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## Narco-Terrorism's War on Mexico

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# EZLN terror strategy escalates as coverage of EIR exposé grows

by Valerie Rush

A dual-power situation is shaping up in Mexico, as the Salinas de Gortari government, under pressure from the international human rights lobby and Anglo-American intelligence, is bending over backwards to accommodate the narco-terrorist Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), which emerged violently on the scene New Year's Day in the impoverished southern state of Chiapas.

The Zapatistas are pursuing their original demands for radical agrarian reform, an ousting of all elected officials in the state, and nationwide electoral reform, and have now made additional demands that add up to outright separatism: carving independent "indigenous enclaves" out of Mexican territory.

The latest EZLN demand is that the government grant it "belligerent status," which would oblige foreign governments and international organizations to recognize its ranks—and presumably the land it holds, as well—as a legitimate contending force. Although President Salinas's "peace negotiator," Manuel Camacho Solís, has publicly balked at granting this latest demand, correctly observing that it would mean subjecting an internal affair to international law, the possibility of an El Salvador-style "solution" to the Chiapas crisis is now on the table.

### Who pulls the strings?

Mexicans are aghast at how quickly the EZLN, under the false banner of "indigenous rights," has managed to rope in the Salinas government, straitjacket the military, and rupture the Roman Catholic Church. Clearly, the stakes are much bigger than conditions in Chiapas. It is no accident, therefore, that this magazine's revelations on who is pulling the EZLN's strings, and why, have erupted center-stage in Mexico, providing ammunition for those determined to fight in Mexico's defense.

In just a few weeks, two of Mexico's leading publications—*Excelsior* newspaper and *Siempre* magazine—have devoted extensive coverage to EIR's charges that the so-called "Mayan" insurgency in Chiapas is in fact orchestrated and financed by Anglo-American intelligence, working through teams of largely foreign anthropologists and ethnolo-

gists in coordination with the international human rights lobby, the Marxist theology of liberation wing of the Catholic Church, and on-the-ground narco-terrorist elements from throughout the region. As our special correspondents report from Chiapas (see p. 45), the vast majority of the Chiapas population, Indian and non-Indian alike, are but the victims of this foreign-inspired destabilization.

On Jan. 27, *Excelsior* devoted lengthy coverage to the revelations presented by EIR's Ibero-American editor Dennis Small at a well-attended Mexico City press conference the day before, especially identifying the role of the international banks in sponsoring the alleged "indigenous" uprising. On Feb. 2, *Excelsior* ran an article by a leader of Mexico's Popular Socialist Party (PPS), favorably citing the material presented by Small and warning that the EZLN uprising is "a very dangerous adventure which places Mexico's national sovereignty and political independence at risk." And on Feb. 12, *Excelsior* devoted its front-page *Frentes Políticos* column to running lengthy excerpts from EIR's newly released special report, entitled "Shining Path North Explodes South of the Border," which is described as "extensive and well-documented."

Numerous local and regional newspapers, such as Sonora state's *Diario del Yaqui* and *La Tribuna*, have also covered the EIR revelations at length.

In its Feb. 4 issue, the popular magazine *Siempre* published a broad-ranging interview with Small, under the headline "Goal of Human Rights Groups: Pave the Way for the Separation of Chiapas." Small slammed the role of speculators such as George Soros in financing the so-called human rights lobby, which runs protection for narco-terrorism across Ibero-America. Small also detailed precisely how the scenario for the balkanization of Mexico is working, and warned that if there is no resistance in Mexico, the country could go the way of former Yugoslavia.

The *Siempre* interview was not accidentally timed to coincide with hearings being held in the U.S. Congress by Rep. Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.), who has repeatedly sided with the terrorist insurgencies against the governments of Ibero-America. During those hearings, Assistant Secretary of State

for Inter-American Affairs Alexander Watson described the Chiapas uprising as an “energizing factor” in the Mexican reform process, thus enraging Mexicans everywhere.

### ‘Negotiating’ . . . with terror

Although the Salinas government, desperate to prevent a further outbreak of violence, is virtually pleading for negotiations with the EZLN, the Zapatistas are letting the situation “ripen.” And while they stall for time, pleading security and logistical problems, peasant mobs in Chiapas have seized oil wells, farms, and ranches, and more than a dozen townships in the last weeks. They have threatened and even kidnapped government officials, blocked highways, set fire to city halls, and are now demanding the resignations of all local government officials in the state of Chiapas.

