
From: [REDACTED] ATF (ATF)
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Sent: 3/28/2011 10:45:16 AM
Subject: See request below.

From: Rees, Harold
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Subject: Request for Briefing

As I mentioned on the phone this morning, the House Foreign Affairs Committee is interested in learning more about ATF international trafficking issues generally regarding Latin America and more specifically, to the extent possible, ATF efforts regarding the trafficking of illegally purchased firearms into Mexico. Although our interest was spurred by recent reports regarding Project Gunrunner, we would not expect ATF to divulge information that would interfere with criminal investigations that are open or ongoing. I understand that ATF testified a few years ago before our Western Hemisphere subcommittee Members. At this point, we are just interested in a staff briefing due to our obvious foreign policy interests in the matter. We also plan to seek a briefing from the Department of State regarding the impact of these reports on the US relationship with the government of Mexico. Below is a copy of a news article that caught our attention:

Mexican legislators demand US talks on gun scandal

Mexico nabs alleged head of 'Resistance' drug gang

Mexican police have captured the alleged leader of a drug gang that calls itself "The Resistance," a group that operates in western Mexico, officials said Monday.

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY -- Legislators from all of Mexico's three major parties in congress are calling for a joint U.S.-Mexico working group to examine accusations that U.S. federal agents allowed hundreds of guns to flow into Mexico. Congressman Humberto Trevino estimated Tuesday that 150 shooting injuries or deaths have been linked to guns that were allowed to proceed into Mexico as part of a U.S. effort to build cases against traffickers.

Two of those weapons were involved in the killing of a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent in December in southeastern Arizona.

Mexican drug cartels frequently pay straw purchasers to buy weapons at U.S. gun stores and smuggle them south to avoid stringent gun-control laws in Mexico.

Read more: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/03/08/2104723/mexican-legislators-demand-us.html#ixzz1G7GKLu3c>

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. We look forward to talking with you as soon as possible. Thank you.

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