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**From:** Schmaler, Tracy (SMO)  
**To:** Johnston, Deborah A. (ODAG); Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG); Sweeney, Laura (SMO)  
**Sent:** 6/14/2011 1:27:14 PM  
**Subject:** FW: CLEARANCE - Mexico press tasking - Congressional Report on U.S. Guns in Mexico  
**Attachments:** 110611 MEX Congressional Report US Guns in Mexico.doj edits..docx

I made edit attached

**DP**

Matt/Debbie – let me know if you have any additional edits.

Laura – can you run this by ATF? Should be fine since most of it has been previously cleared and is based largely on their letter to Feinstein.

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**From:** Kaypaghian, Gabriel [mailto:kaypaghiang@state.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2011 9:03 AM  
**To:** Cue, Lourdes C; P-WHA Duty; Weinshenker, Jeffrey; Kurtz-Phelan, Daniel; Luoma-Overstreet, Charles E; WHA-PPC; Ceriale, Jennifer K; Silberstein, Barbara M; Pittman, Susan R (INL); Featherstone, Alex (Mexico City); Schmaler, Tracy (SMO)  
**Cc:** Bryan, Judith L (Mexico City); Matheny, Ryan D (Mexico City); WHA-Press  
**Subject:** CLEARANCE - Mexico press tasking - Congressional Report on U.S. Guns in Mexico  
**Importance:** High

**Please review and clear by 9:30 for today's briefing. Language has been previously cleared. Additional language from latest version is highlighted.**

**MEX has already cleared.**

**Thank you, Gabriel**

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**From:** Luoma-Overstreet, Charles E  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2011 7:12 AM  
**To:** Kaypaghian, Gabriel  
**Cc:** WHA-MEX Only; Kurtz-Phelan, Daniel; Schnier, David M; Cue, Lourdes C; WHA-PPC; WHA-Press  
**Subject:** MEXICO press tasking

Good morning all,

Please provide press guidance on the tasker below to be submitted to WHA-Press by **09:15 this morning**. Please include clearances from D(S), P, S/P, WHA/PPC, WHA/PA and any other offices (ATF?) you feel necessary.

We will secure the FO clearance for you.

Many thanks,  
Charles

#### **WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

**WHA/MEXICO:** What is our reaction to the Congressional report stating that 70% of guns from crime scenes in Mexico come from the U.S.?

# Congressional report: US guns fuel Mexico violence

A US Congressional report suggests some 70% of firearms recovered from Mexican crime scenes in 2009 and 2010 and submitted for tracing came from the US.

The report indicates Mexican drug cartels are arming themselves with US military-style weapons.

The senators who compiled the report urge a strengthening of US regulations to stem the flow of guns to Mexico.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon has repeatedly called for the US to implement stricter firearms laws.

The report, Halting US Firearms Trafficking to Mexico, by Democratic Senators Dianne Feinstein (California), Charles Schumer (New York) and Sheldon Whitehouse (Rhode Island) says US guns have contributed to "Mexico's dangerous levels of violence".

It quotes Acting Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Kenneth Melson stating that of the 29,284 firearms recovered in Mexico in 2009 and 2010 and submitted for tracing, 20,504 came from the United States.

The report recommends a number of measures to curb firearms trafficking, including:

- Congress pass legislation requiring background checks for all firearms purchases, including those at gun shows
- The ATF tighten existing laws to make the import of military-style weapons from the former Eastern bloc harder
- Sellers report multiple sales of all firearms in order to allow law enforcement agents to track all bulk buying of firearms
- Access be expanded to the ATF's firearms tracing system so that the backlog in tracing of seized weapons can be tackled

The senators accuse the US Congress of having been "virtually moribund" while Mexican drug gangs snap up US military-style guns.

Their report comes a day after President Calderon accused the US arms industry of causing thousands of deaths in Mexico.

"Why does this arms business continue?" he asked.

"I say it openly: it's because of the profit which the US arms industry makes," he added.

Gabriel Kaypaghian  
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202-647-7137

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.