UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION DRL-01

INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-00 INL-00 DODE-00 WHA-00 SRPP-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4791
INFO CIA WASHDC
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 000969

DEPT FOR DRL AND WHA/MEX; NSC FOR BROCK

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, MX
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDDUP FOR DECEMBER 2002/JANUARY 2003

1. (U) SUMMARY OF TOPICS:

-SENATE APPROVES OPENING OF UNHCR OFFICE IN MEXICO
-CNHD AND SEGOB INITIATE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
-IAHRC EXPERTS ARRIVE IN MEXICO TO REVIEW DIGNA OCHOA
INVESTIGATION
-GENS. ACOSTA/QUIROZ APPEAL TO START FEBRUARY 7

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-GENERAL OROPEZA AGAIN CALLED TO TESTIFY ON 68 MASSACRE EVENTS
-INITIATIVE ON GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE COMPLIANCE WITH HR
RECOMMENDATION TO BE PRESENTED TO SENATE
-HRW REPORT ON MEXICO RELEASED
-CNHD TO OPEN CASE ON CIUDAD JUAREZ KILLINGS AND OPEN 8 OFFICES
-NGO PRESENT COMPLAINT TO AI ON THE TORTURE OF TWO DETAINED IN CIUDAD JUAREZ MURDERS
-7 KILLED IN TWO SEPARATE BUT RELATED INCIDENTS IN CHIAPAS
-METRO (SUBWAY) SECURITY HARASSES HOMOSEXUALS IN MEXICO CITY
-CNHD TO PROPOSE LEGISLATION ON PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS

SOURCES
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 05 JUL 2006 200502506

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2. (U) THE MEXICAN SENATE, ON DECEMBER 6, FORMALLY APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNHRC OFFICE IN MEXICO. THE OFFICE WILL UNDERTAKE ACTIVITIES IN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MEXICO AND WILL PROVIDE ADVICE AND FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE STATES THAT REQUEST IT. THE OFFICE ISヘADED BY UNHRC REPRESENTATIVE ANDERS KOMPASS, WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS THAT AGENCY’S REPRESENTATIVE IN COLOMBIA.


4. (U) ON JANUARY 11, THE FIRST OF THREE EXPERTS FROM THE UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERAMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ARRIVED TO ASSIST IN THE REVIEW OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE OCTOBER 2001 DEATH OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER DIGNA OCHOA. PEDRO DÍAZ ROMERO, CRIMINOLOGIST, MARIA DOLORES MORCILLO MENDEZ, FORENSICS EXPERT, AND ALAN JOHN VOTH, BALLISTICS EXPERT, WILL REVIEW THE WORK DONE SO FAR IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO OCHOA’S DEATH. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF THE EXPERTS WILL CONDUCT INDEPENDENT TESTS, BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, THEY WILL REVIEW THE WORK DONE SO FAR IN THE INVESTIGATION.

5. (U) THE APPEALS PROCESS OF GENERALS MARIO ACOSTA CHAPARRO AND FRANCISCO QUIROZ HERMOSILLO, FOUND GUILTY OF NARCOTRAFFICKING TIES AND SENTENCED TO 15/16 YEARS IN PRISON, IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 7. THE DEFENSE FOR GEN. ACOSTA HAD FILED AN INJUNCTION (AMPARO) AGAINST EXECUTION OF THE MILITARY COURT’S GUILTY VERDICT, A FACT THAT MAY DELAY THE APPEALS START DATE. CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE STILL PENDING AGAINST THE TWO GENERALS.

6. (U) FORMER HEAD OF PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY (EMP) GENERAL LUIS GUTIERREZ OROPEZA HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO INVESTIGATE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS OF THE PAST ON JANUARY 27. GEN. OROPEZA WAS EMP DIRECTOR UNDER PRESIDENT GUSTAVO DÍAZ ORDÁZ IN 1968 WHEN THE TELÉFONO KILLINGS OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 2. OROPEZA IS ACCUSED OF HAVING ORDERED THE DEPLOYMENT OF SOLDIERS ON ROOFTOPS THAT LATER FIRED ON THE CROWD.

7. (U) ON JANUARY 19 PRI SENATOR MIGUEL SADOT SANCHEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, ANNOUNCED
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HE WILL PROPOSE INITIATIVES TO REFORM CERTAIN LAWS TO
UNCLASSIFIED

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STRENGTHEN THE CNDH, AS WELL AS STATE COMMISSIONS, AND THE
FULFILLMENT OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS BY GOVERNMENT
ENTITIES/EMPLOYEES, IN THE UPCOMING MARCH SESSION OF
CONGRESS. SADOT SANCHEZ WOULD PROPOSE SUMMONING PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES THAT FAIL TO CARRY OUT A CNDH RECOMMENDATION TO
APPEAR BEFORE THE SENATE. SANCHEZ CRITICIZED THE LACK OF A
GENERAL AND LONG-TERM POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

8. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH RELEASED ITS ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT. THE REPORT’S SECTION ON MEXICO CONSIDERS THAT THAT
COUNTRY HAS MADE UNPRECEDENTED ADVANCES IN THE AREA OF
HUMAN RIGHTS. HRW DIRECTOR KENNETH ROTH CALLED MEXICO AN
IMPORTANT PLAYER IN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE
WORLD.

