEFORE SHE LEFT HOWEVER, JAHANGIR MADE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. FIRST, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER INVITING FOREIGN OBSERVERS FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS TO ADD LEGITIMACY TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. SECOND, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE INCREASED THROUGH STATE AND MUNICIPAL AUTONOMY. AGAIN, JAHANGIR REITERATED THAT IMPUNITY AND THE REPETITION OF VIOLENT ACTS WERE HER PRIMARY CONCERN IN CASES OF EXECUTIONS SUCH AS AGUAS BLANCAS, ACTEAL, EL BOSQUE, AND EL CHARCO. THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ALSO NOTED THAT THE SITUATION IN CHIAPAS AND GUERRERO WAS BETTER THAN SHE HAD BEEN TOLD AND CRITICIZED NGOS FOR PRESENTING A DIFFERENT VIEW.

16. (U) HAVING REFRAINED FROM ANY STRONG CRITICISM OF JAHANGIR DURING HER VISIT, THE
FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARIAT (SRE) REPROACHED JAHANGIR ONCE SHE LEFT FOR NOT LIMITING HER COMMENTS TO HER MANDATE AND INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTORAL PROCESSES, AND MUNICIPAL AND STATE ORGANIZATION. CARMEN MORENO, SRE UNDERSECRETARY FOR THE UN, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, EXPRESSED HER SURPRISE THAT JAHANGIR’S FINAL COMMENTS DID NOT COINCIDE WITH WHAT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HAD TOLD THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT DURING A MEETING PRIOR TO HER FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE. REGARDING JAHANGIR’S COMMENTS THAT IMPUNITY WILL PERSIST IN MEXICO UNLESS THE COUNTRY’S LEGAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS CHANGE, MORENO PROCLAIMED THAT THESE "DO NOT CORRESPOND TO REALITY" AND THAT JAHANGIR IS "COMPLETELY MISINFORMED."

17. (SBU) COMMENT: WHILE IT IS LIKELY THAT THE GOM EXPECTED TO RECEIVE CRITICISM FROM THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, JAHANGIR’S STRONG, STRAIGHT-FORWARD PUBLIC CRITICISMS OF MEXICAN POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE APPEARED TO BE AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE TO HER MEXICAN HOSTS. IF THESE COMMENTS ARE ANY INDICATIONS OF WHAT HER FINAL REPORT WILL LOOK LIKE, THEN JAHANGIR WILL HAVE KEPT HER WORD TO MAKE FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WHETHER THEY "LIKE IT OR NOT." JAHANGIR’S BLUNT COMMENTS AND WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE A HIGHLY CRITICAL REPORT MAY CAUSE THE GOM TO RETHINK ITS INVITATION TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER MARY ROBINSON TO VISIT MEXICO THIS FALL.

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: DURING HER JULY 12-23 VISIT TO MEXICO, ASMA JAHANGIR, UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS, TRAVELED WIDELY TO MEET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS), AND RELATIVES OF INDIVIDUALS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN EXECUTED. ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DENIED ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WARRANTED JAHANGIR’S VISIT, JAHANGIR CONFIRMED THAT SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN MEXICO AND HIGHLIGHTED IMPUNITY AS A CONTINUING PROBLEM. GOV OFFICIALS BRISTLED AT JAHANGIR’S BLUNT STYLE AND WITH A HIGHLY CRITICAL REPORT LIKELY, MAY BALK AT THE VISIT OF UNHRC ROBINSON SLATED FOR THE FALL. END SUMMARY.

MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

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2. (U) ASMA JAHANGIR, THE UNITED NATIONS’ SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS, WAS IN MEXICO FOR 11 DAYS ON HER FIRST
OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE COUNTRY. FROM JULY 12 UNTIL JULY 23, SHE TRAVELED FROM THE SOUTHERN-MOST STATE OF CHIAPAS TO THE NORTHERN BORDER TOWN OF CIUDAD JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA, AS WELL AS GUERRERO STATE AND THE FEDERAL DISTRICT.

3. (U) FROM THE OUTSET, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INSISTED THERE WAS NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT JAHANGIR'S VISIT TO MEXICO. FOR EXAMPLE, AFTER MEETING WITH JAHANGIR ON JULY 14, GOVERNMENT SECRETARY DIODORO CARRASCO TOLD THE PRESS THAT MEXICO HAS "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO HIDE" AND THAT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR "DOES NOT COME TO MEXICO Pressured BY ANY SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES." LIKewise, FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARY ROSARIO GREEN REITERATED THAT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HAD BEEN INVITED BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AS PART ITS POLICY OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COOPERATION.

