

From: Featherstone, Alex (Mexico City)
To: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City); Feeley, John D (Mexico City); Williams, James H (Mexico City)
Cc: ATF; Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM); ATF (ATF); ATF (ATF); Schmalzer, Tracy (OPA); Sweeney, Laura (OPA); Kevin M. O'Reilly; Kaypaghian, Gabriel
Subject: Mexican press claims PGR is looking into criminal charges against U.S. officials for F&F
Date: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:54:21 PM

Ctrl + Click on the header below to see the whole article. Leading daily newspaper El Universal (and others) reported that the PGR is looking into "whether U.S. agents committed crimes which can be judged and punished in Mexican courts...And, given the seriousness of the issue, they comment that there are instructions that, if a crime was committed, they will go after whomever to ensure that the case does not go unpunished, and if it can be proven that TF agents effectively permitted this illegal trafficking, they will be brought to justice."

Bajo Reserva

El Universal - Primera - 2
Sin Autor

* ¿Ahora sí están furiosos? La Procuraduría General de la República, aún encabezada por Arturo Chávez Chávez, decidió reservarse detalles de la investigación que inició por la fallida operación Rápido y furioso, ante la gravedad del tema, comentan que hay instrucciones de que, de existir un delito, se actuará contra quien sea para que el caso no quede impune, y que si se comprueba que agentes de la ATF efectivamente permitieron este tráfico ilegal, se buscará que sean llevados ante la justicia mexicana.

SBU
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From: Featherstone, Alex (Mexico City)
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 10:45 AM
To: Pascual, Carlos (Mexico City); Feeley, John D (Mexico City); Williams, James H (Mexico City)
Cc: ATF; Breuer, Lanny A. (CRM); ATF (ATF); ATF (ATF); Schmalzer, Tracy (SMO); Sweeney, Laura (SMO); Kevin M. O'Reilly; Kaypaghian, Gabriel
Subject: FW: Proceso singles out Bill Newell for hiding F&F from the GOM

Sending again with what I hope is Bill Newell's correct e-mail address.

"Proceso" magazine had several stories on Fast and Furious, but the attached 3-page article was noteworthy because it says Bill Newell ("The Fast & Furious Envoy") will be the new head of ATF here, and it singles him out as "one of those responsible for implementing it and who opposed informing the Mexican authorities about it."

Citing a February 3 letter that blogger Mike Vanderboegh sent to Salvador de Lara, Mexican consul in Atlanta, Proceso said Vanderboegh claimed that Newell hid the details of F&F from Darren Gil "who had a confrontation with Newell over whether the GOM should be notified." According to Vanderboegh, "Newell insisted that there be no notification to the Mexican authorities," after which Gil contacted his higher-ups in Washington, but they backed up Newell.

"In a meeting which included Lanny Breuer, AAG for DOJ's Criminal Division, and ATF Acting Director Kenneth Melson and various subordinates, it was decided to keep the GOM in the dark," wrote Vanderboegh in his letter. He indicates that Gil was "forced to retire and so he did on December 31." Proceso says GOM sources confirmed that Gil departed post very suddenly and without explanation, without even saying goodbye.

Proceso also refers to some other blogs like CleanUpATF.org, Sipse Street Irregulars.com and Examiner.com.

-- Alex

Alexander A. Featherstone

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