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R 060807Z FEB 02
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2741
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0577
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 CIUDAD JUAREZ 1643

CA/OCS/ACS/WHQ Q ALICE F. SEDDON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, SOCI, PHUM, KWMN, SNAR, MX
SUBJ: SECURITY/SAFETY IN JUAREZ

A) 01 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2018  B) 01 CIUDAD
JUAREZ 2294

1. SUMMARY: DRUG-RELATED EXECUTIONS,
ASSAULTS AND WOMEN'S HOMICIDES IN JUAREZ
MADE THE HEADLINES OF LOCAL AND
INTERNATIONAL NEWS IN 2001. THE CITY
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REPORTED 40 VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS PER DAY IN
2001. EVEN THOUGH THE STATE GOVERNMENT
PROCLAIMS SUCCESS AGAINST CRIME, THE
COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO CRITICIZE THEIR
INEFFECTIVE MEASURES. ON JANUARY 7, 2002, A
NEW STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOOK OFFICE
UNDER SEVERE CRITICISM OF POLITICIANS AND
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES. END SUMMARY.

DRUG RELATED EXECUTIONS

2. THE RATE OF DRUG RELATED EXECUTIONS IN
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JUAREZ WENT UP BY ALMOST 20 PERCENT IN 2001
ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED BY ZEUS
GROUP. ZEUS GROUP, CREATED IN JANUARY 2001
TO COMBAT AND PROSECUTE DRUG-RELATED
EXECUTIONS, INCORPORATES AGENTS OF THE
STATE JUDICIAL POLICE AND THE FEDERAL
ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE. ACCORDING TO
ZEUS GROUP, THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS
LINKED WITH ORGANIZED CRIME AND DRUG
TRAFFICKING IN 2000 WAS 46, AND IN 2001
THIS NUMBER INCREASED BY TWELVE TO 58. OF
THE 45 CASES THAT WERE OPENED, ONLY TWO HAD
SUSPECTS ARRESTED. THE REMAINING CASES HAVE
NO SUSPECTS IDENTIFIED OR ARRESTED. JESUS
TORRES, DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN CHARGE OF ZEUS
GROUP, BLAMES THIS ABSENCE OF ARRESTS ON
THE LACK OF SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM THE
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RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS ABOUT POSSIBLE
SUSPECTS.

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WOMEN'S HOMICIDES
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3. FOR MANY YEARS, WOMEN'S SERIAL HOMICIDES
IN JUAREZ HAVE BEEN AN ISSUE. IN 2001,
THERE WAS A 12 PERCENT INCREASE IN WOMEN'S
HOMICIDES FROM LAST YEAR'S STATISTICS. 27
WOMEN WERE MURDERED IN JUAREZ, 9 OF THEM
WERE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND ARE BELIEVED TO
BE THE VICTIMS OF A SERIAL MURDERER (REF
A). A FEW DAYS AFTER AUTHORITIES FOUND THE
REMAINS OF 8 WOMEN IN A COTTON FIELD IN
NOVEMBER, TWO BUS DRIVERS WERE ARRESTED
(REF B). ALLEGEDLY, QUEL CERILLO & QLA
FOCAQ, THE DRIVERS, WERE TORTURED INTO
CONFESSIONING TO THE MURDERS, THOUGH PUBLIC
OFFICIALS HAVE DENIED THIS. THE TWO BUS
DRIVERS WERE TRANSFERRED TO CHIHUAHUA CITY
IN JANUARY 2002. SEVERAL NGOs AND HUMAN
RIGHTS GROUPS IN JUAREZ HAVE PROTESTED
AGAINST THE ARREST OF THESE TWO MEN,
ALLEGING THE GOVERNOR HAS USED THEM AS
SCAPEGOATS TO COVER THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE

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STATE JUDICIAL POLICE (PGJE).

4. IN 2002, PRESIDENT FOX ORDERED THAT THE
FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (PGR) IN
JUAREZ ASSIST IN SOLVING SERIAL WOMENQS
HOMICIDES IN JUAREZ. THE PGR HAS DEDICATED
TWO DISTRICT ATTORNEYS TO REVIEW THE WORK
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OF THE PGJE INVESTIGATIONS. SINCE HOMICIDE
IS CONSIDERED A STATE CRIME, THE PGR WILL
ONLY ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY AND WILL
NOT INTERVENE IN ARRESTS OR FURTHER
INVESTIGATION. OVER 70 CASES ARE BEING
REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE TO BE
ISSUED ON A WEEKLY BASIS.

