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141921Z MAY 12

FROM

FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY

CONTROLS

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DOCNO

MONTERREY 000198

SENSITIVE

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E.O. 13526: N/A

BODY

TAGS: ASEC, PGOV, SNAR, CASC, MX

SUBJECT: 49 MUTILATED BODIES DISCOVERED IN NUEVO LEON

REF: A) 12 NUEVO LAREDO 19; B) 12 NUEVO LAREDO 7;

1. (SBU) SUMMARY: POLICE DISCOVERED 49 MUTILATED BODIES DUMPED AT KILOMETER 47 OF THE MONTERREY-REYNOSA HIGHWAY, OUTSIDE THE TOWN OF SAN JUAN (26 KILOMETERS TO THE EAST OF MONTERREY) AROUND 3AM ON MAY 13. STATE AUTHORITIES CONFIRMED THAT THE ZETA CARTEL WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CARNAGE AGAINST ALLEGED RIVAL GROUP MEMBERS. ACCORDING TO POST'S LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS, HOWEVER, THE ZETAS ATTACKED A BUS TRAVELING FROM REYNOSA TO CIUDAD VICTORIA, TAMAULIPAS, ON MAY 12 AND KILLED ALL ABOARD. THE 49 VICTIMS MAY BE THE MURDERED PASSENGERS. THEY ALSO REPORT THAT THERE MAY BE A TOTAL OF 60 BODIES. OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED ONLY 49 AND HAVE NOT MENTIONED ANY MISSING BUS. THE VIOLENCE APPEARS TO BE IN REACTION TO RIVALS ENCROACHING INTO ZETA TERRITORY IN NUEVO LAREDO. AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES IS WORKING WITH OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE IF ANY AMERICAN CITIZENS WERE AMONG THE VICTIMS. POST HAS OFFERED USG TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO NUEVO LEON AUTHORITIES TO AID WITH THE INVESTIGATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE DECEASED. END SUMMARY. GRUESOME DISCOVERY, OFFICIALS CLAIM VICTIMS ARE GULF

2. (U) THE MAY 13 DISCOVERY IS NUEVO LEON'S SINGLE WORST VIOLENT INCIDENT IN 2012. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE 49 DISMEMBERED AND NAKED BODIES WERE MISSING HEADS, HANDS AND LEGS. OF THE VICTIMS, 43 WERE MALE AND SIX FEMALE, ALL OVER THE AGE OF 25. A NARCOMANTA, A CLOTH SIGN CARRYING A TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION (TCO) MESSAGE, WAS LEFT AT THE SCENE STATING, "THIS IS FOR THE GULFS, CHAPOS, [MEXICAN] MARINES, GUACHOS (SEDENA), NOBODY CAN DO ANYTHING TO US ATTN Z-40 AND COMANDANTE LAZCANO." A SPRAY PAINTED "Z 100%," MARKING ZETA TERRITORY, IS VISIBLE ON THE ARCH

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Donna M. DiPaolo, Senior Reviewer

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WELCOMING VISITORS TO THE TOWN, ONLY YARDS FROM WHERE THE BODIES WERE DUMPED. NUEVO LEON AUTHORITIES CONFIRMED THAT THE ZETAS PERPETRATED THE CRIME AND ASSERTED THAT THE VICTIMS WERE GULF CARTEL MEMBERS AND MAY INCLUDE IMMIGRANTS. MOST BODIES, STATE OFFICIALS CLAIM, CARRY SANTA MUERTE CULT TATTOOS, A POSSIBLE INDICATION OF CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT. INVESTIGATORS ARE WORKING TO IDENTIFY THE BODIES.

ENTRANCE TO THE COMMUNITY OF SAN JUAN; ZETAS MARKING TERRITORY RETALIATION FOR RIVALS ENCROACHING INTO NUEVO LAREDO PLAZA 3. (SBU) THE MURDERS ARE THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF HEADLINE-GRABBING EVENTS AS TCOS BATTLE FOR CONTESTED TURF. ON MAY 4, NINE PEOPLE WERE HANGED FROM A HIGHWAY OVERPASS IN NUEVO LAREDO ALONGSIDE A NARCOMANTA SIGNED BY THE ZETAS, THREATENING THE GULF CARTEL. LATER THAT DAY, THE DECAPITATED BODIES OF 14 INDIVIDUALS WERE FOUND IN AN ABANDONED VAN, ACCOMPANIED BY A SEPARATE NARCOMANTA SIGNED BY EL CHAPO (JOAQUIN GUZMAN LOERA, HEAD OF THE SINALOA CARTEL), TAUNTING THE ZETAS (REF A). THE UPTICK IN VIOLENCE FOLLOWS THE LATE FEBRUARY ARRIVAL OF THE SINALOA TCO INTO NUEVO LAREDO (REF B). ALIGNED WITH THE ZETAS' LONGTIME RIVALS IN NORTHEAST MEXICO, THE GULF TCO, SINALOA NOW APPEARS TO BE CHALLENGING THE ZETAS OUTRIGHT FOR CONTROL OF THE NUEVO LAREDO PLAZA.

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