

ACTION OCS-03

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CA-01	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	WHA-00
	SRPP-00	EB-00	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	DHS-00	PA-00	PRS-00	P-00
	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PRM-00	DRL-01	G-00
	SAS-00	/007W					

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 FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8446
 INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 0891

CA/OCS/ACS/WHA JANIE A. FRIEDLEIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PHUM, KWMN, MX (KIECKER, CYNTHIA LOUISE)
 SUBJ: ARREST UPDATE: KIECKER, CYNTHIA LOUISE

REF: CDJ 0379

Following American Arrested:

1. Name: Kiecker, Cynthia Louise
- Alias: Perzabal, Cynthia Luisa; "La Cheyenne"
6. Date/Place Of Arrest: May 31, 2003, At Home In Chihuahua.
8. Charges: Homicide/Murder
9. Place Of Detention: State Penitentiary Chihuahua.
14. Privacy Act Waiver: Blanket, Waiver Date: June 10, 2003.
17. Most Recent Visit Date: June 10, 2003 By Conoff/Conasst.
21. Judicial Disposition: Hearing In Progress, Date: June 11, 2003.
23. Comments: On June 05, 2003 Conoff/Conasst visited Mrs. Kiecker at the State Penitentiary in Chihuahua City. During that visit, she elaborated on the details of her arrest and that of her LPR spouse, Ulises Ricardo Perzabal, which she had provided in intial phone contact made by Post. She stated that just after midnight, in the early morning of May 31, she and her husband were at home when the State Judicial Police broke down the door. They were arrested and transported to a place they heard referred to as "La Academia (The Academy)", where Mrs. Kiecker claims she was tortured for approximately 4 hours. According to

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Mrs. Kiecker, the torture included being blindfolded and doused with water while simultaneously having electric shocks administered with a hand held device. She also reported that a gun was placed to her head and her life was threatened. She stated that she was subjected to both mental and emotional abuse by being forced to listen to the screams of her husband while he was also being tortured. She further stated that during this ordeal she was forced to make a statement under duress in which she confessed to killing the victim. Mrs. Kiecker claims her statement was false and done only to spare herself and her husband further physical abuse. Mrs. Kiecker contends that she and her husband are easy targets for police authorities since they live an unconventional lifestyle and operate a store selling jewelry and crystals that is popular with local youth.

Recent Mexican press reports emphasize the couples' "free" lifestyle and imply the couple is guilty. The press has painted a picture of Mrs. Kiecker as a drug-addicted, satanic-worshipping hippie. However, during all interviews with Conoffs, Mrs. Kiecker appeared to be frank, sincere, credible and consistent in the details of her story. The State Attorney General, Jesus Jose Solis Silva, stated that his office will seek the maximum penal sentence for the Perzabal-Kieckers of 20 to 50 years.

On June 10, 2003 ACS Chief/Conasst traveled again to Chihuahua to meet with the State Attorney General's representative. ACS Chief delivered a letter of formal protest, citing mistreatment of a U.S. citizen. The Deputy State Attorney General informed ACS Chief that there will be an investigation of the alleged torture of the Perzabal-Kieckers by his officers and the ConGen will be notified of the results of the investigation as soon as possible. ACS Chief also protested the lack of consular notification. From the time of her arrest, all documents state that Mrs. Kiecker

is an American citizen but Post learned of her arrest through the media and to date has never been formally notified of her detention by the Mexican authorities.

ACS Chief and Conasst then visited Mrs. Kiecker again. When they arrived at the prison she was being interviewed by a representative from the Chihuahua State Commission on Human Rights, which has also opened an official case on her behalf to pursue investigation of her allegations

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of torture at the hands of the Chihuahua State Police. Mrs. Kiecker informed ConOff that her parents were scheduled to arrive June 11, 2003. She also stated that she and her husband have tentatively retained a private attorney, who had defended Mr. Perzabal on separate charges in 2001. Since her legal representation was still unclear at that time, ACS Chief met with the public defender assigned to the case. He refused to discuss the case in front of any colleagues. However, he later shared information privately and expressed his concerns for his personal safety and his continued employment if he successfully defended the couple in light of the importance the State Attorney General has personally attached to prosecution of this case. Post will continue to monitor developments in this case closely.

COMMENT: Juarez and Chihuahua press carried stories of the Consulate's protest and interest in this case on June 12. Local press inquiries are being directed to Post's PD office for response. Post believes from discussions with the State Attorney General's office that they intend to accuse the couple of five other unsolved disappearances of young women in Chihuahua City. The couple's whereabouts for several hours between the time of detention and the time at which their statements were taken are unaccounted for, lending credence to their allegations of torture. Intense public pressure to solve these crimes, exacerbated by international press coverage of similar disappearances of young women in Juarez, does not bode well for objective, impartial investigation or prosecution of the couple.

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