

ISLAMIST TRAVEL AGENCY • MEXICAN SUPPLY AND AMERICAN DEMAND • UNIVERSAL GLOCK HOLSTER

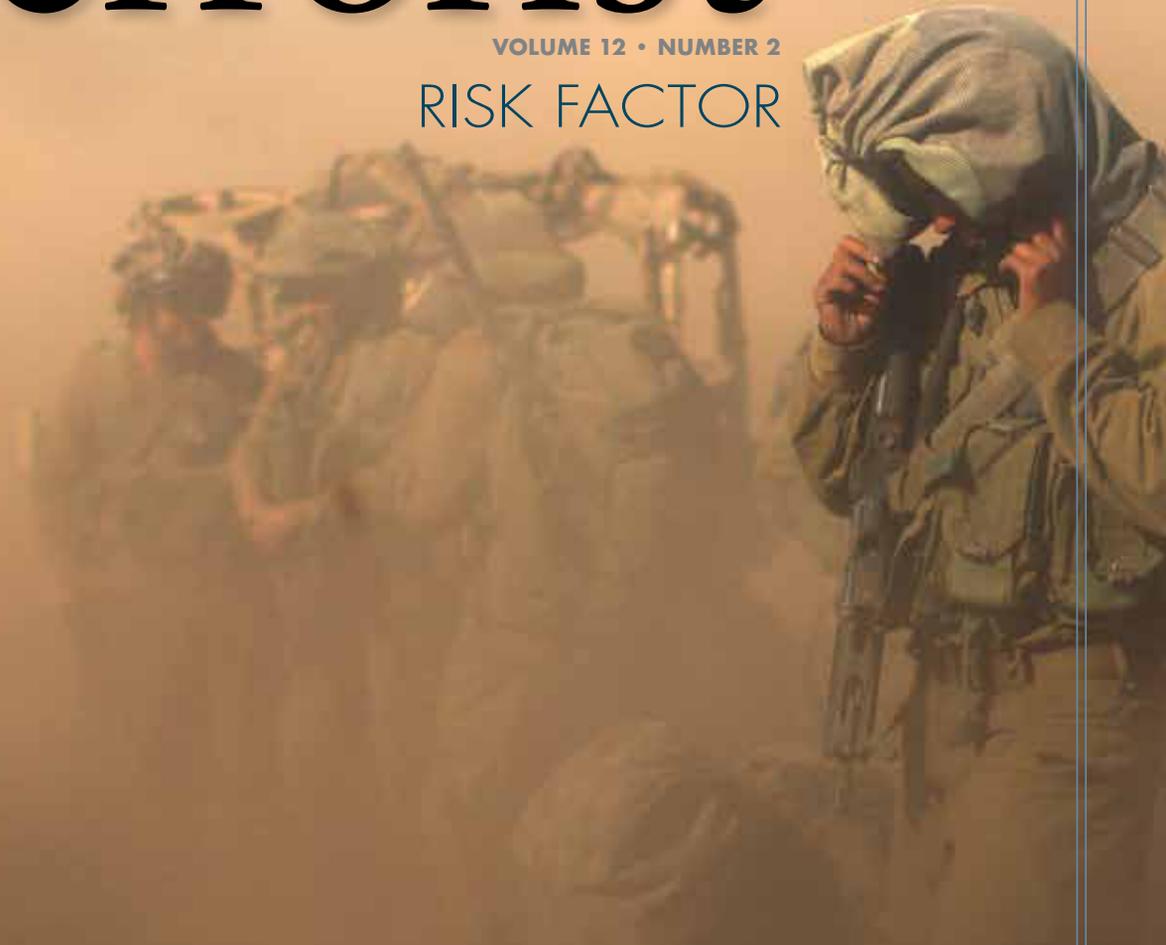
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KILLING AND DYING FOR AMERICA'S ADDICTION

by Orlando Wilson



Last week, I was sent an article from a newspaper in the State of Guanajuato, Mexico, a place with which I have a connection.

The article showed a banner that had been hung over a bridge that crosses a busy road in the city of León. The banner named a couple of officials who had supposedly made a deal with a drug cartel that is operational in that area.

I know one of the people named on the banner, state justice minister Carlos Zamarripa. I met him when I was training various police units in Guanajuato. He did not care for our group being there and we were happy that he kept his distance. He stepped in 2008, however, when video from one of our courses was leaked and we made international media headlines

for teaching “Torture Techniques.” Zamarripa stated the facts—it was a training exercise and the media needed to mind its own business. Unfortunately, the damage was already done; I will write more about this incident in the future.

