

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-00	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DEAE-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00
	EB-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	OBO-00
	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00
	VCE-00	M-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-00	OES-00
	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	OPR-00	PA-00	PER-00	PM-00
	GIWI-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00
	SSO-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00	FMP-00	R-00	IIP-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00	/001W	

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FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5048

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE

AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 014445

MCCA AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY FOR ROBYN M BISHOP

DEPT FOR WHA/MEX

EMBASSY FOR POL

EMBASSY FOR NAS

EMBASSY FOR USAID/MEXICO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, KWMN, PHUM, SNAR, MX, CASC

SUBJECT: JUAREZ WOMEN'S MURDERS PULL MORE POLITICIANS INTO THE  
VORTEX

REF: A. REFS: A) CDJ 13961, B) MEXICO 4359, C) CDJ 13021, D) STATE 227015

B. A) CDJ 13961, B) MEXICO 4359, C) CDJ 13021, D) STATE 227015

1. (U) SUMMARY: As civil society reels from a recent court decision (Ref A) that sidestepped the Istanbul Protocol findings to hand down a fifty-year prison sentence to Victor Javier Garcia Uribe for the rape and murder of eight young women found dead in 2001, newly elected Chihuahua state Governor Jose Reyes Baeza Terrazas moves forward step-by-step with promises to make public safety in Ciudad Juarez a priority for his administration. Meanwhile, the decision of the Eighth State Penal Court in Juarez to drop arrest warrants for four of the eighty-one state public officials under investigation by Special Prosecutor for Women's Homicides in Ciudad Juarez Maria Lopez Urbina for negligence in the handling of evidence related to the murdered women's cases (Ref B) casts an additional shadow over hopes for the procurement of justice in Chihuahua. Two female

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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corpses have already been discovered in Ciudad Juarez since Reyes Baeza's swearing-in ceremony, on October 3, 2004. The latest victim, found on October 23 in an abandoned property of a residential neighborhood, appears to be in her mid-teens. An alleged perpetrator is in police custody while authorities search for three others allegedly involved in the brutal murder.

Since January of this year, just prior to U.S. Congresswoman Hilda Solis's February visit to Ciudad Juarez for "V-Day" Violence Against Women protests, a total of fifteen women have been found murdered in the state of Chihuahua. Of these, three are classified as sexual homicides. END SUMMARY.

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Public Safety  
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2. (U) In his inaugural speech on October 3, 2004, Chihuahua state Governor Jose Reyes Baeza Terrazas announced that he would prioritize addressing the problem of public safety in Ciudad Juarez. In less than two weeks of taking office, and in keeping with his campaign promise, Reyes Baeza has established a State Ministry of Public Safety. The entity, with headquarters in Ciudad Juarez, is to be headed by Raul Grajeda Dominguez. Five bureaus constitute the new ministry: Criminal Policy and Statistics, Crime Prevention, Preventive Operation, Traffic and Civil Protection, as well as Penalties and Security Measures. Other proposed measures to address criminality in the state's largest border city include the replacement of State Judicial Police with a State Investigation Agency and the creation of a multifaceted Commission for the Investigation of Women's Homicides in Ciudad Juarez. The Commission would be charged with following up on recommendations made by international organizations.

3. (U) State Minister of Public Safety Grajeda is seeking to increase security provisions in Ciudad Juarez by adding 200 new municipal police to the force in short order. Earlier attempts to beef up the municipal police force, under the former governor's administration, failed due to a high rejection rate. Many of the candidates were ineligible because of past criminal records and/or insufficient moral character. It is unclear how Grajeda will circumvent this obstacle in order to cover the city's urgent security needs.

4. (U) On October 22, Mexican President Vicente Fox Quesada kicked off in Ciudad Juarez his tour of the state of Chihuahua. This is the president's third visit-all within the last six months-to the state since taking office four years ago. The visit, for the formal inauguration of the State Council of Public Safety, comes close on the tails of the president's prior visit, on September 21. On that occasion, Fox met with members

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of the Maquiladora Association (AMAC) and the city's business leaders on a variety of issues (Ref C). Mention of the pressing need for security in the city inevitably arose as well as mention of the need for the safety of women, which Fox acknowledged.

5. (U) New Governor Reyes Baeza is making an overt effort toward a visible presence in Ciudad Juarez, a change from his more state-capital-focused predecessor Governor Patricio Martinez Garcia. Since taking office, Reyes Baeza has already made two visits to Juarez, the most recent of which was for the October 22 signing of the Sustainable Regional Development of the Northeast agreement between the governors of the border states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, and Nuevo Leon.

