



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNODC: Mexican Drug Cartels

Hello delegates! I am Yasmeeen Roundtree, and I will be your vice chair for the MVHS MUN 2016 conference. This is my second year being in an MUN program, but because it's my freshman year, it's my first in the MVHS MUN program. Here at Mission, I am involved with a number of clubs and activities, I'm on Mission's JV song team and girls track and field. I'm a member of a club called "Cookies and Christ" and FCA. In my free time, I serve at my church and their student leadership program. I'm super excited to spend the weekend with you all.

I. Background

Due to Mexico's geographic location, it has been no surprise Mexico is the trans-shipment point for narcotics. Mexico use to smuggle in alcohol into America for profit in the 1920s, due to it being prohibition in the United States. In 1933, when alcohol was no longer prohibited, these smugglers needed a new product. It was the late 1960s was when it started up again, but now with drugs, on more a major scale.

Mexican drug cartels have been dominating the markets. In total, there are approximately nine major cartels that have covered all of Mexico and wreaked havoc over the citizens of Mexico and the rest of the international community. In 2007 these cartels controlled 90% of the cocaine entering the United States. Among other things, cocaine, marijuana, ad heroin are the main narcotics that are being traded across the border into the US, Canada, and other nations in North, South, and Central America. Mexican drug cartels have existed for several of decades now, and their influence has increased over the years. There is also an increase of drug violence that has come along with these cartels; arrests of key cartel leaders inflame this. Different cartels are constantly fighting for routes into the United States. Many deaths are an effect of these cartels due to their use of gun violence and gang violence. These gangs are now on the same level of professional militaries, as they use similar firearms and organization strategies. There were approximately above 120,000 killed by 2013, which will obviously has increased by then. One major frustration is that the drug lords are gaining more and more power, which leads to more difficulty in arresting and jailing them. With the recent fiasco surrounding El Chapo's escape, the community is concerned about the growing power of these cartels.

II. UN Involvement

In September of 2011, after tens of thousands were murdered in the midst of drug wars, Mexico called on the United Nations to help keep weapons out of the hands of drug cartels. This project did have limited success in the short term, but has since diminished in effectiveness. Still, the UN's 2016 General Assembly Special Session on Drugs collectively endorsed anti-drug policies from Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia, in the hopes that stricter regulation will make smuggling and drug related violence more difficult to enact. However, several UN NGO's, including UN Aids, UN Women, and UNHCR have begun to condemn the push for the prohibition of drugs, claiming that this only provides incentive for illegal, black market



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trafficking and smuggling. Though divided on ways in which to do so, the United Nations firmly believes that Mexican drug cartels, and all drug cartels for that matter, must be stop.

III. Possible solutions

Some solutions towards trying to stop Mexican drug cartels can be long term or short term. Some long-term solutions can be more protected borders and stricter laws. Some short-term things can be surprise checkups of suspicious people and transportation checks. We need to be more aware of this problem and start acting on it. We need more detectives on drug related cases. We can also question lower drug dealers and try to make it up to the high producers. In the end, it is up to you delegates to find creative solutions in order to combat this issue. Best of luck!

IV. Country Bloc Positions

Western: These nations see this issue as a major nuisance and a threat to their public safety. Typically, stronger border protections are their first option for combating this and outlawing the substances that are traded.

Latin American: These nations are under siege by these cartels; therefore, they will take any measure to combat this issue in order to protect their people. They do, however, have a great fear of retaliation from these cartels, and some governments may be influenced by these powerful groups.

Middle Eastern: These nations see similar action done with their own terrorist groups within their own countries. They then understand the level of fear that other nations face, so will provide any possible resolution that has aided in lessening the power of the groups.

Asian: The cartels are now beginning to expand to Asian markets with the growing popularity of cocaine. These groups are now a concern for these nations.

African: In a similar situation with Asia, African nations are already infiltrated by these groups and have found new members of the cartels in these countries.

V. Guiding Questions

1. Where are these cartels the most influential, and what would we do with that information?
2. How would you go about combating this without invading a nation's sovereignty?
3. What do we do about the members of these cartels who use this as their support for their families?
4. What do we do about the drugs themselves? How do we find them? How do we help those who are now addicted to the drugs traded over the border?

VI. Works cited

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