UNCLASSIFIED

R 121622Z FEB 02
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2812
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0585

UNCLASSIFIED SECTION 01 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 1968

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PINS, PGOV, SEC, MX
SUBJECT: VIOLENCE IN CIUDAD JUAREZ CLAIMS CENTER STAGE

REF: CJ 188 AND PREVIOUS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

1. (U) SUMMARY: A VISIT BY THE OASQ INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR COINCIDES WITH A KILLING BY POLICE
OF A WELL-KNOWN ATTORNEY TO CAST SERIOUS ASPERSIONS ON
CHIHUAHUAQS JUSTICE SYSTEM. THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL PROMISED
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TO TURN OVER THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE STATE POLICE
KILLING OF MARIO ESCOBEDO TO THE COURTS QWITHIN THE WEEKQ. THOUGH
REMAINING SILENT ON ALLEGATIONS THAT THE POLICE MURDERED THE
LAWYER, THE AG STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT SOME OF THE POLICE INVOLVED
IN THE SHOOTING MAY BE CHARGED. THE OASQ RAPPORTEUR SPOKE
POLITELY BUT CRITICALLY OF THE STATEQS EFFORTS TO HALT THE
MURDERS OF YOUNG WOMEN THAT HAS PLAGUED JUAREZ SINCE 1993, AND
PROMISED A REPORT EIGHT MONTHS FROM NOW. THE GOVERNORS OFFICE
CALLED ON THE RAPPORTEUR TO COORDINATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE
MURDERED WOMEN FROM THE US, UK, FRANCE AND ISRAEL WHILE ALSO
REQUESTING INTERNATIONAL HELP IN INVESTIGATING THE JAN. Q01
ATTEMPT ON THE GOVERNORS LIFE AND IN CLEARING UP DRUG
TRAFFICKING VIOLENCE. THESE EVENTS ALL COHERE TO MAKE THE STATE
AUTHORITIES AT BEST LOOK HOPELESSLY INEPT, AND AT WORST BLITHELY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/Case ID: 05 JUL 2006 200502506
2. (U) THE PUBLIC FUROR OVER THE FEB. 5 KILLING BY POLICE OF
ATTORNEY MARIO ESCOBEDO RAGES STILL AS THE AUTHORITIES TACTILY
BACK OFF FROM STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE HIGHLY IMPLAUSIBLE POLICE
ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT. STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL SOLIS ORDERED THE
WEAPONS OF THE OFFICERS INVOLVED IMPOUNDED FOR TESTING AND HE HAS
PROMISED TO COMPLETE THE STATE'S INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT BY
WEEKS END. IN TURNING OVER EVIDENCE TO THE COURTS SOLIS
STRONGLY IMPLIES THAT CHARGES WILL BE FILED AGAINST AT LEAST SOME
OF THE POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING.

3. (U) THE SLAIN ATTORNEY'S FATHER HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS THE
CASE AGAINST THE POLICE, AND HE HAS TWICE GIVEN TESTIMONY TO
AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT. ESCOBEDO SR. CHARGES THE
POLICE WITH PLANTING EVIDENCE TO MAKE HIS SON APPEAR TO HAVE
ASSAULTED POLICE AND HE ALSO CLAIMS THAT AN EYEWITNESS CAN

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ESTABLISH THAT POLICE KILLED HIS SON IN COLD BLOOD. ACCORDING TO
THE SENIOR ESCOBEDO THE ALLEGED EYEWITNESS SAW A POLICEMAN SMASH
IN THE WINDOW OF HIS SON'S CAR AFTER IT CRASHED AND THEN SHOOT
THE ATTORNEY POINT BLANK IN THE HEAD. ESCOBEDO SAYS HE
UNDERSTANDS THIS WITNESS' FEAR OF GIVING TESTIMONY BUT REMAINS
HOPEFUL THE WITNESS WILL YET COME FORWARD TO TELL HIS STORY.

4. (U) THE UNRELATED BUT COINCIDENT VISIT BY MARTA ALTOLAGUIRRE
LARRAONDO, SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION OF THE OAS ALSO DOMINATES HEADLINES IN THE CITY.
ALTOLAGUIRRE IS IN TOWN TO LOOK INTO ALLEGATIONS BY VICTIMS'
FAMILIES AND NGOs THAT THE STATE'S HANDLING OF THE MURDERS OF
WOMEN IN CD. JUAREZ CONSTITUTES A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION. SHE
MET WITH STATE OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH SOLVING THE MURDERS, WITH
THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE STATE
GOVERNMENT, AND WITH THE MAYOR OF CD. JUAREZ AND THEN WITH
VICTIMS' FAMILIES AND NGOs MONITORING HUMAN RIGHTS AND VIOLENCE.
WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE COOPERATION SHE RECEIVED FROM THE
OFFICIALS WHICH INCLUDED WRITTEN REPORTS AND FILES ON THE CASES
SHE WAS ALSO CRITICAL OF THE POLICE AND STATE OFFICIALS FOR THEIR
BLAMING OF MURDER VICTIMS IN ATTRIBUTING THE ATTACKS TO THEIR
PROVOCATIVE LIFESTYLES AND MANNER OF DRESS AND FOR DISRESPECTQ
THESE SAME OFFICIALS HAD SHOWN TO THE FAMILIES OF MANY OF THE
VICTIMS. ALTOLAGUIRRE PROMISED TO HAVE THE RESULTS OF HER
INVESTIGATION EIGHT MONTHS FROM NOW.