4. (U) IN MEXICO CITY FROM JULY 12-16, JAHANGIR HELD MEETINGS WITH SECRETARY OF GOVERNMENT DIODORO CARRASCO, ATTORNEY GENERAL JORGE MADRAZO, THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PRESIDENT MIREILLE ROCCATTI, ARMED FORCES' ATTORNEY GENERAL RAFAEL MACEDO DE LA CONCHA, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. JAHANGIR CHARACTERIZED HER MEETING WITH CARRASCO AS "VERY POSITIVE," BUT AFTER SEEING MADRAZO SHE CRITICIZED THE CURRENT MEXICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM AS INCAPABLE OF HANDLING INCREASING CRIME. AS PROOF OF THIS, SHE CITED THE GOVERNMENT'S JUDICIAL REFORM EFFORTS. AFTER MEETING WITH MACEDO, SHE REPORTED, A BIT SURPRISED, THAT AS FAR AS THE MILITARY IS CONCERNED "EVERYTHING IS PERFECT."

THE "I" WORD

5. (U) THROUGHOUT THE VISIT, JAHANGIR EXPRESSED HER CONCERN ABOUT IMPUNITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PUNISHING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSACRES AND EXECUTIONS. JUSTICE "BY SELECTIVE IMPUNITY," SHE OPINED, "IS A POLITICAL ISSUE IN MEXICO... IT IS THE RESULT OF A FLAWED POLITICAL AND JUDICIAL
JAHANGIR ALSO AFFIRMED THAT THE MAIN POINT OF HER VISIT WAS TO EXAMINE THE GOVERNMENT’S COMMITMENT TO ENDING IMPUNITY. SHE SAID SHE FELT A GOVERNMENTAL DISPOSITION TO COMBAT IMPUNITY. IN CONTRAST TO JAHANGIR’S CONCERNS, FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARY ROSARIO GREEN STATED ON JULY 13, THAT SHE FELT IT WAS FUNDAMENTAL, WHATEVER JAHANGIR’S CONCLUSIONS BE, THAT ONE THING SHE CONCLUDES IS THAT THERE IS NO IMPUNITY IN MEXICO.

SEEKING JUSTICE IN GUERRERO

6. (U) ON JULY 16, JAHANGIR TRAVELED TO GUERRERO FOR MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GUERRERO HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK, AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE KILLED IN AGUAS BLANCAS IN 1995. THE HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK, TOGETHER WITH FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE VICTIMS, PRESENTED JAHANGIR WITH 20 CASES OF EXTRAJUDICIAL

7. (U) REGARDING THE JUNE 1995 AGUAS BLANCAS AND THE JUNE 1998 EL CHARCO CASES, JAHANGIR DECLARED THAT SHE WOULD REFRAIN FROM MAKING ANY DECLARATIONS UNTIL SHE HAD MET WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND STUDIED ALL OF THE INFORMATION PRESENTED TO HER. IN HIS MEETING WITH JAHANGIR, GUERRERO GOVERNOR RENE JUAREZ CISNEROS EXPRESSED HIS ADMINISTRATION’S COMMITMENT TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTENSIFY THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY.

EXECUTIONS AND MILITARIZATION IN CHIAPAS

8. (U) DURING HER VISIT TO CHIAPAS, THE UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR CONCENTRATED HER ATTENTION ON FIVE CASES OF EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTION, INCLUDING: THE JANUARY 1994 HOMICIDES IN OCOSINGO; THE DECEMBER 1997, MASSACRE OF 45 INDIGENOUS PERSONS IN ACTEAL; AND THE JUNE 1998 EVENTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF EL BOSQUE. IN ADDITION, JAHANGIR RECEIVED INFORMATION ON SIX OTHER EXECUTION CASES.

9. (U) IN CONTRAST TO HER RETICENCE IN GUERRERO, JAHANGIR NOTED THAT EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS HAVE OCCURRED IN CHIAPAS, IMPUNITY HAS PREVAILED IN MANY CASES, AND THE POLICE HAVE DEMONSTRATED A LACK OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. JAHANGIR OBSERVED THAT IMPUNITY CAN ALSO BE INVOLVED WHEN PEOPLE DETAINED FOR A CRIME ARE NOT THOSE REALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. THE REAL TEST THAT IMPUNITY DOES NOT EXIST, SHE BELIEVES, IS THAT THE GUILTY ARE THOSE THAT ARE PUNISHED.

10. (U) "SUBCOMMANDER" MARCOS, A LEADER OF THE ZAPATISTA NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (EZLN), DELIVERED A MESSAGE TO JAHANGIR STATING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAD "LOST ALL CREDIBILITY AND
LEGITIMACY" AND CITED THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION’S BOMBING OF KOSOVO AS THE ACT THAT SEALED THE UNITED NATION’S DEMISE. MARCOS FURTHER CHARGED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN AN ACCOMPLICE IN THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT’S WAR OFextermination AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. JAHANGIR THANKED MARCOS FOR HIS COMMENTS AND ADMITTED THAT NO ORGANIZATION IS PERFECT. AT THE SAME TIME, THOUGH, SHE DEFENDED THE UN AS AN ORGANIZATION WITHOUT PARALLEL AND UNDERLINED THAT SUBCOMANDANTE MARCOS SENDING HER A MESSAGE IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS PROOF THAT THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTUEUR MUST HAVE SOME CREDIBILITY.