On Feb. 11, some 10,000 teachers marched in support of the EZLN in Chiapas’s capital city, replicating a tactic of the Shining Path narco-terrorists of Peru in infiltrating the teachers union and the schools, where children are “recruited” to their terrorist cause. And when the EZLN finally decided to release the former governor of Chiapas, Gen. Absalón Castellanos (ret.), who was taken hostage by the terrorists in the first days of fighting, they actually charged an admission price and obligatory lunch fee for anyone—press, politicians, observers—who wished to be present at the event.

Far from condemning these outrages, the government is rushing to do the terrorists’ bidding. Mexican Army troops are being withdrawn from urban areas in Chiapas in anticipation of the much-ballyhooed negotiations with the Zapatistas. And when the EZLN indicated its willingness to suspend collection of “war taxes” from the Chiapas population, it was government-appointed peace negotiator Camacho Solís who announced it. Prominent *El Universal* journalist Francisco Cárdenas Cruz wrote in his column Feb. 16, “Nothing I know of can explain why the government’s peace commissioner has decided, since yesterday, to become the official EZLN spokesman!”

Despite the government’s humiliation, military leaders are trying to hold their ground. In a speech delivered Feb. 9 for “Loyalty Day,” National Defense Minister Gen. Antonio Riviello Bazán addressed the situation in Chiapas for the first time, emphasizing that the military had conducted itself according to its constitutional duty and that its intervention was “legal, legitimate, necessary.” He insisted that it was the EZLN, not the Army, which was the transgressor, and warned that “no one should try to glorify those who resort to violence.”

That same day, Gen. Miguel Angel Godínez, in charge of military operations in Chiapas, gave an interview to *Siempre* in which he furiously denied the charges of human rights abuses that have been directed against the Army. “In a town of 15,000, why not ask the 15,000 how the Army conducted itself, instead of the 10 who were arrested?”

## Chiapas: a first-hand report on the ‘war’

by Juan Manuel Martínez R. and Carlos Cota Meza

If you, dear reader, are one of those individuals influenced by international propaganda regarding the ill-named “war” in Chiapas, what you are about to read will surely make you uncomfortable. What we can assure you is that “Subcomandante Marcos” may enjoy a fine image abroad courtesy of the international media, but that doesn’t translate into popularity for the immense majority of the population of Chiapas.

From Feb. 3 through Feb. 9, we toured Tuxtla Gutiérrez, capital of Chiapas state, for the purpose of giving several private presentations of the *EIR Special Report* entitled “Shining Path North Explodes in Mexico.” Those we met with, including students and university professors, priests, businessmen, government officials, and other interested citizens, were stunned by the depth of information available on the true nature of the political conflict in the Chiapas Highlands (which are not all of Chiapas, much less all of Mexico).

The state of Chiapas has approximately 3.7 million inhabitants. Of the zones surrounding the townships attacked by the Zapatista National Liberation Army, or EZLN, (Las Margaritas, Altamirano, Comitan, Ocosingo, and San Cristóbal) where some 100,000 Chiapans live, some 20,000 have already fled their homes to seek “refuge” (that is, food, medicine, and a roof over their heads). Their abandonment of their miserable “properties” is because of the constant harassment they have suffered by the Zapatistas, more properly dubbed the Samuelistas, that is, followers of San Cristóbal Bishop Samuel Ruiz.

Ironically, the help being provided these “internal refugees” is coming from the federal and state governments, as well as from the Catholic Church (the non-Samuelista elements, that is), in camps protected by the Mexican Army. The presence of the National Red Cross and the possible arrival of the International Red Cross only serves the propagandistic interests of the EZLN and its mentors.

The high-profile Jan. 1 “uprising” was a fiasco, in military terms. The 800-1,000 who made up the ranks of the EZLN assault columns represented just 10% of the 8,500 “indigenous” lay-priests Samuel Ruiz has trained since 1968. With respect to the population as a whole, the Zapatis-