

ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	AF-00	AID-00	A-00	GHFS-00	CIAE-00	INL-00
	DEAE-00	DNI-00	DODE-00	DS-00	DHSE-00	AVC-00	OIGO-00
	FO-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	LAB-01	L-00	CAC-00	MOFM-00
	MOF-00	CDC-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-00	OIG-00	OMB-00
	NIMA-00	MCC-00	DOHS-00	FMPC-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	NCTC-00	CBP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	ALM-00	SAS-00
	FA-00	GSWA-00	SWCI-00	PESU-00	SANA-00	/001W	

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FM AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0443

AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

S E C R E T NUEVO LAREDO 000005

NOFORN

DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/MEX, WHA/EX, DS, CA/OCS. EMBASSY FOR AMB, DCM, MCCA, RSO, POL, DATT

E.O. 13526: DECL: 2021/02/10

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, ASEC, CASC, SNAR, AMGT, MX

SUBJECT: THE WINTER OF NUEVO LAREDO'S DISCONTENT: CORRUPT NEW POLICE CHIEF, TAME MEDIA, AND TENSIONS BETWEEN ARMY AND ZETAS-DOMINATED MUNICIPAL POLICE

REF: A) 11 NUEVO LAREDO 72;

CLASSIFIED BY: HeflinDL, PO; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (S/NF) SUMMARY: On February 9, the Mayor announced that Alfonso Olvera Ledezma will succeed Gen. Farfan as Nuevo Laredo's Public Security Director, overseeing the municipal police, transit police and firefighters. Alejandro Garza Balmori, a former federal prosecutor will take over as his deputy, replacing Farfan's deputy, Raul Rivera Molina who was also killed in last week's attack.

As more details surface regarding the February 2 slaying of Nuevo Laredo's new police chief and Feb. 1 kidnappings that resulted in 23 children being turned over to welfare authorities, local media has largely been taking the line dictated by the Zetas Transnational Crime Organization (TCO).

END SUMMARY.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DATE/CASE ID: 14 FEB 2012 201006522

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar J Olson, Senior Reviewer

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5. (S/NF) Local media has rolled over and printed the Zetas-approved version of events both about the killing and about a subsequent narco manta incident (see below). El Manana, which should be the newspaper of record, has abdicated its responsibility, due to deadly attacks on its staff several years

ago. The Texas media, led by the Laredo Morning Times, whose stories are largely accurate, has filled the gap. El Norte apparently published an article about the assassination that had not been vetted by the Zetas, only to see the trucks delivering copies of that edition seized upon their arrival in Nuevo Laredo on Feb. 5. The driver had a gun put to his head and was told that from now on, "the news from Nuevo Laredo will stay in Nuevo Laredo." The gunmen then set fire to the entire load. El Norte has subsequently moved their one local reporter from Nuevo Laredo to Monterrey (she then resigned), and will no longer distribute their paper in Nuevo Laredo.

6. (S/NF) More details have come out about the Feb. 1 incidents that resulted in approximately two dozen children being taken to the local Child Protective Services (DIF) by Municipal Police.

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However, the kidnappings were carried out at the time of morning when parents were taking their children to school, resulting in unplanned kidnappings. In some cases, the children were left at the scene, where relatives and friends could aid them. In other cases, the children were taken with the kidnappers, but released soon after. The Municipal Police claim that they found many of them wandering the streets,

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This was a public relations disaster for the Zetas, who like to project an image as local boys who protect the populace. It also played into local fears for the safety of children during this conflict. Widely reported in the Texas media, it also fueled Texans' fears of being kidnapped if they come to Nuevo Laredo. (NOTE: During the six weeks of relative tranquility after the November beginning of the Northeast Campaign, PO met

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several Texans who said that things had calmed down so much that they had made their first visit to Nuevo Laredo in years. The events of early February will probably put paid to that trend. END NOTE.)

7. (S/NF) On February 4, two bodies were dropped on the key artery Paseo Colon, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Accompanying narco mantas stated, in rambling narco language, that the dead were Gulf TCO personnel, killed by the Zetas, who thus proved that they could control their own town while the Gulf couldn't control theirs. Local newspapers ran photos of the bodies and the full texts of the mantas, [REDACTED]

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8. (S/NF) The February 9 appointment of Ledezma must still be ratified by the City Council and the State of Tamaulipas. [REDACTED]

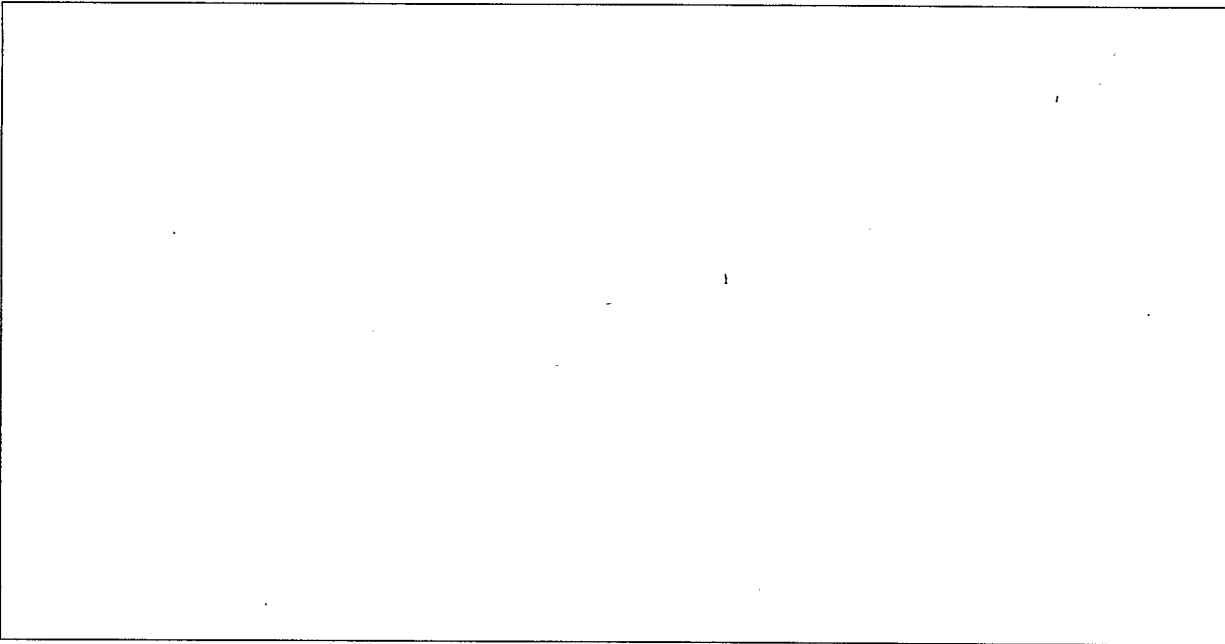
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9. (S/NF) On February 8, PO conveyed his condolences to a clearly concerned Nuevo Laredo Mayor, then listened as the Mayor frankly told an audience of businesspeople and press that Nuevo Laredo was "going through difficult times." [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Recently, the head of Nuevo Laredo's Municipal Command and Control (C-4) Center told the press that her office doesn't control the surveillance cameras on the main artery of Avenida Guerrero near Bridge One, [REDACTED]

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