

Authorities capture drug cartel kingpin

BY MAILE MUNRO
STAFF WRITER

Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, head of the notorious Sinaloa Cartel, evaded authorities for 13 years after escaping from a high-security prison in the state of Jalisco, Mexico.

However, on the morning of Feb. 22, Guzman was captured by a team of Mexican marines and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration while sleeping at a condo in the tourist paradise city of Mazatlan.

Later that afternoon, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto took to Twitter and thanked the Federal Mexican Police along with a handful of organizations for their roles in the capture.

Since taking office, Nieto has assumed more responsibility in the joint Mexican-American efforts to ending the war on drugs. Authorities worked together to capture the man who, according to The Washington Post, supplied more illegal drugs to the U.S. than anyone else in history.

Guzman, 55, is one of the oldest drug kingpins. His commitment to creative smuggling tactics contributed to his success in running arguably the most successful drug cartel in the world.

In one respect, he's a businessman. An extremely successful businessman.

"If you take the violence out of the drug business, it's just a business," said Jerry Joplin, professor of justice & policy studies.

"He provided jobs," said Sanjay Marwah, assistant professor of justice & policy studies. "He's an employer."

His success placed him 67th on Forbes' list of the world's most powerful people — ahead of The New York Times' executive editor and the vice chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Guzman is responsible for transporting an estimated 50 percent of the illegal drugs imported into the U.S. His main hub is in Chicago, where he has been named Public Enemy No. 1.

According to the FBI's press release pertaining to the 2009 indictment of Pedro and Margarito Flores, distributors in the Sinaloa Cartel, Guzman imported between 1,500–2,000 kg. of cocaine into Chicago every month.

The New York Times reports that Guzman masterminded transportation strategies that involved catapulting bales of marijuana over border fences, building the first tunnels underneath the U.S.-Mexico border and opening a cannery that packed cocaine into cans labeled "Comodre Jalapeños."

While Guzman is currently being held in an underground cell in Mexico's Altiplano prison, U.S. authorities indicate corruption in Mexico and Guzman's escape from prison in 2001 as reasons to extradite the drug lord to one of seven districts in the U.S. that could try him.

Despite the increasing number of calls from the U.S., Guzman has yet to be extradited.

As injunctions lengthen the process, many wonder: will this single arrest make a lasting impact on the war on drugs?

Some hope that Guzman's imprisonment will begin to dismantle the Sinaloa Cartel. Others believe that, as long as demand is present, drug cartels will continue to take extraordinary risks to make a profit.

"You take down one kingpin ... there's going to be three or four others fighting to succeed and take over," said Robert Duncan, visiting assistant professor of political science.

Capitalism destroys indigenous lands



BY REBECCA DOU
STAFF WRITER

Although many people consider Western development integral to the world's progression, many tribal groups argue that some attempts at development result in driving society backwards.

Members of the Dongria Kondh tribe in India have been forced to change their way of life after the mining company, Vedanta Resources, demolished the tribe's land to extract precious minerals.

"It's crazy when these outsiders come and teach us development," said tribe member Lodu Sikaka, according to Survival International. "You have to pay to take a bath, for food and even to drink water. In our land, we don't have to buy water like you, and we can eat anywhere for free."

In addition to drastic changes in their lifestyles, many tribes face threats of starvation, obesity, AIDS and addiction. Alienated and overcome by cultural shock, their members often turn to suicide.

Over the course of one year, 56 Guarani natives committed suicide in response to ranchers seizing their land.

"The Guarani are committing suicide because we have no land," said Rosalino Ortiz of the Guarani tribe in Brazil, according to Survival International. "We don't have space anymore. In the old days, we were free. Now, we are no longer free. So, our young people look around and think there is nothing left and wonder how they can live."

While each tribe has its own unique culture and development issues, a longing



(Above) Members of the Dongria Kondh tribe protested bauxite mining at Niyamgiri Hill in India. (Below) These maps of India and Brazil illustrate where these tribal people reside.

for freedom unites tribes to encourage preservation of their rich cultures. If this freedom is taken from them, a piece of diversity will be removed from the world.

"Instead of introducing problems and seeing how we could resolve one tenth of these problems, we should be conscious of the importance of this diversity and the importance of these different ways of life," said author Oren Ginzburg in a phone interview with The Guilfordian. Ginzburg's most famous work, "There You Go!" is a satire that offers a novel approach to understanding development and its impact on indigenous peoples.

Junior Delaney Williams agrees with Ginzburg.

"I think this issue really relates to one of Guilford's core principles: diversity," said Williams. "We need to maintain individuality. Having all these types of

people brings new ideas to the table, so they can bring issues into a different light."

A potential solution to protect this diversity could be to relay the voices of these tribes through a mass-distributed medium. For example, Ginzburg's 2-minute video adaption of "There You Go!" has reached thousands of viewers on YouTube and more on the Survival International website.

Western societies must communicate with tribes in order to evaluate artificial changes before relaying tribal concerns to the broader public.

"It is not that the Yanomami do not want progress or other things that white people have," said Davi Kopenawa of the Yanomami tribe in Brazil and Venezuela, according to Survival International. "They want to be able to choose and not have change thrust upon them."