

~~TOP SECRET~~



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE
(U) Counterdrug

25 November 2014

(U) Mexico: Administration Unresponsive to Protesters' Demands

~~(S//NF)~~ Ongoing protests throughout Mexico highlight the public's discontent with the Enrique Pena Nieto administration over corruption, impunity and human rights violations are increasing pressure on the president to take action to address the protesters' demands.

[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

(U) PROTESTS CONTINUE

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

~~(S)~~ [Redacted]

^{8 4 5} On 20 November, mostly non-violent protests occurred in every state in Mexico and in 27 countries, with much of the protesters' anger aimed at the federal government.⁶

[Redacted] but the parents of the students said they would only stop protesting when their children are returned alive or Argentinean forensics experts confirm the identification of their bodies.^{7 8 9}

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

- > ~~(U//NF//SBU)~~ The 20 November protests were unusually large in parts of the country not accustomed to protests and marked by isolated clashes with the police, according to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico.¹⁰ Pena Nieto publically said that violent protesters are seeking to destabilize the country and undermine the government's reform agenda.¹¹
- > ~~(S//NF)~~ Earlier in the month, demonstrators set fire to political party offices, government buildings and cars, blocked access to airports and briefly held a police commander hostage in Guerrero and Michoacan States.^{12 13 14} Additionally, protesters in Mexico City tried to set fire to the doors of the ceremonial presidential palace.¹⁵
- > ~~(S//NF)~~ Other significant incidents have contributed to public outrage, including the alleged extrajudicial killing of 22 suspected criminals by Mexican army soldiers in Tlatlaya, Mexico State in June 2014, which raised issues of human rights violations.¹⁶ Additionally, the November revelation of connections between the company that owns a residence of the president's wife's and the Chinese company which won a contract for a high speed rail line in Mexico has fueled the outcry against political corruption.¹⁷

[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

(U) THE SECURITY RESPONSE

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

[Redacted]

²⁶ Additionally, an increased the presence of soldiers could provoke violence; several armed groups in Guerrero have accused the military, particularly the 27th Infantry Battalion located in Iguala, of being responsible the kidnapping of the students.²⁶

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4
(c);Sec. 1.4(d)

[Redacted] in early November, the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) rotated the entire 27th Infantry Battalion to Mexico City to undergo questioning regarding their knowledge of corruption in Iguala.²⁷

[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

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(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

> ~~(S)~~

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

Additionally, business leaders in Guerrero

are calling for more federal action; in November, the protests caused many hotel cancellations in Acapulco, according to local press.^{47 48 49} (b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

- > (U) The government fears the radicalization of five armed groups present in Guerrero, according to local press reporting.⁵⁰ In November, a self-defense group detained and disarmed 11 municipal police officers after one of their leaders went missing.⁵¹ According to press reports, several new extremist groups are emerging in response to Iguala and at least one is using the incident as a catalyst for protesting against broader issues, such as energy reform.^{52 53 54}

(U) THE POLITICAL RESPONSE

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

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[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

~~(S//NF)~~ Proposed Political Reforms Superficial

~~(S//NF)~~ Following the Iguala incident, Pena Nieto publically proposed all political parties sign a Pact for Security, but the pact met with criticism from the opposition. Opposition legislators pointed out the existence of a similar 2008 pact signed under Calderon and the need to assess progress on the previous pact before signing a new one.⁶³ Additionally, Mexico City has proposed screening candidates in the 2015 election for criminal ties.

[Redacted] there is no enforcing mechanism and each party will be responsible for vetting its own candidates, similar to previous elections.^{64 65}

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4(c)

(U) OUTLOOK

[Redacted]

There is precedence for such resignations; the 1997 killing of 45 Tzotzil Indians by a paramilitary group led to the resignation of then-Interior Minister Emilio Chuayfett Chemor.⁶⁶

(b)(1); Sec. 1.4 (c)

[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

> ~~(S//NF//FOUO)~~ Murillo Karam angered the public with his comment "enough, I'm tired" at the end of a 7 November press conference on the missing students. His comment has become a rallying cry for protestors.⁷⁴ Additionally, discontent with the perceived slow pace of the investigation could focus further public anger at the Attorney General.⁷⁵

[Redacted]

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

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[Redacted] (b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c)

> ~~(S)~~ Additionally, the administration is considering reforms to PGR that would increase its responsibilities, including protection of human rights, law enforcement, rule of law and anti-corruption.⁷⁹

[Redacted] (b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(U) Prepared by

[Redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(6)

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(b)(1);Sec. 1.4(c);(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i);Sec. 1.4(d)

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