

22 June 2011

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Latin America Military and Security Watch

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MEXICO

CHIHUAHUA

Hitmen Kill Three in Chihuahua, Chihuahua – 20 June 2011

Late on 20 June 2011, a group of hitmen opened fire on seven individuals (traveling in a Ford Topaz) near the intersection of Gallegos Avenue and 25th Street in the 3 de Mayo neighborhood of Ciudad Chihuahua [28.6333 -106.0833], Chihuahua. This attack reportedly left three dead and four seriously wounded, while the gunmen managed to escape from the scene in two separate vehicles.

Spanish Source: <http://www.reforma.com/nacional/articulo/612/1223518/>

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GUERRERO

Two Bodies Recovered from Clandestine Grave in Acapulco, Guerrero – 19 June 2011

Authorities recovered two bodies from a clandestine grave that was discovered near Llano Largo in of Acapulco [28.6333 -106.0833], Guerrero. The discovery of this clandestine grave came about after soldiers arrested a group of organized crime operators in Acapulco. Authorities are continuing to search the area for additional bodies.

Spanish Source: <http://www.reforma.com/nacional/articulo/612/1223468/>

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Three Bodies with the Letter Z Spray Painted onto their Chests Recovered in Guerrero – 20 June 2011



On 19 June 2011 at approximately 0700 hours, the bodies of three male murder victims with the letter Z spray painted onto their chests were abandoned near the Sasamulco intersection along the Chilpancingo-Iguala federal highway in Guerrero. All of the victims appeared to have been tortured before being killed, and each one also had multiple gunshot wounds. One of the now deceased victims was identified as Officer Jonathan Israel Rodriguez Juarez, 22. At this point, the other two victims have not yet been identified.

Spanish Source:

<http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/hallan-tres-hombres-torturados-y.html>

Body of Female Murder Victim Recovered from Trunk in Guerrero – 20 June 2011

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On 20 June 2011, the body of an unidentified female murder victim estimated to be around 30 years of age was recovered from the trunk of a white Tsuru vehicle that was abandoned in front of Las Gaviotas Bar. This bar is located along the Acapulco-Mexico federal highway in Guerrero. The

victim had visible signs of torture on her body and her head had been wrapped with a black plastic bag. According to preliminary reports, the woman was pregnant. It was also reported that the white Tsuru mentioned above was reported stolen in 2010.

Spanish Source: <http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/hallan-mujer-encajuelada-en-guerrero.html#more>

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MICHOACAN

Los Caballeros Templarios Kill 22 Individuals within a 24 Hour Time Period in Michoacan – 19 June 2011

Between 18 June and 19 June 2011, Los Caballeros Templarios operators killed at least 22 individuals in



Michoacan. Of these victims, 8 were recovered on 18 June 2011 and 14 were recovered on 19 June 2011.

Areas where the bodies of the murder victims were found included:

18 June 2011

- Lazaro Cardenas
- La Mira traffic circle

22 June 2011

- Guacamayas beltway
- Jaime Torres Bodet Avenue

19 June 2011

- La Palma road in the Sahuayo communal land
- El Colorin Ranch in the Cojumatlan de Regules municipality
- La Cofradia Street in the Jiquilpan municipality
- Villamar Village
- Briseñas municipality
- Tanhuato municipality

Narco messages signed by Los Caballeros Templarios were left at the scenes and/or carved into the victim's chests. Three of those messages read as follows:

- Message one: "This will happen to all those that support El Chango Mendez. Sincerely, Caballeros Templarios".
- Message two: "This happened to them for supporting El Chango Mendez, Los Zetas, and their allies".
- Message three: "Robbers, kidnappers, extortionists, rapists, and all those that threaten the people in our State are next. Sincerely, Los Caballeros Templarios".

Comment: One victim was found alive and taken to the hospital. Over the course of the last 11 days, a total of 48 individuals, to include the 22 mentioned above, have been murdered by Los Caballeros Templarios in Michoacan.

Spanish Sources: <http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/los-caballeros-templarios-cumplen.html#more>,
<http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/siguen-cumpliendo-los-caballeros.html#more>,
http://www.excelsior.com.mx/index.php?m=nota&id_notas=745980

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Los Caballeros Templarios Kill Five in Michoacan – 20 June 2011



Early on 20 June 2011, five bodies with narco messages signed by Los Caballeros Templarios were recovered in Michoacan. Four of the victims were found near the Tres Esquinas area and

another was found near a firing range. A message left with the bodies read as follows: "This will happen to all those that give information to Jesus Mendez, aka El Chango, and his group. El Chango Mendez:

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come get your garbage. For Rats?”. At least 22 AK-47 shell casings were recovered from the crime scenes.

