

ACTION DRL-00

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	WHA-00	DS-00	EB-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	OBO-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00
	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	M-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-00	OIC-00	OMB-00	OPR-00	PA-00	PM-00	GIWI-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00	FMP-00	SCRS-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
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R 012236Z FEB 05
 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0991
 INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS MEXICO 000798

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR DRL
 STATE FOR WHA/MEX

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, SOCI, MX
 SUBJECT: GOM ISSUES THIRD REPORT ON CIUDAD JUAREZ MURDERS

REF: A. 04 MEXICO 4359
 .B. 04 MEXICO 8311

1. (U) Summary: On January 31 the Special Prosecutor for the Investigation of the Ciudad Juarez Murders, Maria Lopez Urbina, issued her third report on the Ciudad Juarez murders.

This presentation, unlike the previous two (reftels) occurred against mounting criticism of her efforts. Families of the victims are growing impatient at what they see as a lack of progress in bringing the perpetrators to justice. During her ten minute presentation, Lopez Urbina announced the establishment of a center of attention for victims' families and said up to 190 former and current Chihuahua state officials could be named for negligence and dereliction of duty. End summary.

2. (U) During her presentation Lopez Urbina was harshly criticized by families of the victims. She announced the creation of a center that would provide medical and psychological attention to the victims' families. The short 10-minute announcement received minimal coverage in the local media.

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3. (U) From 1993 to the present there have been 349 women killed. Lopez Urbina said 84 of the cases appeared to be sexual assault. She also said as many as 190 officials and ex-officials of the state Prosecutor General's office could be accused of negligence or dereliction of duty in some of the cases. Lopez Urbina said the PGR (Federal Prosecutor General) has obtained the files on 323 of the 349 cases. She reported that in 230 of the cases there have either been arrests or arrest warrants issued. The other 119 are still under investigation. She reported 24 of the cases having been taken over by the PGR's organized crime unit (SIEDO) due to suspected involvement of organized crime.

4. (U) While there has been much criticism, there have also been prosecutions. On January 6, six members of the gang "Los Rebeldes" (The Rebels) were convicted for the murders of eight women in 1996. They received individual sentences of 24 to 40 years in prison. Also on January 6, a judge sentenced four bus drivers, known as "Los Toltecas" (The Toltecs), to individual sentences of 23 to 40 years in jail. The five bus drivers (one was acquitted) were detained in 1999 for the murders of four women in Ciudad Juarez. However, all the bus drivers claimed their confessions had been obtained under torture.

5. (U) On December 30, 2004 as a result of Lopez Urbina's first two reports the Chihuahua state attorney general, Patricia Rodriguez, requested arrest warrants against five state officials for abuse of authority (three are still employees of the state). She also requested administrative sanctions for negligence and malfeasance against 15 more state officials.

6. (SBU) Comment: Lopez Urbina's popularity with the victims' families has hit rock bottom. In her first report she was supported by the families for her willingness to cite public officials for negligence in their investigations of the cases (Ref A). Now the perception among the families is that nothing has been done to take concrete action against the perpetrators of the crimes or negligent public officials. The families have moved beyond their initial satisfaction with Lopez Urbina going after negligent state officials and now want concrete results, in the form of arrests and/or convictions, which they do not believe they are getting. Given the emotional nature of the issue, flaws in the justice system, and doubt about guilt of suspects due to torture allegations, it is unlikely the families will ever be satisfied. End comment.

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