

# Matamoros drug cult linked to recent Mexico City killings

**From Associated Press reports**  
**ATIZAPAN, Mexico** — Police are investigating links between the cult gang responsible for 13 ritual killings on the U.S.-Mexico border and several slayings in Mexico City, a newspaper reported Sunday.  
 Police and residents said the gang maintained a high-security safe house in this suburb of the capital, drove luxury cars and planted a garden to spruce up the neighborhood.  
 On Friday, police raided the

suburban house and two apartments in downtown Mexico City, four days after police in Matamoros, 550 miles to the north, found 13 bodies buried on a ranch.  
 The government newspaper El Nacional said the Mexico City killings took place in the past two years, but it did not say how many people died. Police have asked the attorney general's office, which is responsible for Mexico's anti-narcotics efforts, to assist in the

investigation, the newspaper said.  
 "We are investigating everything but don't have any results yet," Alejandro Dominguez, a duty officer at the attorney general's office, told The Associated Press.  
 Officials said the group trafficked in drugs and believed the human sacrifice would protect them from police. Four men have been arrested; police in Mexico and the United States are seeking alleged ringleader Adolfo Constanzo and three others.

The house that Federal Judicial Police say belonged to Constanzo is surrounded by 10-foot walls in a middle class neighborhood 13 miles northwest of the center of Mexico City. Neighbors said Saturday that four to six young men had been living there about four months.  
 They left suddenly on April 10, said Rosa Musa. "I saw them carrying boxes out into the cars, and then they all went away."  
 The house was guarded by five

closed-circuit television cameras and a radar-controlled spotlight system that lit up the street whenever a car drove by at night. A pockmarked pistol target sat in the garage.  
 Police guarding the house said they found two marble altars inside.  
 In Matamoros, authorities found altars covered with black chicken feathers, burned turtles, cigars and other occult offerings. The bodies had been mutilated, some with their hearts or brains ripped out.

In Mexico City, police sealed off a condominium thought to belong to alleged Constanzo associate Omar Ochoa and a building where another alleged associate, Martin Quintana, reportedly lived. Ochoa and Quintana are fugitives.  
 Luis Mazon, a resident of Quintana's building, said Ochoa, Quintana and Constanzo had moved out of Quintana's apartment about eight months ago after a dispute with the building's owner.

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## Wright prepares for report

**From Associated Press reports**  
**WASHINGTON** — House Speaker Jim Wright, along with other players in the political drama unfolding around him, readied themselves Sunday for the formal curtain raising of a long-awaited ethics committee report on his finances.  
 Wright, who launched his public defense with a long presentation Thursday that was beamed via live television into millions of homes, remained out of public view Sunday.  
 But his chief understudy — House Majority Leader Tom Foley, the man who would succeed him should Wright be forced to step down — tried to keep the waters calm with a live television interview.  
 Rep. Vin Weber, R-Minn., meanwhile, characterized the pending ethics committee report as raising much more substantive questions than the kind of technical violations that he acknowledged would not be enough to force a House speaker to descend from the powerful position.  
 In fact, the likely contents of the report have been so thoroughly leaked in recent days — including Wright's own point-by-point defense of what he said he understood to be the major charges against him — that few surprises were likely.

The panel, made up of six Republicans and six Democrats, scheduled a morning news conference to issue the document.  
 The document will represent a kind of informal "indictment" accusing Wright of breaking or skirting various House rules having to do with reporting outside income the speaker and his wife received from different sources.  
 Foley, D-Wash., sought to emphasize Sunday that the report, its official status notwithstanding, would be nothing more than a list of allegations.  
 Asked on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley" whether Wright would be politically crippled even if eventually exonerated of rules violations, Foley said:  
 "No, I don't believe that, and I think we have to be terribly careful that we don't let the accusation bring about its own taint of guilt."

## Officials examine oil cleanup

**From Associated Press reports**  
**VALDEZ, Alaska** — State and federal officials dissected Exxon's cleanup plan for hundreds of miles of shoreline Sunday as an environmentally risky steam-cleaning method was tested on rocks blackened by America's worst oil spill.  
 Oil from the 10.1 million-gallon spill, mostly in the form of tar balls and mousse-like foam, threatened Homer and other ports on fish-rich Cook Inlet. In Kodiak, the nation's No. 1 fishing port, herring from a closed fishery were examined for contamination.  
 Homer residents complained of delays in placing log booms they have built to protect their town. Exxon officials say the booms are being stockpiled at nearby Port Graham to make them easier to deploy when the oil strikes.

"People here in Homer are being jerked around," said Lee McCabe, a resident who was building booms. "If the fishermen in this town fished like Exxon deploys boom, you'd never see a fish on the dock."  
 Exxon workers on Sunday tested cleanup methods on blackened rocks at Block Island, including high-pressure, hot water sprayers. The company has about 200 of the sprayers, but they have not been used previously with salt water.  
 Cold-water techniques, even those using high pressure, have little impact on micro-organisms and small marine life. But the jets of high-pressure steam upend rocks, strip away sand and gravel and kill beach life. Scientists say it takes up to two years for life to return to the sterilized shore.  
 Adm. Paul Yost, the Coast Guard commandant sent by President Bush to hasten the operations, said he believed the steam method was the only one that could cleanse the sound's shoreline.  
 Yost said Saturday it might take three weeks to get Exxon's cleanup plan completely under way.

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