
From: Sherwood, Robert (USAAZ) [Contractor]
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ); Cunningham, Patrick (USAAZ); Scheel, Ann (USAAZ)
CC: Hernandez, Rachel (USAAZ); Morrissey, Mike (USAAZ)
Sent: 7/5/2011 5:33:21 PM
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

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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