UNCLASSIFIED SECTION 01 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 4545

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: CASC, PHUM, SOCI, KWMN, MX
SUBJECT: DNA TESTS COMPPLICATE WOMEN'S HOMICides INVESTIGATIONS IN JUAREZ

REF: A) JUAREZ 6117 B) 01 JUAREZ 2294 C) 01 JUAREZ 2145 D) 01 JUAREZ 2018 E) 00 JUAREZ 5266 F) 00 JUAREZ 2336

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO DNA TESTS RECENTLY CONDUCTED BY THE FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (PGR), ONLY ONE OF THE EIGHT VICTIMS WHOSE

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BODIES WERE FOUND AT A COTTON FIELD IN JUAREZ IN 2001 HAS BEEN POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED AND TWO OTHERS MAY BE IDENTIFIED PENDING ADDITIONAL TESTS. THE TESTS UNDERMINE THE PENAL CASE AGAINST GUSTAVO GONZALEZ AND VICTOR GARCIA, BUS DRIVERS WHO ARE ACCUSED OF MURDERING FIVE OF THE WOMEN. END SUMMARY.

DNA TESTS IDENTIFY ONE VICTIM

2. THE FEDERAL ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (PGR) RELEASED DNA RESULTS THAT RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IDENTITIES OF SEVEN OF THE BODIES FOUND IN A JUAREZ COTTON FIELD IN NOVEMBER 2001. ACCORDING
TO THE PGR, THE ONLY VICTIM WHOSE DNA MATCHED HER RELATIVES IS VERONICA MARTINEZ HERNANDEZ, WHOSE BODY IS AMONG THE FOUR STILL UNCLAIMED AT THE CITY MORGUE. THE RESULTS ALSO CONFIRM THAT TWO VICTIMS SUPPOSEDLY PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED WERE NOT AMONG THE BODIES FOUND IN THE COTTON FIELD, SINCE THE DNA FROM RELATIVES OF THOSE TWO WOMEN DID NOT MATCH ANY OF THE DNA FROM THE REMAINS FOUND. THE PGR ALSO REPORTS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE BODIES OF ESMERALDA HERRERA MONREAL AND CLAUDIA IVETTE GONZALEZ BANDA ARE AMONG THOSE FOUND. HOWEVER, MORE BLOOD SAMPLES HAVE BEEN REQUESTED FROM RELATIVES. IN NOVEMBER 2001, THE BODIES OF THESE TWO WOMEN AND TWO OTHERS WERE RELEASED TO FAMILIES WHO BURIED THEM. IT NOW APPEARS THAT TWO FAMILIES BURIED THE BODIES OF UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS.

PAGE 03 CIUDAD 04545 01 OF 02 081920Z INSTEAD OF THEIR RELATIVES. THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (PGJE) ORIGINALLY CLAIMED TO HAVE POSITIVELY IDENTIFIED ALL FOUR OF THE BODIES RELEASED FOR BURIAL.

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GUILTY OR INNOCENT?
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4. THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (PGJE) HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE DNA RESULTS PROVIDED BY THE PGR, CLAIMING THE PGJE DID CRANIUM AND DENTISTRY TESTING THAT FULLY IDENTIFIED THE VICTIMS. THE JUDGE IN CHARGE OF THE BUS DRIVERS CASE WILL NOW HAVE TO REVIEW PGR'S AND PGJE'S RESULTS TO

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UNCLASS SECTION 02 OF 02 CIUDAD JUAREZ 4545

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DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE AGAINST THE BUS DRIVERS TO CONTINUE TO HOLD THEM.

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ANOTHER TWO BODIES FOUND

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5. IN OCTOBER 2002, THE REMAINS OF A 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL WERE FOUND IN THE CERRO DEL CRISTO NEGRO AREA OF JUAREZ. ON OCTOBER 28, LESS THAN A HALF KILOMETER FROM WHERE THAT GIRL'S REMAINS WERE FOUND, PGJE FOUND THE REMAINS OF AN UNIDENTIFIED 18 TO 20 YEAR-OLD WOMAN. AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT YET RELEASED FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THESE TWO
CASES AND NO ARRESTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

PARKER