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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/01/04

TAGS: PGOV, PHUM, KCRM, KJUS, ELAB, MX SUBJECT: UN RAPPORTEUR TO VISIT MEXICO

CLASSIFIED BY BRIAN NICHOLS, ACTING POLITICAL

COUNSELOR. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).
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1. (SBU) SUMMARY: UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS ASMA JAHANGIR WILL VISIT THE MEXICAN STATES OF GUERRERO, OAXACA, CHIAPAS, AS WELL AS THE FEDERAL DISTRICT AND CIUDAD JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA ON JULY 12-23. THE VISIT TO CIUDAD JUAREZ WAS REQUESTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) HOPING TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE SCORES OF UNSOLVED MURDERS OF YOUNG WOMEN WORKERS THERE. END SUMMARY.

2.	(C)	ACCORDING	TO
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, ASMA JAHANGIR, THE UN SPECIAL

RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY, OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS, WAS INVITED TO VISIT MEXICO BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. TO ACCOMPANY JAHANGIR DURING HER VISIT. JAHANGIR'S FOCUS ON THE STATES OF CHIAPAS, OAXACA, AND GUERRERO COMES IN RESPONSE TO THE POLITICAL VIOLENCE, POVERTY, AND GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THAT HAVE MARKED THOSE STATES IN RECENT YEARS.

3. (U) AT THE REQUEST OF HUMAN RIGHTS NGOS IN CHIHUAHUA, JAHANGIR WILL VISIT CIUDAD JUAREZ TO INVESTIGATE THE 187 REPORTED MURDERS OF YOUNG WOMEN, MOST OF WHOM WORKED IN THE CITY'S IN-BOND INDUSTRIES (MAQUILADORAS). THE MAJORITY OF THOSE MURDERS, THE EARLIEST OF WHICH DATE BACK TO 1993, HAVE GONE UNSOLVED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT JAHANGIR WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE HUMAN CONFIDENTIAL

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RIGHTS SITUATION IN MEXICO TO THE MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT. IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT JAHANGIR'S
VISIT WILL BE A PRECURSOR TO A LONG-AWAITED VISIT
BY MARY ROBINSON, THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS, LATER THIS YEAR.

(C) COMMENT: JAHANGIR'S VISIT IS PROBABLY A FUNCTION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S GROWING INTEREST IN MEXICO AND NUMEROUS REQUESTS FOR A UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR TO VISIT MEXICO BY BOTH MEXICAN AND INTERNATIONAL NON GOVERNMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO JAHANGIR MAY BE SEEN AS STEP TOWARDS INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOM AND THE UNITED NATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. NOTABLY, UNHRC ROBINSON STATED IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE MEXICAN PRESS ON MARCH 31, THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN MEXICO IS "PARTICULARLY GRAVE" AND THAT HER VISIT TO MEXICO, "WOULD NOT PROVIDE AN EASY EXIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT. "

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