9. (U) ON JANUARY 23, CNDH PRESIDENT SOBERANES ANNOUNCED THAT
THE CNDH WOULD OPEN AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDERS OF
WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. IN MARCH, THE CNDH WILL BE OPENING AN
OFFICE IN CIUDAD JUAREZ AS WELL AS SEVEN MORE OFFICES—FOUR
ALONG MEXICO’S SOUTHERN BORDER AND THREE MORE ALONG THE
NORTHERN BORDER STATES.

10. (U) ON JANUARY 25, THE PRESS REPORTED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS

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DEPT FOR DRL AND WHA/MEX; NSC FOR BROCK

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ORGANIZATIONS INITIATED A CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF LIBERATING VICTOR GARCIA URIBE AND GUSTAVO GONZALEZ MEZA, ACCUSED FOR THE MURDER OF EIGHT WOMEN IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. BOTH WERE ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 9, 2001 AND ALLEGEDLY TORTURED BY POLICE INTO GIVING CONFESSIONS OF GUILT. A COMPLAINT WAS PRESENTED TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) DENOUNCING TORTURE AGAINST GARCIA AND GONZALEZ AND IRREGULARITIES IN THE CASE.

11. (U) ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 26, FIVE PERSONS WERE AMBUSHED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY OF TRES CRUCES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JUAN CHAMULA IN CHIAPAS. TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED AND THREE WOUNDED, INCLUDING A 12 YEAR-OLD BOY. ON JANUARY 28, OVER APPROXIMATELY A HUNDRED STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ARRIVED IN TRES CRUCES TO ARREST THE PRESUMED PERPETRATORS OF THE SHOOTING. THEY WERE MET BY A HAIL OF GUNFIRE, KILLING TWO LOCAL POLICE, TWO STATE POLICE, AND ONE OF THE AGGRESSORS, AND WOUNDING SEVERAL OTHERS. THE CHIAPAS STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, MARiano HERRAN SALVATI, SAID THE MOTIVE FOR THE KILLINGS WERE NOT RELIGIOUS IN NATURE, ALTHOUGH THAT WAS THE COMMON LABEL FOR LOCAL CONFLICTS. RATHER, HERNAN ATTRIBUTES THESE TO DISPUTES BETWEEN GROUPS OF CRIMINALS VYING FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY POLITICAL POWER.

12. (U) A CITIZEN'S RIGHTS GROUP COMPLAINED PUBLICLY ABOUT THE HARASSMENT OF HOMOSEXUALS IN SUBWAY (METRO) STATIONS BY SECURITY PERSONNEL BELONGING TO THE COLLECTIVE TRANSPORT SYSTEM (SCT). THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE METRO SYSTEM, JAVIER GONZALEZ GARZA RECOGNIZED THAT IN THE LAST TWO YEARS THE SCT HAD RECEIVED BETWEEN 14 AND 15 COMPLAINTS FROM THE FEDERAL DISTRICT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (CDHDF), OF HARASSMENT OF LESBIANS AND HOMOSEXUALS. SCT MANAGEMENT SENT AROUND A MEMO TO SECURITY PERSONNEL AND AUXILIARY POLICE, REMINDING THEM THAT UNDER THE LAW, ANYONE FOUND GUILTY OF AN ACT OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST A PERSON BECAUSE OF SEXUAL PREFERENCE, RELIGION, AGE OR GENDER, COULD BE PUNISHED WITH ONE TO THREE YEARS OF PRISON AND A FINE OF 50 TO 100 MINIMUM SALARY DAYS (EQUIVALENT TO 2,150 TO 4,300 PESOS OR 215 TO 430 US DOLLARS).
13. (U) JOSE LUIS SOBERANES, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (CNDH), ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 29, THAT THE CNDH WILL PROMOTE A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO SAFEGUARD JOURNALIST’S RIGHT TO MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THEIR SOURCES. THE INITIATIVE WILL BE PASSED TO THE SENATE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND, IN CASE OF APPROVAL BY THE SENATE, PASSED TO THE LOWER HOUSE FOR ITS APPROVAL. THE INITIATIVE STEMS FROM A CONTROVERSIAL ORDER IN NOVEMBER FOR JOURNALISTS FROM LEFTIST DAILY &LA JORNADA8 TO APPEAR BEFORE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OFFICE (PGR) TO REVEAL THEIR SOURCES.

GARZA

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