ADDRESSING INSTITUTIONAL CORRUPTION AND VIOLENCE IN THE MEXICAN DRUG WAR

Security Council II

Issue description

Since January 2007 there have been more than 6,800 drugwar- related deaths in Mexico, and Mexican drug cartels continue to expand their operations in American cities. The violence is spilling across the border into the United States. American citizens, including law enforcement personnel, have been targeted by the drug cartels for assassination. The global drug trade is a 300–350 billion per year enterprise; Mexico's share is estimated to be 25–35 billion per year of that total. In total, at least 543 armed groups operated in Mexico between mid-2009 and late 2020.

Why has the issue not been resolved?

Global demand for drugs is growing — not shrinking — so the drug suppliers are in a very enviable position. The killing or arrest of cartel leaders rarely spells the end for an affected organisation. The actions taken by the Mexican and the US government are ineffective and expensive, making the war even more profitable for the cartels, and thus are more likely to sustain the war.

Key actors and their stance on this issue

Sinaloa Cartel - Mexican-based Transnational Criminal Organization (TCOs), based in Sinaloa state, and a leading producer and supplier of fentanyl and other illicit drugs to the United States

Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) - Mexican-based TCOs, with operations in roughly half of Mexico's states; the Sinaloa Cartel's primary rival and a leading supplier of fentanyl and other illicit drugs to the United States.

Mexican Government - Led by President Claudia Sheinbaum and seeking to strengthen security and the rule of law by prioritizing intelligence gathering and investigations while deploying military and law enforcement forces against criminal organizations.

United States - Has exerted intense pressure on the Mexican government to crack down on criminal organizations trafficking illicit drugs across the U.S. border and offers intelligence sharing to Mexican security services.

What has been achieved in combatting this issue?

Mérida Initiative, a U.S.–Mexico anti-drug-trafficking program.

Kingpin strategy - an American counter-drug initiative focused on capturing or killing the heads (kingpins) of major criminal or drug-trafficking organizations to dismantle the entire network.

In 2011 an agreement was signed among certain media outlets to avoid spreading criminal propaganda.

Used sources and useful sources for researching this issue

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https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/criminal-violence-mexico

Good luck with your research reports delegates!

ISA KLEIN IKKINK, FEMKE EYKELHOFF HADYA SOLEIMANI