

INDIVIDUAL HUMAN INSECURITY: VIOLENCE AND DRUGS IN CULIACAN, MEXICO

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The Capture of a Drug Lord

The biggest drug dealer in Mexico is Joaquin El Chapo Guzman. He is the leader of the Sinaloa cartel that dominates Mexico. His most recent capture has been highly profiled because of his history with escaping prison. He had the ability to do so because of the power and influence, along with money that controls the streets of Mexico. This is one of the first approaches the Mexican government has taken to reduce crime. (GettyImages <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/bloombergs-best-photos-2014-drug-trafficker-joaquin-el-news-photo/460316458?adppopup=true>)



The Fight Against Cartels

Culiacan, Mexico on October 17, 2019. Heavily armed militia and Mexican security take the streets and exchange gunfire. The exchange in gunfire was to capture other cartel members. This is the government's attempt to lessen cartel activity in the area. (<https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/vehicles-burn-in-a-street-of-culiacan-state-of-sinaloa-news-photo/1176418313>)



Seeking Safety

Individuals showing up at the borders to potentially flee from the surrounding violence happening in the neighborhoods. Citizens are taking it upon themselves to flee the violence in Mexico. (New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/07/world/americas/mexico-border-migration-asylum.html>)

Methodology: : This arts-based research project will focus on violence within the city of Culiacan, Mexico, on the impact of drug cartels in this area. I will look at how cartels play a detrimental role that impacts families within the country, causing them to flee for their safety as well as the safety of their loved ones. The first major step being the Mexican government's intervention in 2006 on the war on drugs. I will be using images from GettyImages as well as credible news outlets including; Guardian News, The New York Times, and BBC News. These images will portray what is going on in Culiacan, Mexico. I will be using these images to explaining the situation in the particular area. It will start with the issue in the area (the violence and drugs) followed by the impacts (the individual security in the area). Finally, I will show the steps the government of Mexico and the United States are taking to combat the issue.

Intorduction:

What is the effect of Culiacan drug cartels on personal human security of Mexican citizens?

Background/Context: Drug use has been around in Mexico since the sixteenth century, when the Spaniards arrived. However, Sinaloa's became bigger once the U.S D.E.A became an issue for Americans who were smuggling drugs into the United States. Majority of these drugs were exported from Columbia and brought through Mexico. While there were (and still are today) many other cartels in Mexico, at the time, the Sinaloa's were the ones who overpopulated the areas, making them have the most control. (<http://archive.pov.org/alotrolado/sinaloa/>)