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ASSAULTS
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5. THIEVES IN JUAREZ MADE OFF WITH OVER 5
MILLION PESOS FROM LOCAL STORES IN 2001.
206 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND 22 ORGANIZED
BANDS WERE DISMANTLED. IN 2001, 531 POLICE REPORTS WERE FILED AT THE SPECIAL AGENCY IN CHARGE OF STORE ROBBERIES. IN 2000 THE SAME AGENCY RECEIVED 689 REPORTS. THOUGH OFFICIAL STATISTICS SHOW A DECREASE, ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL SOURCES, THE NUMBERS DO NOT RELATE TO REALITY. ACCORDING TO STORE OWNERS AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ALMOST 40 STORES ARE ROBBED PER DAY, AND MOST OF THOSE THEFTS ARE NOT REPORTED. IN DECEMBER 2001, INTERIM MAYOR, JOSE REYES FERRIZ, ADMITTED PUBLICLY THAT ASSAULTS ON STORES ARE ON THE RISE, BUT ALSO STATED THAT POLICE DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TO COMBAT THESE CRIMES.

MORE VEHICLES, MORE ACCIDENTS

6. STATISTICS FROM THE TRAFFIC DIVISION IN CIUDAD JUAREZ REVEAL THERE WERE 14,880 VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS IN 2001. IN THOSE, 5,102 PERSONS SUFFERED MAJOR INJURIES AND 112 DIED. JESUS CARRAJAL CASAS, TRAFFIC DIVISION DIRECTOR, CLAIMS THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS IS VERY LOW IN COMPARISON TO THE NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN THE CITY. HOWEVER, THE ACCIDENT RATE REFLECTS DIFFERENT: 3,720 ACCIDENTS PER 100,000 VEHICLES.

7. A NEW TRAFFIC LAW WILL ENTER INTO EFFECT IN MARCH 2002, REQUIRING ALL DRIVERS TO HAVE MEXICAN LIABILITY INSURANCE. SEVERAL ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE THE NEW TRAFFIC LAW IN JUAREZ SINCE FEBRUARY 2001, WITH NO LUCK, THOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE THIS TIME ENFORCEMENT MAY BE TAKEN MORE SERIOUSLY. IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS, SEVERAL U.S. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED AT LOCAL JAILS AFTER BEING INVOLVED IN VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS. CURRENTLY, THE LAW REQUIRES A CASH BOND AS WARRANTY PAYMENT FOR THE DAMAGES TO THE AFFECTED PARTY. MOST OF THE AMERICANS HAVE HAD TO REMAIN IN JAIL FOR SEVERAL DAYS UNTIL THEIR FAMILIES COULD RAISE SUFFICIENT MONEY
A NEW STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

6. ON JANUARY 7, 2002, JESUS QCHITOQ SOLIS
   WAS NAMED NEW STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL. SOLIS
   TOOK OFFICE UNDER A HAUL OF CRITICISM BOTH
   FROM POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN. PRIOR TO
   THIS POSITION, SOLIS HAD BEEN THE CHIHUAHUA
   PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATOR Q IN CHARGE OF
   SUPERVISING THE WORK OF ALL THE POLICE

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TO OBTAIN THEIR RELEASE. INSURANCE COMPANY
GUARANTEES OF PAYMENT ARE NOT ACCEPTED;
ONLY CASH.

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6. ON JANUARY 7, 2002, JESUS QCHITOQ SOLIS
   WAS NAMED NEW STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL. SOLIS
   TOOK OFFICE UNDER A HAUL OF CRITICISM BOTH
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AGENTS IN THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA. JESUS
SOLISQ SUPPORTERS BELIEVE HIS PREVIOUS
EXPERIENCE IN THE POLICE WILL BRING CHANGES
THAT WILL RESULT IN A STRONGER AND MORE

UNCLASSIFIED
EFFECTIVE POLICE. YET, HIS DETRACTORS
REMAIN DOUBTFUL. SOLIS WAS IN THE NEWS IN
2001 FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG
DEALING ACTIVITIES, IN ADDITION TO HIS TIES
TO A DRUG SCANDAL IN 1995.

VAZQUEZ

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