The fact that Zamarripa is accused of dealing with the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) on a banner is not proof of guilt. I am sure that he has plenty of political and personal enemies who would love to cause him problems and see him discredited. I am also sure that, if he has problems with CJNG, his days on the earth are numbered.



Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt meeting Raed al-Saleh, the leader of the Syrian Civil Defence (White Helmets) in London. Photo by: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

It is easy these days to make false, sensational accusations against a person or an organization. In many cases, mainstream media runs with it, without checking the facts. I speak from experience: I was accused of human rights abuses in 2008. To date, I think I am the only foreigner who has ever been accused of torturing Mexican police.

Consider the recent U.S., U.K., and French bombings in Syria, triggered by social media videos of a supposed chemical attack. The videos were associated with the White Helmets, a group that has been proven to stage photo shoots and may be connected to terrorist groups. When independent journalists reached the Syrian city of Douma, where the alleged attack took place, there was no evidence and witnesses stated it was a staged event. So, when something appears on social media or in TV headlines, it may be misinformation rather than fact.

Mexican police and security forces have an extremely difficult job: they are criticized by the public, demonized by the media, murdered

by the criminals, and often directed by corrupt officials at the behest of the drug cartels. Individuals who join the security forces in Mexico do so for the same reason as people in other countries—for a career, for job security, and to make a difference. The reality is that, in many places, security forces wind up in the middle of turf disputes between rival cartels that are far better armed and equipped.

If forces choose to take a side, they and their families become targets for rival cartels. If they choose to stay neutral, they are targeted for being uncooperative or are suspected of working for rival cartels. They are also accountable to the law, both state and federal.

One issue that many people outside of Mexico don't comprehend is the power and influence of the drug cartels. Not only are the cartels very well armed, they are also very well politically connected. At the basic level, if people do not cooperate with the cartels they are killed, and their family members are killed. There are parts of Mexico where the cartels are essentially the law enforcement,

and the municipal, state, and federal forces that do exist in these areas are outmanned and outgunned.

Guanajuato has a very good police academy and has spent money training its officers and trying to get them adequate weaponry; this a lot more than some states even attempt. The majority of police officers are not even allowed to take their service pistols home and carry off duty. How can they protect themselves and their families when the narcos come to ask a favor?

The Mexican police I have worked with—many of whom I classify as friends—are far from Hollywood stereotypes. They are very diligent men and women who work and train to the best of their abilities. Many times they have gone willingly into situations that their critics in the U.S. can talk and dream about while sipping their lattes, but cannot even begin to comprehend.

When trying to solve a problem, I always look to the source. So, what is the source of the problems in Mexico that are causing the killings there and the immigration problems for the U.S.? Well, the cartels get the majority of their money from the U.S., and the majority of their weapons as well. Put simply, the cartels are funded and armed by the U.S., and they spread terror in Mexico and drive out industry. This prompts a lot of Mexican people to flee to safer areas or areas where there are jobs, like the U.S. Are you beginning to see the pattern?

The source of narco terrorism in Mexico and Latin America is the U.S.'s drug addiction. If you take illegal narcotics out of the U.S. economy, how many jobs will be lost for police officers, prison staff, lawyers, and rehab workers, and how would this affect the U.S. economy? The U.S.'s

drug addiction has even impacted family doctors and pharmaceutical companies, giving rise to the major opioid epidemic the U.S. is experiencing.

So, what are the first steps to helping an addict? From what I understand, the addict must help themselves by first admitting they have an addiction. The addict cannot see that they have a problem; meanwhile they cause chaos for, destroy, and push away those close to them. The signs are there for those who want to see, but I don't think the U.S.'s ego will allow it to admit that it has a very big problem.

Now, back to basics—let's put things into context for the reality that is Mexico. The narcos have asked you to do them a favor and you have declined because you are a decent family man with a good job who wants a peaceful life. When they ask a second time, refusing could put you and your family at risk. Do you help them or not? You can call the police, but will they want to risk their lives and their families' lives for you? Even if you are a policeman, you will be on your own. So, do you comply, do you fight, or do you flee? Refusing is an option; so is committing suicide to save your family. Think about this.

My answer would be easy, but I don't have a family! •

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Mexican police officers. Photo by: Ken Kistler