



ECOSOC Topic Update

Mexican Drug War

The war in Mexico is getting progressively worse. Two of the major events to have occurred over the past couple of months were the bombing of the casino and dropping of dead bodies in the middle of a Mexican highway. The casino bombing was not only deadly, it was incredibly bold committed probably due to the fact the owners stopped paying protection money. Many of the victims were women and elderly, unlikely to have been involved with drug cartels. The recent body dump of thirty five ex criminals served as a sign to the Zetas. This shows that the war is not slowing down. It is more likely to have increased violence. Once again, this was taken out in the middle of the day in the middle of rush hour traffic. The cartels are getting even bolder.

Questions to ponder: What is the role of the Mexican government, have they lost the battle to the drug cartels? How can they regain/keep control? What is the role of the social media in the war? What are the roles of ordinary citizens? Can other nations play a role? What would that role look like? Can your nation relate to this war? How have they handled it? Some news articles that deserve your attention:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/26/world/americas/26mexico.html>

Information on the casino attack.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903703604576585233663690762.html>

Background on body dump.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/26/world/americas/mexican-teachers-push-back-against-gangs-extortion-attempts.html?_r=1

The role of ordinary citizens.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/27/us-mexico-drugs-idUSTRE78Q6H220110927>

Social Media

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2011/08/31/3327800/videos-may-tie-mayors-brother.html>

Government involvement

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/10/01/2-powerful-cartels-dominate-in-mexico-drug-war/>

More information on the cartels



Thailand and Indonesia Trafficking

While trafficking is becoming a more known topic it is still a huge problem. Lack of knowledge about trafficking, especially in Southeast Asia is a major reason this issue has not been more resolved. A major problem with trafficking in Thailand is the lack of citizenship for many tribes in the highlands of Thailand. Without citizenship it is hard to begin businesses or get out of poverty. Many parents are forced to take out loans that they cannot repay and have to sell their children to loan sharks. They are also unable to support their children which forces them out to try and find work, often falling victim to traffickers. The same problem exists for many rural villagers in Indonesia. For many it is simply lack of a better future that forces them into something incredibly dangerous.

Questions to ponder: What steps can we take to change citizenship status? Will this help? What ways can we change the situation of the rural villagers? What are the implications of these changes? What ways can we stop this from the receiving side? What ways can your country stop the trafficking victims from entering the country? How will you handle the victims once you've discovered them?

Some news articles that deserve your attention:

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/rights-so-divine/2011/sep/19/thailands-unfinished-battle-against-human-traffick/>

Unfinished battles in Thailand

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/2011/09/29/body-shop-founders-legacy-laws-to-protect-kids/>

What ordinary citizens can do

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/09/07/%E2%80%98still-much-do%E2%80%99-fight-against-people-trafficking.html>

Commitment issues?

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/12yo-girl-in-court-on-trafficking-charges-while-sex-offender-free/466425>

Problems with the court system

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/259415/flesh-trade-newest-victims>

Common examples of how young girls get involved in trafficking