Spanish Source: <http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/los-caballeros-templarios-ejecutan.html#more>

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Soldiers Seized Drugs and Weapons in Michoacan – 18 June 2011

Three operations conducted by XII Military Region and 21st Military Zone soldiers on 16 June and 17 June 2011 led to the seizure of drugs and weapons in the Patzcuaro and Morelia municipalities of Michoacan. These operations were reported as follows:

- Operation one: conducted in Morelia [19.7000 -101.1167]. Here, soldiers arrested 2 individuals and seized 2 weapons, 3 magazines, 60 rounds of ammunition, 2 vehicles, 117 doses of crystal meth, 32 doses of cocaine, and 8 doses of marijuana.
- Operation two: conducted in Patzcuaro [19.5167 -101.6000]. Here, soldiers arrested 8 individuals and seized 12 weapons, (1) 40mm grenade launcher, (9) 40mm grenades, 52 magazines, 1,491 rounds of ammunition, and 6 vehicles.
- Operation three: conducted in Morelia [19.7000 -101.1167]. Here, soldiers arrested 1 individual and seized 3 weapons, 5 magazines, 81 rounds of ammunition, 3 vehicles, 50 kilograms of unprocessed marijuana, and 110 doses of cocaine.

Spanish Source: <http://www.sedena.gob.mx/index.php/sala-de-prensa/comunicados-de-prensa-de-los-mandos-territoriales/6584-18-de-junio-de-2011-morelia-mich>

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JALISCO

Soldiers Seize Drugs and Weapons Following Confrontation with Gunmen in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco – 17 June 2011

On 17 June 2011, soldiers assigned to the V Military Region and 41st Military Zone were attacked by a group of gunmen while conducting land reconnaissance near Las Palmas village in Puerto Vallarta [20.6167 -105.2500], Jalisco. Soldiers repelled the attack and managed to arrest an unreported number of individuals. Following the incident, soldiers seized the following items:

- 10 rifles
- 3 handguns
- 50 magazines
- 757 rounds of ammunition
- 7 vehicles
- 4 motorcycles

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- 10 tactical vests
- 2 camouflage vests

Spanish Source: <http://www.sedena.gob.mx/index.php/sala-de-prensa/comunicados-de-prensa-de-los-mandos-territoriales/6587-17-de-junio-de-2011-puerto-vallarta-jal>

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NUEVO LEON

Body of a Male Murder Victim Recovered in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon – 20 June 2011



On 20 June 2011 at around 0900 hours, Ministerial Police recovered the body of a male murder victim that was left on the Rube Bridge. This bridge was reported as being located over Bernardo Reyes Avenue [midpoint 25.7040 -100.3263] in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. The victim in question appears to have been tortured before being killed, and was shot multiple times. At this point, his identity has not yet been revealed, but he is estimated to be around 25 years of age.

Spanish Source: <http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/tiran-hombre-torturado-y-ejecutado-en.html#more>

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Three Transit Police Officers Murdered in Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon – 21 June 2011



On 20 June 2011 at around 1700 hours, an unknown group of assailants kidnapped three municipal transit officers from Patrol Vehicle 174 at the intersection of López Mateos and Juárez Avenues [25.6749 -100.2154] in the Colobrí neighborhood of Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon. Approximately four hours later (around 2100 hours), authorities responding to citizen reports regarding dead bodies headed to the intersection of Fresnillo and Mina de los Ángeles Streets [25.7228 -100.1828] in the Cañada Blanca neighborhood of

Guadalupe where the bodies of the officers were recovered. According to authorities, two of the officers had been set on fire.

Spanish Source: <http://www.milenio.com/cdb/doc/noticias2011/25458368abe9dd4d4623496024c3a450>

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Four Lookouts Arrested in Monterrey, Nuevo León – 17 June 2011

On 17 June 2011 just before 0600 hours, police noted four individuals traveling in a green Seat (license plates SNX-4199) that appeared to be conducting surveillance operations along Soto La Marina and Ruiz Cortines Streets [approximate location 25.7049 -100.3506] in the Mitras Centro neighborhood of Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. After running the plates on this vehicle, police realized it had been stolen, at which time the ordered the occupants to pull over. Those individuals arrested in conjunction with this incident were identified as:

- José Guadalupe RAMÍREZ Cázares;
- Alejandro GUTIÉRREZ Coronado, 28
- Maciel Guadalupe, 16
- César Antonio BOLAÑOS Arriaga, 29

At the time of their arrests, these individuals were in possession of multiple radio communications systems used to pass along information regarding police activity in the area.

Spanish Source: <http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/caen-cuatro-halcones-en-monterrey.html>

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Grenades Utilized to Attack PGR Installations and the Police Station in Nuevo León – 17 June 2011



On 17 June 2011 at around 2200 hours, a group of armed men dismounted from their vehicles and launched (3) 40mm grenades at the PGR installations in Escobedo, Nuevo Leon. Of the grenades thrown, only one detonated resulting in minor damages to the building's façade. Minutes after this first attack, the same group attacked a building utilized by the federal police located 1 km away from the PGR installations.

