

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
To: Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ); Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) [Contractor]; Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ)
CC: Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ)
Sent: 7/5/2011 5:40:42 PM
Subject: Newell Contacts with Mexico, Mexican lawmakers and Fast and Furious

In answer to Mike's question: Yes. Here is the Mexican Statement and Newell Email we sent to DOJ weeks ago. PJC

From: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 11:53 AM
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO); Beasley, John A. (CRM)
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ); Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)
Subject: Draft language for use in Mexico Statement and ATF Briefings
Importance: High

Matt and John: Enclosed below in red are our corrections to the Mexico Statement.

DP

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To be

clear, in Mexico City on December 15, 2010, F and F was generally discussed, never by name and it was not on the Agenda. However, in the briefings by ATF, Fast and Furious was the topic of the briefings. The Mexican Officials that came up from MXC for the takedown on January 25, 2011 were: Armando Lopez Hernandez from PGR, and Sac Ruiz Rodriguez from PGR. Also, at the February 1-2, 2011 Mexico/United States Federal Border Prosecutor Working Group Meeting held in Mexico City, Fast and Furious was again discussed during the open discussion periods, but was not on the agenda *per se*.

Thanks. PJC

DP

From: Newell, William D. (ATF)
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 3:46 PM
To: Needles, James R. (ATF); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ)
Subject: Coordination with Mexican authorities - as requested

The PGR rep in Phoenix, Carlos Luque Ordonez, was briefed by the ATF Special Agent in Charge as early as December 2009, when the case first began to develop. On several occasions during the course of the following year I briefed the Phoenix PGR rep on the status of this investigation as well as other investigations we were working related to firearms trafficking to Mexico. It should be noted however that these briefings were general in nature and did not get into specifics regarding the identification of each suspect, investigative techniques, T-III intercepts, etc. I would inform him of a "large-scale" firearms trafficking investigation being worked out of Group VII and that once arrests were planned I fully expected him to participate in any interviews of Mexican nationals and/or cooperating individuals in order to obtain information that would be of value to the PGR for use in prosecutions in Mexico, if applicable.

In late 2010 as the date for indictment and arrests became more firm I began to coordinate with the Phoenix PGR rep and our ATF Mexico Country Office regarding having SIEDO prosecutors be present for the "take down" and any post-arrest interviews that might provide valuable information about the Mexico side of this firearms trafficking network. The ATF Mexico Country Office coordinated this with the UEITA office in SIEDO, OPDAT and others in the Embassy. UEITA is the group that handles Federal firearms prosecutions for the PGR.

In preparation for this expected visit of Mexican prosecutors the following meetings/briefings took place:

On December 3, 2010, during a Phoenix "GC Armas" meeting at the ATF Phoenix Field Division office, I arranged for the case agent and supervisor to brief our Acting Country Attaché and the head of UEITA on the "Fast and Furious" investigation and what our plans were once the indictments were received and arrest operation planned. In this meeting an invitation was extended to UEITA to send personnel they deemed most appropriate to participate in post-arrest interviews of cooperating individuals. It was agreed in this meeting that once a firm date for the "take down" was secured that UEITA would send two prosecutors to participate in any post-arrest interviews in which those detained were willing to cooperate.

On December 15, 2010 at PGR HQ in Mexico City, in a meeting sponsored by OPDAT (see attached), this investigation was briefed to several Mexican counterparts including David Najera from SRE, Yessica de la Madrid from PGR International Affairs, as well as CENAPI and SIEDO reps. This was not an in-depth briefing but did discuss that two large-scale firearms trafficking cases out of Arizona (Fast and Furious and Wide Receiver) and that Fast and Furious was coming to a close in the Phoenix area. The purpose of this meeting was to coordinate bi-lateral investigative and prosecution efforts and it was explained that ATF Phoenix was looking to cooperate fully with our Mexican counterparts to turn over information gleaned during this case in order for them to follow-up on their

end.

On January 23, 2011, UEITA prosecutors Sacnite Ruiz and Armando Lopez Hernandez traveled to Phoenix for the initial arrest phase of this investigation.

On January 24, 2011, an operational briefing was held for all U.S. law enforcement personnel assisting in the arrest phase of this investigation. Both UEITA prosecutors were present for this briefing.

On January 25, 2011, the initial arrest phase took place. The two UEITA prosecutors, in the presence of ATF personnel and with cooperating defendants, conducted two interviews. In one interview they obtained a confession. The Phoenix PGR rep was present for these interviews conducted by UEITA.