5. (U) ALMOST AS IF TO SHOW THAT THEY TOO WERE VICTIMS OF THE
VIOLENCE ENGULPING THE STATE, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF CHIHUAHUA
TURNED OVER FILES ON THE JANUARY 2001 ATTEMPT ON GOVERNOR
PATRICIO MARTINEZQ LIFE TO THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR. HE REQUESTED
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ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00
DINT-00 DODE-00 DOE-00 SRPP-00 DS-00 EB-00 FBI-00
UTED-00 VC-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01
L-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NSA-00 NSOE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01
OPIC-01 PA-00 PM-00 PBS-00 ACE-00 P-00 SCT-00
SP-00 STR-00 TEST-00 TSE-00 USIE-00 ECA-00 PM-00
DSCC-00 FRM-00 DRL-02 G-00 SAS-00 SWCI-00 /00W

R 121622Z FEB 02
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 1968

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THAT, NOT ONLY SHOULD ALTOLAGUIRRE COORDINATE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE BY POLICE FROM THE US, UK, FRANCE, AND ISRAEL INTO THE
WOMENSQ MURDERS IN JUAREZ, BUT THAT SHE ALSO ASK MEXICAN FEDERAL
AUTHORITIES TO REQUEST FOREIGN (PRESUMABLY US) ASSISTANCE ON THE
MARTINEZ ATTEMPT. THE SECRETARY GENERAL ALSO NOTED THAT
ALTOLAGUIRRE COULD INQUIRE OF FEDERAL AUTHORITIES AS TO WHY
FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SECURITY IN CHIHUAHUA HAD BEEN CUT BY FORTY
PERCENT.

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6. (SBU) COMMENT: GOV. MARTINEZ, NURSING NATIONAL AMBITIIONS AND
DETERMINED TO WIN THE MAYORAL ELECTION IN JUAREZ THIS MAY FOR THE
PRI, WAS HANDED A SERIOUS REVERSE BY THE STATE AG IN THE ESCOBEDO
KILLING. ESCOBEDO'S ROLE AS A REPEAT CRITIC OF THE STATE POLICE
IN THEIR FAILURE TO CONVINCINGLY SOLVE THE MURDERED WOMENSQ
CASES, AND THE HIGHLY SUSPECT POLICE ACCOUNT OF HIS DEATH
GUARANTEED A CAUSE CILibre FOR THE STATE. ADD TO THIS MIX THE
FACT THAT JESUS SOLIS THE GOVERNOR'S HAND-PICKED AGENDJOYS THE REPUTATION OF A THUG WHOSE FAVORITE PASSTIME IS INTIMIDATING HIS CRITICS AND YOU HAVE A RECIPE FOR WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM APPROACHING REVULSION FOR THE STATE POLICE.

7. (SBU) THE GOVERNOR NEVER ONE TO SHIRK A FIGHT HAS BEEN SILENT AND INVISIBLE THROUGHOUT, AND HAS CHOSEN TO PRESENT THE STATE AS ALMOST HELPLESS IN THE FACE OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. A REPORT IN EIGHT MONTHS TIME BY THE OAS WILL HARDLY COMFORT THE FAMILIES OF MURDER VICTIMS, NOR RE-ASSURE JUAREZ YOUNG WOMEN OF THEIR FUTURE SAFETY. THE STATE'S CALL FOR MASSIVE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SEEMS ALMOST A THROW-AWAY LINE DESIGNED TO DISTANCE THEM FROM RESPONSIBILITY, IF IT IS NOT SIMPLY AN OCTOPUS-LIKE DEFENSE SQUIRTING OBSCURING INK TO CLOUD THE ISSUE EVEN FURTHER IN THE PUBLIC MIND. WHILE OUTRAGE OVER THE ESCOBEDO KILLING IS REAL, THE CASES OF THE MURDERED WOMEN HANG GHOST-LIKE OVER THE CITY, INTRUDING ONLY WHEN AN OUTSIDER FORCES THE TOWN TO PAY ATTENTION. WHILE SEVERAL DOGGED AND COURAGEOUS NGOs STRUGGLE TO BRING LIGHT TO THEIR FATE AND THE DANGERS FACING THEIR SISTERS, TO THE JUAREZ ESTABLISHMENT THEY ARE POOR GIRLS FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE WHO ARE NOT CAREFUL ENOUGH TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. AS SUCH THEY ARE EVEN MORE INVISIBLE THAN THEIR KILLERS.