Spanish Source: <http://www.blogdelnarco.com/2011/06/lanzan-granadas-contra-la-pgr-y-la-pf.html#more>

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COAHUILA

Marines Seize \$(MXN) 106,480 and Marijuana in Saltillo, Coahuila – 20 June 2011

Marines conducting routine patrols recently arrested José Juan Pérez García, aka El Pelón, and Carlos Alejandro Pérez García after discovering they had cash and marijuana in their possession. The arrests were carried out on Jesús Flores Street in the Bella Vista neighborhood [25.4064 -101.0075] of Saltillo, Coahuila. Those items seized from the now detained individuals were identified as follows:

- \$(MXN) 106,480
- 134 bags containing 0.33 kilograms of marihuana

22 June 2011

- Scale
- 7 electric sealing devices
- 20 mini-scales
- 28 utility knife razor blades
- White 2009 Nissan Tsuru (in which the suspects were traveling)

Spanish Source: <http://www.pgr.gob.mx/prensa/2007/delega11/coah200611DPE237711.shtm>

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TAMAULIPAS

Soldiers Seize 1.27 Metric Tons of Marijuana in Miguel Alemán, Tamaulipas – 20 June 2011

Soldiers conducting land reconnaissance along the Rio Bravo River noted packages hidden within the brush in an area located near the Los Guerra village [26.3925 -99.0802] of Miguel Alemán, Tamaulipas. After searching the area, soldiers seized the following items from the undergrowth along the river area:

- 33 packages containing 1.27 metric tons of marijuana

No arrests were reported in conjunction with the seizure.

Spanish Source: <http://www.pgr.gob.mx/prensa/2007/delega11/tamps200611DPE237511.shtm>

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MORELOS

Federal Police Arrest Two Kidnappers in Cuautla, Morelos – 18 June 2011



Federal Police recently arrested two members of the “Los Quijis” criminal organization in the Cuautla [18.8225 -98.9413], Morelos. The two suspects, arrested in connection with the 12 June 2011 kidnapping for ransom of a 72-year-old man from Mexico State, were identified as:

- Jorge Alberto ROMERO Vergara aka El Quiji, 21

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- Juan José RAMOS Vázquez aka El Chino, 19

Those items seized from the now detained individuals were identified as follows:

- \$(MXN) 80,000
- Revolver
- 4 live rounds of ammunition and 6 spent shell casings
- 2 cell phones

Comment: Los Quijis is a kidnapping gang that is allegedly active in the states of Mexico and Morelos.

Spanish Source:

http://www.ssp.gob.mx/portalWebApp/appmanager/portal/desk?_nfpb=true&_windowLabel=portlet_1_1&portlet_1_1_actionOverride=%2Fboletines%2FDetalleBoletin&portlet_1_1id=840001

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VERACRUZ

Journalist and His Family Executed in Playa Linda, Veracruz – 20 June 2011

On 20 June 2011 at approximately 0600 hours, journalist Miguel Ángel LÓPEZ Velasco was murdered at his residence which was identified as being located in the Playa Linda neighborhood of [19.2132 - 96.1749], Veracruz. Also killed during the same incident were his wife and 21-year-old son. Prior to being murdered, LÓPEZ Velasco worked at *Notiver*, a local media source. The weapon utilized in this attack was identified as being a 9mm pistol.

Spanish Source: <http://www.milenio.com/cdb/doc/noticias2011/25458368abe9dd4d462349602456fc75>

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PUEBLA

Decapitation Victim Recovered in Coxolico, Puebla – 19 June 2011

On 19 June 2011, authorities recovered the body of a decapitation victim that was left on a hill in the Coxolico neighborhood of Ajalpan [18.3778 -97.2590], Puebla. The head of the victim was recovered 300m from the body. In addition to being decapitated, it was reported that the victim had been scalped, and that his eyes had been removed from his head. At this point, the identity of the victim is not known, but he is estimated to be around 35 years of age.

Spanish Source:

<http://www.terra.com.mx/noticias/articulo/1138618/Hallan+un+decapitado+en+Puebla.htm>

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CENTRAL AMERICA

PCD Officers Seize 50 Kilograms of Cocaine in La Cruz, Costa Rica – 18 June 2011

PCD officers arrested a Guatemalan national with last name ROLDAN, 37, after discovering that he was transporting 50 kilograms of cocaine in a tractor trailer. The arrest was made near the Peñas Blancas check point [10.119288,-84.666781] in La Cruz, Costa Rica.

Comment: During the last two weeks of May 2011, the PCD reported that 1,316 kilograms of cocaine were seized and six individuals were arrested.

Spanish Source: <http://www.nacion.com/2011-06-19/Sucesos/policia-----decomisa-mas-50-kilos-de-cocaina-----.aspx>

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Police Dismantle Synthetic Drug Lab in Malacatán, Guatemala – 21 June 2011



On 21 June 2011, Guatemalan National Civil Police dismantled a synthetic drug lab that was discovered in the El Olvido sector of Malacatán [14.9117-92.0548], Guatemala. This area was noted as being located in the Department of San Marcos. Those items seized from the interior of this lab were identified as:

- 3 boilers
 - 2 electric generators
 - 10 barrels full of what was identified as a rubbery red substance
 - 54 buckets
- 4 aerators

Comment: Within the article, it states that only 10 barrels were seized, but it appears there are more than that in the picture that accompanied the article.

Spanish Source: http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/justicia/droga-laboratorio-malacata-san_marcos_0_503349813.html

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