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INFO NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC

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E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/08/12

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, SNAR, MX

SUBJECT:  Anti-Corruption Efforts

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REF: A) 11 MEXICO 371; B) 08 MEXICO 3321; C) 08 MEXICO 3496;

D) 10 MEXICO 5704; E) 10 MERIDA 41; F) 11 TIJUANA 1518; G) 11 MEXICO 315;

H) 11 TIJUANA 1570; I) 11 MEXICO 221; J) 11 MEXICO 411;

CLASSIFIED BY: John Feeley, Charge, DOS, Exec; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: DONNA MDIPAOLLO  
DATE/CASE ID: 08 FEB 2012 201100243

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3. (SBU) In May 2009, the GOM launched an ambitious anti-corruption effort in Michoacan that included the arrest of 35 mayors and senior state officials accused of protecting La Familia Michoacana. The majority of those arrested in the "Michoacanazo" were from the left-leaning Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), and the PRD accused President Calderon's National Action Party (PAN) of a politically-motivated witch hunt ahead of the JuQ 2009 mid-term elections. By April 2011, every single one of the officials arrested during the "Michoacanazo," had been released due to a lack of evidence. The PGR also issued an arrest warrant in May 2009 for Michoacan's then-PRD candidate for Federal Deputy and the Governor's half-brother Julio Cesar Godoy Toscano. Although the Chamber of Deputies voted to kick Godoy out of the Chamber and strip him of his legislative immunity in December 2010, Godoy has yet to face justice and remains on the run (Ref D).

4. (C) Likewise, the PGR detained former Cancun Mayor and PRD gubernatorial candidate for Quintana Roo Greg Sanchez on May 25, 2010, just over a month before the July 2010 gubernatorial election (Ref E). Sanchez was accused of links to organized crime and for accepting campaign contributions from the Beltran Leyva Organization and Los Zetas. There were also allegations that he and his wife were involved in a ring to traffic Cubans into Cancun. Sanchez was released from prison on July 20, 2011 after the judge dismissed the drug trafficking and money-laundering charges against him, but he will be required to wear a tracking device and may still be prosecuted for smuggling undocumented Cubans.

5. (C) [REDACTED]  
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In January 2011, just days before the Guerrero

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gubernatorial election, a PGR projected witness alleged that PRI candidate Manuel Anorve had ties to organized crime. The initial story made bigger headlines than PGR's subsequent retraction several days later. The PRI alleged that the accusation unfairly biased the election after the PRD alliance candidate-backed by the PAN-won the election.

6. (C) The Mexican military arrested former Tijuana Mayor Jorge Hank Rhon-who comes from an influential PRI family-on June 4 based on allegations of illegal weapons possession.

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A federal judge in Baja California released Hank from custody on June 14 due to insufficient evidence (Ref H).

7. (C) In mid-June, A PAN senator-acting on behalf of the party-presented charges to PGR requesting that Vicente Chaires-one of PRI President Humberto Moreira's closest advisers-be investigated on charges of illicit enrichment and money laundering. Chaires worked for Moreira when he was Governor of Coahuila, and Moreira reportedly adopted him as a family member after Chaires' father died at an early age.

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8. (C)

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On June 7, former PRIista Pablo Salazar Mendiguchia-who was elected Governor of Chiapas in 2000 under an eight-party anti-PRI alliance-was arrested by Chiapas authorities for alleged abuse of authority, criminal ties, and misappropriation of financial resources following Hurricane Stan in 2005.

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