R 181443Z MAR 02
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3330
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
INFO ALL USCONS MEXICO 0607
XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 3628

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

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, SNAR, CASC, SOCI, PHUM, KWMN, MEX
SUBJ: CONTINUED CRIME AND PROTESTS IN JUAREZ

REF: A) CIUDAD JUAREZ 2423  B) CIUDAD JUAREZ 1643  C) 01 CIUDAD JUAREZ 2294

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DRUG RELATED EXECUTIONS

2. ON MARCH 6, HECTOR JAVIER LEAL JIMENEZ, A PFP OFFICER, AND HIS FEMALE COMPANION WERE EXECUTED ON THE PAN-AMERICAN HIGHWAY IN JUAREZ. ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES, LEAL MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXECUTED AS AN ACT OF RETALIATION FOR HIS INVOLVEMENT IN A RECENT SEIZURE OF 180 KILOS OF MARIJUANA.

3. ON MARCH 7, SEVEN PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED IN TWO OTHER ATTACKS. RICARDO MUNOZ VEGA, A KNOWN DRUG TRAFFICKER, AND TWO OTHERS DIED IN A DRIVE-BY SHOOTING IN VILLA AHUMADA, CHIHUAHUA. A FEW HOURS LATER, TWO GUNMEN WALKED INTO AN AUTO SHOP IN JUAREZ, KILLED FOUR MEN -- ALL MEMBERS OF A DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION IDENTIFIED AS QLOS TERREMOTOS -- AND WOUNDED AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER. ON MARCH 8, ENRIQUE SANTOYO, FORMER COMMANDER OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE IN JUAREZ, WAS EXECUTED OUTSIDE HIS RESIDENCE IN CHIHUAHUA CITY.

4. AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THIS NEW SPREE OF EXECUTIONS MAY BE THE RESULT OF RECENT DRUG SEIZURES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE JUAREZ-EL PASO BORDER. NO ARRESTS IN ANY OF THE 10 EXECUTIONS HAVE BEEN MADE. STATE JUDICIAL POLICE STATED PUBLICLY THAT ALL THESE MURDERS ARE DRUG RELATED, AND THEREFORE NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

QNI UNA MASQ (NOT ONE MORE)

5. ON MARCH 8, OVER 100 PERSONS MET AT THE PASO DEL NORTE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE IN JUAREZ, TO DEMAND THAT FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ASSIST IN SOLVING WOMEN'S HOMICIDES CASES IN JUAREZ. CONCEPCION GONZALEZ & MARIA DE LOS ANGELES SANCHEZ-MEXICAN FEDERAL CONGRESSWOMEN, ELIOT SHAPLEIGH-TEXAS SENATOR, & NORMA CHAVEZ-TEXAS LEGISLATOR
JOINED THE PROTESTERS TO EXPRESS
THEIR CONCERN ON THIS ISSUE.

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ACTION OCS-03

INFO LOG-00 MFA-00 NP-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 CA-01 CIAE-00
INL-00 DEAE-00 DINT-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 SRPP-00 DS-00
EB-00 ED-01 OIGO-00 UTED-00 HHS-01 H-01 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-00 JUSE-00 LAB-01 L-00 MMP-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 OIC-02 OPIC-01 PC-01 PRS-00 P-00 SP-00
IRM-00 SS-00 STR-00 TEST-00 TRSE-00 USIE-00 ASDS-01
DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-02 G-00 SAS-00 /01SW

R 181443Z MAR 02
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3331
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XMT AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 3628

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6. IN A SIMULTANEOUS EVENT ON THE SAME DATE, WOMEN STARTED A 360-KILOMETER MARCH TO PROTEST THE CONTINUED MURDERS OF WOMEN IN JUAREZ AND THE LACK OF INTEREST SHOWN BY THE AUTHORITIES. THE MARCH STARTED IN

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CHIHUAHUA CITY AND CULMINATED IN JUAREZ ON MARCH 13. SEVERAL CROSSES WITH THE LEGEND QNI UNA MASQ WERE LEFT ALONG THE ROAD. NGO REPRESENTATIVES AND RELATIVES OF WOMEN MURDERED IN JUAREZ PARTICIPATED.

7. THE PEACEFUL EVENT TOOK A

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CONFRONTATIONAL TURN WHEN THE PROTESTERS ARRIVED AT THE 30TH KILOMETER CHECKPOINT IN JUAREZ. 50 PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRI PARTY ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE MARCHERS FROM ENTERING JUAREZ. TWO PROMINENT WOMEN KNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GUADALUPE DE LA VEGA AND VICTORIA CARAVEO, SUFFERED MINOR INJURIES AFTER BEING STRUCK BY THE PRI CROWD. WHEN THE MARCHERS FINALLY MADE IT TO JUAREZ, PROTESTERS CLOSED DOWN THE PASO DEL NORTE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE FOR TWO HOURS AND INSTALLED A 10-FOOT CROSS AS A MEMORIAL TO THE VICTIMS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY NGOs AND PROTESTERS, ON MARCH 14, STATE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES RAN A LARGE AD IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER CALLED Q THE TRUTH ABOUT WOMEN'S HOMICIDES IN JUAREZ. IN THIS AD, AUTHORITIES STATE THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY 76 SERIAL WOMEN'S HOMICIDES IN JUAREZ SINCE 1992. THEY CLAIM ONLY 20 OF THEM OCCURRED DURING THE CURRENT PRI ADMINISTRATION AND UNCLASSIFIED

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19 OF THOSE HAVE BEEN SOLVED WITH THE ARRESTS OF TWO BUS DRIVERS QEL CERILLOQ & QLA FOCAQ (REF C). THESE CLAIMS ARE GENERALLY DISCOUNTED BY THE PUBLIC.

9. COMMENT: WHILE EXECUTION STYLE MURDERS LINKED TO THE DRUG TRADE ARE SCARCELY A NOVELTY IN JUAREZ, THE SPATE THIS PAST WEEK IS ALARMING IN NUMBER AND EXTENDS THE KILLING TO CHIHUAHUA CITY Q HERETOFORE RELATIVELY UNTouched BY DRUG VIOLENCE. THAT THE STATE POLICE FEEL IT SUFFICIENT TO SIMPLY IMPLY A DRUG LINK IN ORDER TO DISAVOW ANY RESPONSIBILITY SHOWS THE IMPUNITY WITH WHICH THESE KILLERS OPERATE. THE MARCH TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE LARGE UNSOLVED MURDERS OF WOMEN AT LEAST EMPLOYS A WEAPON THE AUTHORITIES FEAR: PUBLICITY. IT ALSO DREW PARTICIPATION FROM SOME LOCAL ACTORS WHOSE PROMINENCE IS UNQUESTIONED, THOUGH THERE IS NO SIGN THAT STATE AUTHORITIES ARE BEHAVING ANY DIFFERENTLY THAN THEY HAVE IN THE PAST.
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