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12. (U) AT THE END OF HER VISIT TO CHIAPAS, JAHANGIR SAID TENSIONS CONTINUE BECAUSE THERE IS NO MANAGEMENT OF THE SITUATION. SHE ARGUED THAT THE STATE’S EXCESSIVE MILITARIZATION "IS NOT A SOLUTION BUT RATHER PART OF THE PROBLEM."

GENDER BIAS IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

13. (U) ACCORDING TO NGOS IN THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA, 194 WOMEN HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN AND AROUND CIUDAD JUAREZ SINCE 1993. EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE VICTIMS WERE BETWEEN 14- AND 17-YEARS OLD AND WORKED IN THE NEARBY IN-BOND INDUSTRIES. IN AN EMOTIONAL MEETING ON JULY 15 IN MEXICO CITY PRIOR TO HER VISIT TO CIUDAD JUAREZ ON JULY 23, RELATIVES OF FOUR OF THESE VICTIMS SHARED THEIR TESTIMONIES WITH JAHANGIR. AFTERWARDS, EXPRESSING HER PROFOUND ANXIETY AT THE SEXIST OBSERVATIONS MADE BY SOME OFFICIALS, SHE STATED THAT IT WAS TIME GOVERNMENTS REALIZED THAT THIS IS
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UNACCEPTABLE, AND THAT WOMEN WILL NOT TOLERATE IT

14. (U) ON JULY 16, THE CHIHUAHUA GOVERNMENT
denied NGO allegations of official lack of
attention to these cases. Indeed, a state
government spokesman asserted that under the
current institutional revolutionary party (PRI)
administration, which began in October 1998, the
murders of women in Ciudad Juarez and the impunity
surrounding them had come to an end. For their
PART, THE STATE'S NATIONAL ACTION PARTY (PAN) TOOK EXCEPTION TO REPORTS THAT ASMA JAHANGIR HAD CRITICIZED THE FORMER PAN GOVERNMENT OF FRANCISCO BARRIO FOR PROMOTING IMPUNITY AND LACKING THE WILL TO RESOLVE THE MURDERS.

STEPPING OUT OF BOUNDS?

15. (U) IN HER FINAL DAY IN MEXICO, JAHANGIR HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UPCOMING 2000 ELECTIONS AND STATED THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN MEXICO IS CONFRONTED WITH MANY CHALLENGES. JAHANGIR ANNOUNCED THAT SHE EXPECTED TO RELEASE HER REPORT 45 DAYS HENCE TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. BEFORE SHE LEFT HOWEVER, JAHANGIR MADE TWO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. FIRST, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MEXICO 06896 03 OF 03 291219Z INVITING FOREIGN OBSERVERS FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS TO ADD LEGITIMACY TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. SECOND, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION SHOULD BE INCREASED THROUGH STATE AND MUNICIPAL AUTONOMY. AGAIN, JAHANGIR REITERATED THAT IMPUNITY AND THE REPETITION OF VIOLENT ACTS WERE HER PRIMARY CONCERN IN CASES OF EXECUTIONS SUCH AS AGUAS BLANCAS, ACTEAL, EL BOSQUE, AND EL CHARCO. THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ALSO NOTED THAT THE SITUATION IN CHIAPAS AND GUERRERO WAS BETTER THAN SHE HAD BEEN TOLD AND CRITICIZED NGOS FOR PRESENTING A DIFFERENT VIEW.

16. (U) HAVING REFRAINED FROM ANY STRONG CRITICISM OF JAHANGIR DURING HER VISIT, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS SECRETARIAT (SRE) REPROACHED JAHANGIR ONCE SHE LEFT FOR NOT LIMITING HER COMMENTS TO HER MANDATE AND INTERVENING IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTORAL PROCESSES, AND MUNICIPAL AND STATE ORGANIZATION. CARMEN MORENO, SRE UNDERSECRETARY FOR THE UN, AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, EXPRESSED HER SURPRISE THAT JAHANGIR'S FINAL COMMENTS DID NOT COINCIDE WITH WHAT THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR HAD TOLD THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT DURING A MEETING PRIOR TO HER FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE. REGARDING JAHANGIR'S COMMENTS THAT IMPUNITY WILL PERSIST IN MEXICO UNLESS THE COUNTRY'S LEGAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS CHANGE, MORENO PROCLAIMED THAT THESE "DO NOT CORRESPOND TO
17. (SBU) COMMENT: WHILE IT IS LIKELY THAT THE GOM EXPECTED TO RECEIVE CRITICISM FROM THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, JAHANGIR'S STRONG, STRAIGHT-FORWARD PUBLIC CRITICISMS OF MEXICAN POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE APPEARED TO BE AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE TO HER MEXICAN HOSTS. IF THESE COMMENTS ARE ANY INDICATIONS OF WHAT HER FINAL REPORT WILL LOOK LIKE, THEN JAHANGIR WILL HAVE KEPT HER WORD TO MAKE FIRM RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WHETHER THEY "LIKE IT OR NOT." JAHANGIR'S BLUNT COMMENTS AND WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE A HIGHLY CRITICAL REPORT MAY CAUSE THE GOM TO RETHINK ITS INVITATION TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER MARY ROBINSON TO VISIT MEXICO THIS FALL.

Davidow