

Dateline Mexico by Hugo López Ochoa

Mexico upset by U.S. judicial fascism

Could Mexicans finally be making the connection between U.S. judicial barbarism and the fascism behind NAFTA?

Despite the best efforts of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and the propaganda machines of both Mexico and the United States to project an image of idyllic relations between the two countries in the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the spoor of the beast which the United States has become keeps resurfacing.

First there was the kidnaping of Mexicans—on Mexican territory—by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and FBI, violating national sovereignty and the most fundamental precepts of international law through the so-called Thornburgh Doctrine.

Now Mexicans are equally stunned by the cases of eight Mexicans condemned to death by U.S. “justice,” despite the probable innocence of at least several of them. And it is less a question of the condemning of innocents, than it is the facility with which any individual is now condemned to death.

For a country like Mexico, where the death penalty was abolished 30 years ago, what is happening in the United States is shocking. “Mexicans see the death penalty in the United States as something barbaric,” Reuters commented in reporting on the growing outrage in Mexico over the planned executions of two Mexicans sitting on death row in Texas. George Natanson, spokesman for the Mexican Attorney General’s office, said that “despite all the violence that is attributed to Mexico, Mexico adopts a very progressive position regarding capital punishment, and considers it

barbaric.”

Axel Ramírez, a commentator with the daily *Unomásuno*, says that the cases of Ricardo Aldape Guerrero and Irineo Tristán Montoya “are the most notable because . . . although they are permeated with racism and with judicial irregularities, they are presented as cases which adhered to strict legal norms under U.S. democracy.” Aldape’s lawyers say that they now have two new witnesses who can refute claims that Aldape murdered two men. On Sept. 22, Aldape’s execution was postponed for the nth time, and the previous week, so too was that of Tristán Montoya.

Aldape’s case is incredible: He was arrested in 1982 by a transit policeman for driving under the influence of alcohol. His companion shot at the officer, who returned the fire. Both men died. The police then charged Aldape with responsibility for both deaths!

The scandal of this and other cases has forced the Mexican government—ever reluctant to cause a diplomatic incident with the United States—to pressure U.S. judicial authorities. Former Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel has been put in personal charge of the Aldape case.

On Sept. 23, in an address to the 47th U.N. General Assembly, Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana denounced the resurgence of “retrograde isolationism” and “violent xenophobia” in the “developed world.” He also denounced the Thornburgh Doctrine, which is being promoted for adoption as the official policy of the United Nations. Mexico rejects ef-

orts to form a “global police force” responsible for keeping the peace on the planet, and of controlling internal crises in different countries of the world, said Solana. He emphasized that international institutions have no jurisdiction over the internal affairs of member nations. In stressing the danger that the U.N. Security Council might be turned into an instrument for legitimizing the geopolitical designs of a few superpowers, Solana characterized U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali’s proposal to create an international force to preserve global peace as “worrisome.”

It is equally clear to all that the judicial persecution in the United States of the political movement of Lyndon LaRouche is part of the same fascist Leviathan into which the U.S. justice system has been converted. Because of this, the LaRouche case is receiving increasing coverage in the Mexican press.

Three Mexican newspapers in recent days have published the revelations of an agent of the former East German intelligence apparatus (Stasi), which confirmed that it was the Stasi which invented the slander, circulated worldwide, that LaRouche and his movement were somehow involved in the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. At least one of those newspapers also revealed that the Palme case was deliberately used by the U.S. government to lend credibility to its persecution of LaRouche.

On Sept. 26, the important Monterrey daily *El Norte* published a quarter-page photograph showing demonstrators of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSI) in front of the U.S. embassy in Mexico City, where they were protesting “against the repression in the United States of those who oppose the North American Free Trade Agreement.”