



### ***HS-SLIC Initial Notification***

#### **(U) Mexican Federal Police Arrest 'La Familia Michoacana' Drug Boss**

**22 June 2011**

*(U//FOUO) Prepared by DHS/I&A/CID/CAP*

(U) The following information is based on initial reporting and is being provided for your situational awareness. Initial reporting is often misleading or inaccurate due to a rapidly developing situation and is subject to change.

(U) According to press reporting, Federal Police in Mexico arrested Jose de Jesus Mendez Vargas, aka Chango—the top leader in the La Familia Michoacana drug-trafficking organization. The arrest took place without conflict in the state of Aguascalientes as the result of an intelligence operation.

(U) Following the death of La Familia's founder and leader Nazario Moreno in December 2010, Mendez fought with Servando Gomez Martinez aka La Tuta for control of the organization. While Mendez is believed to have taken over the day-to-day operations of La Familia, Gomez formed his own faction called The Knights Templar.

(U) According to Mexico's national security spokesman, Alejandro Poire, "This capture destroys what remained of the leadership structure of this criminal organization." Despite the government's optimism, the activities of La Familia will likely be subsumed by the rival Knights Templar or Los Zetas.

(U) DHS/I&A will provide updates as warranted.

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