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Chihuahua State Public Officials  
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6. (U) Chihuahua State Congress has elected Patricia Lucila Gonzalez Rodriguez as the new Chihuahua State Attorney General. Gonzalez replaces interim Attorney General Eduardo Gomez Arriaga. Gonzalez is the first women ever to be elected to this

position in the state. Among the Mexican NGO community Gonzalez is highly regarded. Federal Commissioner for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women in Ciudad Juarez Guadalupe Morfin Otero is equally positive about Gonzalez's appointment. Gonzalez has already appeared briefly before the Organization of American States' Inter-American Human Rights Commission, in Washington (Ref D). There is still no news about whether Victoria Caraveo Vallina will remain as president of the Chihuahua Women's Institute (Instituto Chihuahuense de la Mujer-ICHIMU), a position she has held since February 18, 2003.

7. (SBU) Manuel Esparza Navarrete, also among the current and ex-state officials under investigation for negligence by Lopez Urbina, was promoted to Crime Lab Director for the Deputy Attorney General's Office in Juarez in August 2004. Esparza was previously the District Attorney's Coordinator for the Women's Homicides Prosecution Agency. Esparza is likewise a Federal Bureau of Investigation liaison. Both American and Mexican NGOs have stated a lack of confidence in those Mexican officials the U.S. authorities choose as their contacts. In a meeting with post on September 16, 2004, Sally Meisenfelder of the New Mexico-based Amigos de las Mujeres de Juarez explicitly voiced her concern that FBI agents are placing their trust in questionable hands. Meisenfelder cited Esparza as an example. Mexican NGOs Justicia para Nuestras Hijas, Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa, and Comision Mexicana de Defensa y Promocion de

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Los Derechos Humanos (CMDPDH)-also present at the meeting-expressed equal reservations. They believe this misplaced trust is at the root of the victims' families' as well as their own lack of faith in El Paso-based law enforcement authorities.

8. (U) Federal Commissioner Morfin is one of twelve candidates under consideration to possibly take over Jose Luis Soberanes's position as president of the National Commission of Human Rights (CNDH). The vote is to take place by November 15 in a Plenary Session of the Senate. In press reports Morfin has stated that while she values the importance of her current position, she also considers her candidacy as CNDH president a great honor. Morfin continues to maintain an active role in the Cynthia Kiecker case and in the application of the Istanbul Protocol. In reference to public outrage from the recent court decision to hand down a fifty-year prison sentence to Victor Javier Garcia Uribe "El Cerillo," despite the findings of the Istanbul Protocol (Ref A), Morfin has stated publicly through several media that Garcia Uribe should be freed if there is no other proof supporting his guilt other than the defendant's self-inculpatory testimony obtained under torture.

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Women's Homicides  
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9. (U) A suspect is being held in relation to the rape, murder, and stoning of an adolescent girl whose corpse was found in an abandoned house of a residential neighborhood of Juarez on October 23, 2004. The body has not yet been identified, nor does the victim's physical appearance or clothing match those of girls reported as missing in the area. Although the suspect's alibis are not holding up to state police scrutiny, authorities are also pursuing three others in connection to the murder. The Fiscalia Mixta continues its efforts to identify another female corpse, found on October 6, 2004, near the Rio Grande, alongside a dried-up irrigation ditch, in Juarez. The autopsy revealed that the woman had been raped, then strangled to death. As no one has yet come forth to identify the body, the Mexican government surmised that the woman might be from outside of Mexico. New Mexico authorities have confirmed that the features of the woman do not correspond to any of their reports of missing women. Authorities have published in the press details of the victim's clothing, illustrations based on facial reconstruction, and a model of the victim's head.

10. (SBU) Post met with Professor of Political Science at University of Texas at El Paso Dr. Kathleen Staudt and with the Coalition Against Violence Toward Women and Families at the U.S.-Mexican Border, on September 10, 2004. The purpose of the

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meeting was to investigate the possibility that American citizens may be among the murdered and missing women. Evidence does not point to American citizens being part of the serial murders. Rather, the American female murders appear to have been committed as a result of narco-involvement or other incident-specific motives. Post further explored this possibility at the September 16 meeting with NGOs from both sides of the border. No new information surfaced. If credence is given to the theory put forth by El Paso Times reporter Diana Washington Valdez, who believes the serial killings may be the result of thrill-seeking orgies by narco-traffickers and sons of the local jet set, "Los Juniors," there may be no tidy division between targeted narco-related murders and narco fallout.

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