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ACTION OCS-00

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INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CA-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DODE-00
	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	MEDE-00	OIGO-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	NSAE-00	OIC-00
	OIG-00	PA-00	TFBI-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TEST-00
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R 252225Z JUN 04
 FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
 TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 SECSTATE WASHDC 3391
 INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
 AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 008985

CA/OCS/ACS/WHA FOR IAN BROWNLEE
 WHA/MEX FOR LINDA JEWELL, ROBERTA JACOBSON AND WILLIAM DUNCAN

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: SNAR, PHUM, PGOV, KJUS, KWMN, SOCI, CASC, ASEC, MX
 SUBJECT: WOMENS HOMICIDES: ARGENTINE FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY TEAM
 VISITS CHIHUAHUA - WOMEN'S HOMICIDES

1. SUMMARY: From June 6-12, 2004, the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF) visited Chihuahua at the invitation of the NGO Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH) and the Commissioner for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against Women, Guadalupe Morfin. The visit was partially funded by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA). During this visit the EAAF met with different NGOs, relatives of the victims and government officials. The State Attorney General's Office (PGJE) was very supportive of their visit and allowed them to review some of the files. On June 12, post representatives and the FBI El Paso Liaison Officer met with the EAAF to discuss their initial recommendations to the Mexican government. They also inquired on current best practices to approach the Mexican Government on this issue. Preliminary findings by the EAAF indicate that the remains of more than 240 women murdered in Juarez over the past 10 years have already been identified by their relatives after viewing the corpses. The EAAF believes the remains of between 40 -50 women must still be evaluated through DNA and/or anthropological analysis. END SUMMARY

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
 DATE/CASE ID: 12 OCT 2006 200505180

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2. The EAAF was created in 1984. EAAF is a non-governmental scientific organization that applies forensic anthropology to the investigation of human rights violations. Forensic anthropology is a field that uses methods and techniques from physical anthropology and forensic medicine to solve legal cases involving skeletal remains.

3. The team was originally created to investigate on 10,000 disappeared Argentines during the military regime in the 70s. Since then, the EAAF has worked in over thirty countries in America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Currently the EAAF team has a staff of thirteen people, plus support from volunteers that are often invited to join missions.

4. In the early 80s, Argentina requested assistance from the Science and Human Rights Program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Among the AAAS delegation members was Dr. Clyde Snow, one of the world's foremost experts in forensic anthropology. Dr. Snow called on anthropologists, archaeologists, and physicians to begin exhumations and analysis of skeletal remains using archaeological and forensic anthropology techniques. Snow returned to Argentina repeatedly, trained current EAAF members, and helped form the EAAF.

5. EAAF becomes involved in a case when a human rights organization, the United Nations or a judicial entity requests their assistance. Funding for their travel and local expenses vary from mission to mission: they may be funded partially or entirely by EAAF, the local organization that requests the assistance, international organization or foundation.

THE CHIHUAHUA VISIT

6. On June 12, post FSN Information/Political Assistant Patricia Munoz met with Mercedes Doretti and Patricia Bernardi of the EAAF and Adriana Carmona of the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (Comision Mexicana para la Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos) and FBI El Paso liaison officer Sam Camargo. They discussed the visit of the EAAF team visit to Chihuahua. The EAAF team members stated that they began collecting background information on the women's homicides cases of Juarez and Chihuahua City. The team met with NGOs, relatives of the victims, police officials, forensic experts, district attorneys and prosecutors.

7. EAAF officials commented that the State Attorney General's

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Office was very supportive of the visit and allowed them to review three cases in Chihuahua City, including one involving AMCIT Cynthia Kiecker. They also reviewed over 20 cases in Ciudad Juarez. The EAAF team also reviewed morgue and cemetery records in a few cases. Doretti and Bernardi didn't provide any specifics on the cases reviewed. However, they stated they identified mishandling of the evidence and missing forensics tests that could have been helpful in identifying the victims' identities.

9. According to their preliminary analysis, there is a need to correctly identify the remains of a maximum of 50 victims to allow the relatives to make the customary funeral arrangements and obtain some closure. It is important to note that each NGO and Mexican government agency specifically handles different cases of women murdered. However, after reviewing some of the cases and the official lists, the EAAF team believes that only

40 victims still need to be identified by the use of forensic anthropology. One team member commented that there might still be 5 or 10 more cases that they have not seen. They noted that while some of the bodies in which the EAAF might conduct forensic anthropology analysis are deposited at local morgues, others are buried as Jane Does in municipal cemeteries.

10. The EAAF representatives stated that "if invited" the EAAF has enough funding to come to Chihuahua to assist in the investigations. They emphasized, however, that they cannot participate in the forensic investigation unless they receive a formal invitation from both the Mexican Federal and State authorities.

11. The EAAF found deficiencies in the investigations. They visited the DNA lab in Chihuahua City (PGJE) and were critical of the lack of expertise of the forensics experts in Chihuahua. The technology available at the lab itself is not in question. However, given the extremely sensitive social and political climate that has surrounded these cases for ten years, it is extremely doubtful that DNA results from any Mexican lab would be considered acceptable to both the victims' families and the international community. See note following. COMMENT: Major local newspaper El Norte reported on June 23, that the PGR - SIEDO Unit (Organized Crime Unit in Juarez) released the identities of two victims found at a cotton field in 2001. These victims were purportedly identified through DNA samples. However, the mother of one of the victims publicly stated she will not accept those results as the relatives were never asked to provide DNA samples to the PGR. On June 25 major local newspaper El Diario reported that the second family had also

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refused to accept the results on the second set of remains. END COMMENT.

12. If invited, one of the key points the EAAF stressed that they must have in order to assist will be a commitment that the State Authorities use the same lab for all DNA testing, instead of the 7 different labs that they have been using. The EAAF recommends that the laboratories be located in the United States.

13. The EAAF hopes to present a written report on recommendations to the Mexican Government by early August 2004. The representatives offered to provide a copy to post.

14. Sam Camargo, FBI, attended the Saturday meeting at the request of the EAAF representatives. His comments to the group were measured, but he informed the EAAF about the good relationship between El Paso and Juarez police officials. Camargo also discussed the FBI hotline for tips about the murders and the training the FBI has provided Juarez and Chihuahua state police officials. Camargo described some of the training provided by the FBI, including crime scene preservation, fingerprint analysis and collection of evidence.

15. During their visit to Juarez, the EAAF also offered two workshops -- one for the victim's relatives and NGOs and the second for district attorneys and forensic experts from both the State and Federal Attorney General's Office (PGJE & PGR).

16. It is important to note that EAAF does only anthropological forensic work. They stated that they are aware of the DNA lab work done at Baylor, Quantico, and a facility in California. If funding for the DNA analysis on the Mexican victims were available, the EAAF has confidence that results obtained from these labs would be highly reliable.

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