From: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG) (SMO)
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 4:31 PM
To: Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); [redacted] ATF [redacted] ATF
Cc: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Melson, Kenneth E. (ATF); Hoover, William J. (ATF)
Subject: Draft language for use in Mexico

Pat [redacted] ATF

Our Office of International Affairs has informed me that our Embassy in Mexico has asked whether we could provide some language to the Mexican government to dispel some of the misinformation circulating there, and our law enforcement colleagues in [redacted] DP

[redacted] DP

[redacted] DP Below is a draft statement [redacted] DP

[redacted] DP

Two questions for you [redacted] DP

[redacted] DP

[redacted] DP Thanks so much.

Matt

From: Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 2:36 PM
To: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) [Contractor]; Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ)
Cc: Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ)
Subject: RE: Mexican lawmakers and Fast and Furious

Doesn't Newell have a comprehensive list of all the briefings and contacts with the Mexican authorities.

From: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) [Contractor]
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 2:33 PM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ)
Cc: Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)
Subject: FW: Mexican lawmakers and Fast and Furious

FYI,
Ray just called asking if you had comment. I said not at this time but I'd show you the article. Mexican lawmakers are calling for prosecutions of US Officials responsible for Fast and Furious.

Robbie

World

U.S. Officials Behind 'Fast and Furious' Gun Sales Should Be Tried in Mexico, Lawmaker Says

By [William La Jeunesse](#)
Published July 05, 2011

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While the investigation continues into the U.S. operation that helped send thousands of guns south of the border, Mexican lawmakers say they'll press for extradition and prosecution in [Mexico](#) of American officials who authorized and ran the operation.

"I obviously feel violated. I feel my country's sovereignty was violated," Mexico Sen. Rene Arce Islas told Fox News. "They should be tried in the [United States](#) and the Mexican government should also demand that they also be tried in Mexico since the incidents took place here. There should be trials in both places."



FILE: Soldiers stand guard near seized weapons during a news conference at the Defense Headquarters in Mexico City. (Reuters) Arce is chairman of Mexico's Commission for National Security, a congressional panel similar to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

His point of view is shared by many Mexican politicians, including Sen. Santiago Creel, a former Interior Minister and the likely presidential nominee next year of the National Action Party to succeed Felipe Calderone, also of PAN.

"I think we should at least try to prove that what happened in Mexico must be sanctioned by Mexican laws and under our sovereignty," Creel told us. "What can't happen is that this now ends on an administrative sanction, or a resignation. No, no, no. Human lives were lost here. A decision was made to carry out an operation that brought very high risk to human lives."

Mexico doesn't completely understand Operation Fast and Furious, the American plan to help send assault rifles and revolvers to Mexico as a means of exposing the gun trafficking rings that operate along the border. The project lasted 18 months and allowed some 2,500 guns to be illegally sold to suspects the U.S. government knew to be front men for the cartels.

Rather than follow the guns and arrest the brokers and middle men who helped move the guns south, agents for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives dropped back and ignored the transfer and transport of the weapons to Mexico.

Just days after watching the guns be sold to these so-called straw buyers, those who bought the weapons illegally and then sold them illegally, the weapons showed up at crime scenes and seizures in Mexico. Rather than stop the operation and tell Mexican police, U.S. officials continued to prime the pump, telling gun stores to order more weapons and sell hundreds to just a few individuals.

To Mexico, the U.S. government has blood on its hands.

"It confirms what many Mexicans already believe. That there is this conspiracy from the U.S. to sell guns to Mexico, and that conspiracy has to do with this idea that America is trying to control Mexico or protect the arms industry," said Ana Maria Salazar, a respected Mexican political analyst and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Drug Enforcement Policy under [President Bill Clinton](#). Before that she worked as a policy adviser in the [White House](#) on Latin

American affairs.

While it is highly doubtful the U.S. would allow its law enforcement officers to be extradited to Mexico, Salazar says Mexico could make the situation uncomfortable for the U.S. if it chooses to publicize the many people killed or injured by so-called Fast and Furious guns.

"It would be very difficult for them to get a fair trial in Mexico," she said. "But I think it's very important they be prosecuted in the U.S. Not just those involved, but those who allowed it to happen. This should be followed up with a very strong prosecution here. If you are not going to be nervous in the United States, you should at least be nervous where these guns are found," says Salazar.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/07/05/mexican-lawmakers-want-extradition-for-us-officials-responsible-for-botched-#ixzz1RGiHD5qY>

From: Ray Stern [mailto:ray.stern@newtimes.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 2:21 PM

To: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) [Contractor]

Subject: Mexican lawmakers and Fast and Furious

Again, this appeared on Fox News first, I think. Patterson on his blog said something about Burke needing to cancel any Mexico vacations.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/07/05/mexican-lawmakers-want-extradition-for-us-officials-responsible-for-botched/>

My question is: Can Dennis Burke respond to these latest quotes from Mexican officials? Does this mean he needs to avoid going to Mexico???

Thanks.

Ray

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