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## **POLICE COMBATING DRUG CARTELS IN MEXICO**

Mexican drug cartels have been around for several decades, and since the 1970s, some of Mexico's government agencies have supported their activities. Mexico is the main drug supplier in the United States. The United States ranks first in the world's drug usage respectively neighboring Mexico in one of the moments it became profitable to use this American weakness. The drug business in the country began to flourish and the first drug cartels began to appear. Only from 2005 to 2010 on the southern border of the USA the number of marijuana seizures increased by 49%, methamphetamine - by 54%, heroin - by 297%, and ecstasy - by 839% .[1]

The drug mafia in Mexico is much more than just a criminal problem. Its activities affect all spheres of the life of the state. In particular, the activity of drug cartels has become a factor hindering the development of the economy of the republic. The thing is that the areas most attractive for oil and gas are located in the eastern state of Tamaulipas and are in the hands of criminal gangs. As a result, foreign companies, primarily American ones, consider the work there to be too dangerous.

According to US media reports, regular clashes at the levels of small military units are taking place in 8 of the 32 states of the country. They are attended by 45 thousand soldiers of the Mexican army and 375 thousand police officers. They are opposed by about 300 thousand members of criminal communities enjoying the support of the local population.[2]

About 60 thousand troops and police were sent to areas bordering the United States. However, despite emergency measures being taken, the wave of violence and killings could not be brought under control.[3]

The United States saw the problem mainly in Mexico, they focused much less attention on its population that uses drugs. Therefore, the next program to support the fight against drug cartels in Mexico was a program to provide funds for the purchase of weapons and equipment as well as conducting military training, which was called «Merida» or «Plan of Mexico». In fact, it was supposed to help Mexico eradicate problems with illegal crime and also to normalize the situation on the common border, both in relation to migration and drug trafficking issues. But unlike previous Merida actions based on the fact that the United States ranks first in the world in quantity drug use, therefore, the initiative to combat drug trafficking by the plan was to be shared.[4]

Law enforcement authorities have arrested more than 81 thousand people involved in drug trafficking. The Mexican authorities also managed

to detain several leaders of the main drug cartels. Mexico and the United States announced the creation of a joint commission to prevent violence in the border zone. To this end, it is envisaged to strengthen cooperation between the special services, law enforcement agencies of the two countries and the exchange of intelligence information. Mexico and the United States also agreed to conduct a joint study to come up with concrete recommendations to reduce drug usage.

However, Merida did not produce the desired results, although in 2010 the Congress proposed to extend the project. The same problem was again evident: the American demand for drugs did not decrease and did not taken into account in a possible solution in full force.[4]

Almost in parallel with Merida, in 2006 governments began to carry out the Coronado Project which lasted almost 4 years and ended with the well-known operation to destroy the Mexican drug cartel «La Familia» Its essence was approximately the same as that of the above operation. Behind the time of the program was caught by 1200 people who were otherwise involved in the drug business. From the US over 3000 federal and municipal agents participated only in the final two-days operation against «La Familia», during which 729 pounds of methamphetamine, 62 kilograms of cocaine and 967 pounds of marijuana were seized [3].

In fact, in both operations the United States, for the most part, helped financially and sent small detachments of agents to destroy the drug cartels and arrest the drug lords. But for their part, they also carried out a series of actions. For example, in 2006, US President George W. Bush authorized the construction of a mechanical fence on the Mexican-American border, in order to prevent the penetration of illegal immigrants and drugs. In total, about 700 miles of the fence, which later became known as the Great American Wall, were built along the total length of the border.

In general, the American police receive a good salary, are well trained, equipped and interested in the results of their activities. American courts and prisons are functioning properly. But it cfn not be said the same about Mexico. The Mexican law enforcement system does not cope with this level of crime, only thanks to the US police, measures are being taken to combat drug cartels.[2]

It can be concluded that, perhaps, only Latin American countries, by combining the forces of the police, military and special services, including Mexico, can stop this drug boom and its accompanying drug war. By moving drugs from the black market the government can thus destroy the source of huge income of drug cartels, which will greatly weaken their position.[5]

If this happens, it will collapse the entire regime of world's control over drugs and drug trafficking. Accordingly, the war for drugs will become meaningless. Of course, the developed countries, together with the USA, which are the main consumers, will have to choose solutions to the problem arising from this, which can boil down to the same legalization and simultaneous development of the national healthcare institute in the field of drugs, as well as decriminalization consumers. The task of the authorities at the moment is to strengthen police control for drug-related crimes, prevent drug trafficking and continue to fight against such a poisonous phenomenon as drug cartels, which are a dirty spot on our planet.[5]

#### *Список використаних джерел*

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### **FOREIGN EXPERIENCE OF RESISTANCE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION ON THE EXAMPLE OF A SWEDISH MODEL**

The problem of criminalization and decriminalization prostitution and human trafficking with a view to sexual exploitation is one of the most important problem which occupied leading position for a long time. This problem is being investigated by different famous domestic and foreign scientists. One of the most significant and actual question for today is the liberation of women and children from sexual slavery.