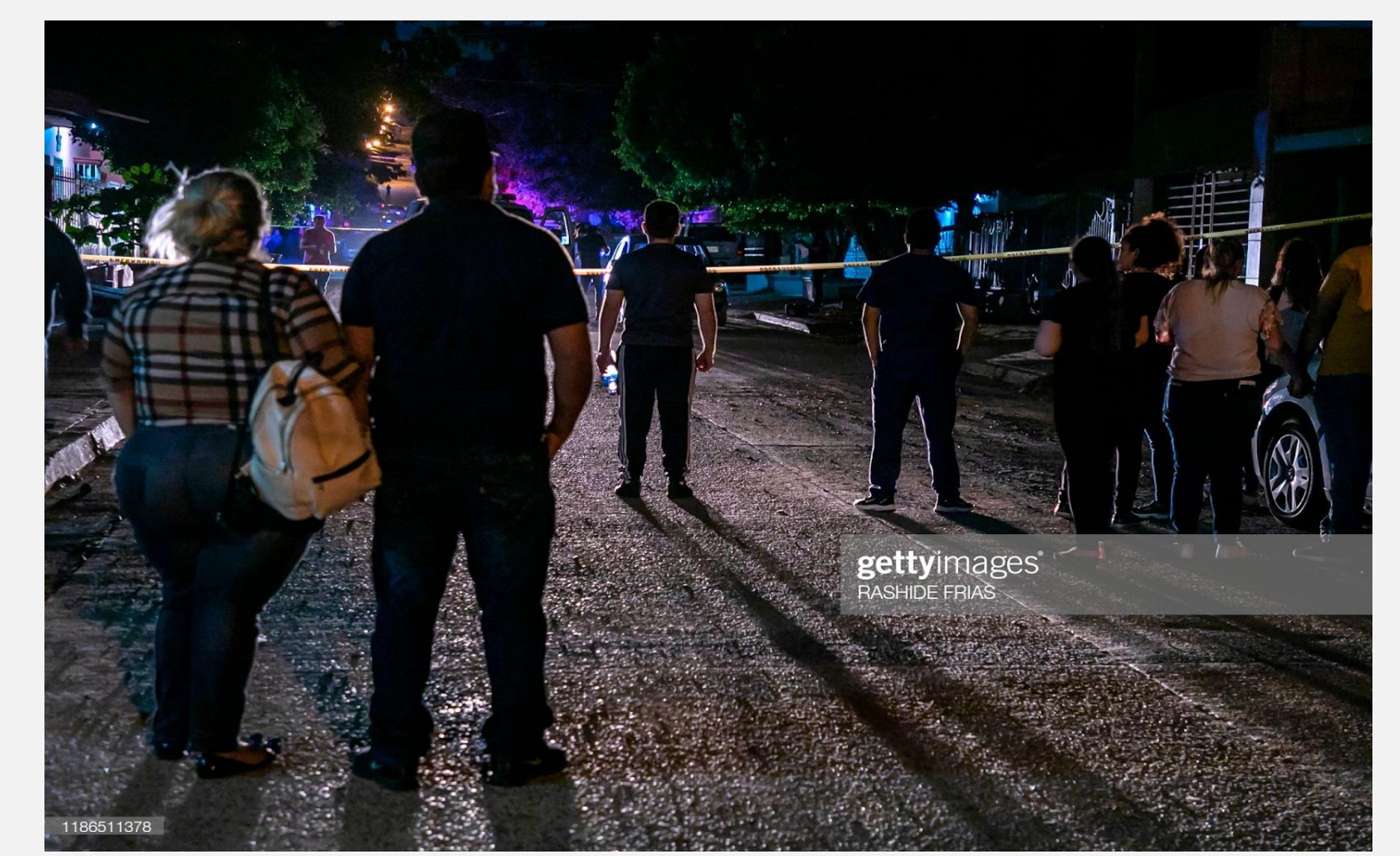
Results of Cartels



A skul of an individual who thought to be a victim of cartel violence in Mexico. An effect to the cartel violence. (CNN <https://www.cnn.com/2013/09/02/world/americas/mexico-drug-war-fast-facts/index.html>)

Real World Relevance/ Conclusion

- The underlying issues within these cartels (Sinaloa in particular) is that they are causing violence within the area, which is causing individuals to flee their homes to find places to keep their family safe. There is no sense of security in these areas where families reside. Fleeing causes the displacement of many families.
- Cartels in Culiacan Mexico have been an ongoing problem that both the local and federal government have been hands on about. This poster sheds light on an essential human security issue that is lacking in Mexico, the city of Culiacan in particular. While there have been many attempts tp reduce drugs and crime in Mexico, there is still work to be done.



Aftermath

Bystanders to the violence in Culiacan, Mexico. (GettyImages <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/people-look-at-the-crime-scene-where-a-man-was-shot-dead-in-news-photo/1186511378?adppopup=true>)

Literature Review:

"Since the anti-cartel implementation in 2006 there has been 250,000 murders in Mexico." However, tactics such as the Marina have been put in place to combat these crimes. (GettyImages). With the capture and recapture of notorious drug lord Joaquin Guzman, the Mexican police and Military have seen the combat of war become difficult, yet still accomplishable. (CNN) Cartels alone have forced many individuals and their families to flee and seek refuge in bordering country, America. Many new reports of disappearances (New York Times) have caused many individuals to be fearful and get out of Mexico while they still can. While the cartels have been dominating Mexico, the government has made it their mission to combat these crimes.

Rferences:

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