

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	A-00	CCO-00	CIAE-00
	CTME-00	INL-00	DODE-00	DOEE-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	DCP-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
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USSS-00	FMP-00	ECA-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/001W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0937

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE

DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC

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UNCLAS MEXICO 008311

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, SOCI, MX

SUBJECT: GOM ISSUES SECOND REPORT ON CIUDAD JUAREZ MURDERS

REF: A. MEXICO 4359

B. SECSTATE 227015

1. Summary: With minimal public fanfare, Maria Lopez Urbina, the Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against Women in Ciudad Juarez, issued a 157-page second report which follows up on her initial findings issued last June (ref A). In addition to the 81 public servants cited for negligence in June, Lopez Urbina added 49 more to the list in her second report for a total of 130. She also found little evidence that the 155 Ciudad Juarez murders under review were the work of serial killers, a view which is disputed by local NGO groups. Guadalupe Morfin Otero, the Special Commissioner for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women in Juarez, noted the total collapse of law enforcement in the city previously, although she added that as a result of special security measures homicides of women have fallen by more than 50 percent in municipal Ciudad Juarez. End summary.

2. On October 25 Lopez Urbina made a short presentation of her report in Mexico City, following similar presentations before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission in Washington last week. Lopez Urbina continued her criticism of state and local entities by citing 49 more state public officials for negligence (for a total of 130). Although she

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did not give names, she said this number includes prosecutors, crime scene investigators, public ministers, and judicial police. She said the most basic forensic procedures were not followed by law enforcement officials investigating the majority of the 155 murders under review by her office. However, to date she had found no solid evidence to link the majority of the murders to a serial killer or killers. Lopez Urbina said an examination of 50% of the 155 cases reviewed have shown different motives and not necessarily sexual motives.

3. Lopez Urbina's conclusions were disputed by womens' NGO groups. Return Our Daughters Home (Nuestras Hijas de Regreso a Casa) argues the government knows who the killers are and that they come from rich families, therefore they are protected. They offer little to prove their claims, but it was apparent they were not satisfied with the report. National Human Rights Director Jose Luis Soberanes insisted to us just days ago that serial killers were involved in some of the murders, citing similar patterns of abuse in several cases, but offering no details.

4. Guadalupe Morfin Otero also participated in the 10/25 press event, reporting a reduction in homicides of Ciudad Juarez women of 58% from last year--specifically from July 22, 2003-July 22, 2004 the number dropped to 14 from 34. While even one murder is too many, she stressed, in 60% of the cases from this year, there have been arrests where the accused are being brought to trial. She also said the local authorities are now complying with international protocols for preserving crime scenes and are doing autopsies jointly with experts from the federal attorney general (PGR). Response times to emergency calls for help had dropped from 19 minutes to four minutes. All of these were presented as positive developments. However, Morfin Otero was scathing in referring to a general collapse of justice in Ciudad Juarez, citing three specific instances in which police clearly attempted to cover up for their own crime-committing colleagues: the January 2004 discovery of a common grave with narcotics-related victims buried in which four ex-commanders of the judicial police are implicated; the case of a senior police official accused of sexually exploiting two minors in which police tried to subject the minors to interrogation without the presence of their parents and other irregularities; and the release on bail of several officials of the judicial police who were caught in the act of plotting to kidnap four businessmen.

5. Lopez Urbina's report is consistent with what POLOFF was told in a recent interview at the National Women's Institute

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(INMUJERES), an autonomous group formed by the GOM in 2001. An official there stated that she believed the Juarez murders have become too politicized. She argued that 300 murders of women in the past 10 years is similar to the rate in other Mexican cities, although she pointed out that the murder of one woman is one too many. Positives for her are that these murders have exposed violence against women and deficiencies in the justice system. She hopes this will lead to fundamental reforms in the justice system as well as bring violence against women into the public debate.

6. Comment: Lopez Urbina's second report was not extensively covered in the media. It was issued in Mexico City and without the presence of high-ranking public officials who were present at the first report's submission (ref A). However, the continuing effort to hold current and ex-public officials responsible for negligence as well as the presence of a promising new attorney general for Chihuahua (ref B) are both signs of positive developments in the case. Another potential positive development could be increasing incentives to reform the justice system to better prosecute these crimes. Post will continue to monitor and report on these cases. End comment.

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