

Style Event

Book your tickets now for exclusive Style events at Westfield London

TIMES ONLINE

- [NEWS](#)
[COMMENT](#)
[BUSINESS](#)
[MONEY](#)
[SPORT](#)
[LIFE & STYLE](#)
[TRAVEL](#)
[DRIVING](#)
[ARTS & ENTS](#)
[ARCHIVE](#)
[OUR PAPERS](#)
[SUBSCRIPTIONS](#)
- [UK NEWS](#)
[WORLD NEWS](#)
[POLITICS](#)
[SCIENCE](#)
[ENVIRONMENT](#)
[WEATHER](#)
[TECH & WEB](#)
[VIDEO](#)
[PHOTO GALLERIES](#)
[TOPICS](#)
[MOBILE](#)
[RSS](#)

Where am I? [Home](#) [News](#) [World News](#) **[US & Americas News](#)**

From Times Online

March 15, 2010

US consulate workers killed in Mexico drug wars



(afp)

A policeman guards the car of the murdered US consular employee

Anne Barrowclough

4 COMMENTS | RECOMMEND? (9)

The drug wars in Mexico took an ominous turn over the weekend when a US consulate employee and her husband were killed as they left a children's birthday party in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico's most violent city. Only minutes earlier gunmen also killed the Mexican husband of another member of the consular staff and wounded his two children.

While a number of US citizens have been killed in Mexico's increasingly bloody drug wars between rival cartels, it is the first time an American government employee has been killed.

President Barack Obama has expressed outrage over the killings, and Mexican President Felipe Calderon promised a swift investigation.

The three died during one of the bloodiest weekends so far in Mexico, with nearly 50 people murdered in gang violence. Another 13 people were killed in a gangland shoot-out in the Pacific resort city of Acapulco on Sunday.

RELATED LINKS

- [Drug cartel violence kills 17 in Acapulco](#)
- [Mexico's most wanted spends decade on run](#)

The US consulate employee and her husband, identified as Lesley Enriquez, 35, and Athur Redelfs, 39, were shot to death on Saturday afternoon in their car near the Santa Fe International bridge linking Ciudad Juarez with El Paso, Texas.

According to the newspaper Diario de Juarez, gunmen chased the couple's white van shortly after 2 p.m. on Saturday, shooting at the vehicle until it swerved out of control, crashing into oncoming traffic near the bridge.

Ms Enriquez, who was four months pregnant with the couple's second child, was shot in the head, while her husband was shot in his neck and arm. When police officers arrived at the victims' bullet-riddled Toyota van, they discovered the couple's baby daughter crying disconsolately in the back seat, Diario de Juarez reported. At first the officers thought the seven-month-old girl had been wounded, but she was unharmed.

"This is shocking to everyone," Reuben Redelfs, the brother of the victim, told the Washington Post. "People need to know what's going on down here. It's become a war zone It's just horrible what's happening."

At approximately the same time, the third victim, Jorge Alberto Salcido Cenicerros, 37, was killed as he travelled in another part of Juarez. The gunmen boxed in the man's car, shot him and wounded his two children, aged four and seven, according to media reports.

The attacks occurred as the US State Department was taking the unusual step of authorizing U.S. government employees at Ciudad Juarez and five other American consulates in northern Mexico to send their families out of the region because of concerns over the increasing bloodshed. That announcement



Alpha females seem closer to the alpha male than to the ordinary woman in gender
Minette Marrin

[MY PROFILE](#) | [SHOP](#) | [JOBS](#) | [PROPERTY](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#)

[MOST READ](#) | [MOST COMMENTED](#) | [MOST CURIOUS](#)

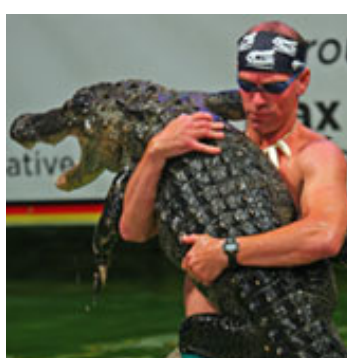
TODAY

- David Beckham to miss World Cup with...
- The world's 12 sexiest cities
- British pair face jail for kissing in Dubai...
- Pressure on Labour over cost of poll promises

TIMES RECOMMENDS

- The lives of the Lehman ladies
- The training school for teenage Taleban
- The art of survival in Haiti

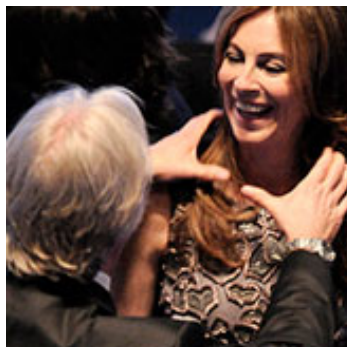
ALLIGATOR WRESTLING



Action from world alligator wrestling championships

[Slide Show](#)

BEST OF THE OSCARS



The gags, the gongs, the glitz

[Slide Show](#)

CHILE



Earthquake and tsunami kill more than 700

[Slide Show](#)

FALKLANDS DISPUTE



Photographs by The Times' Ben Gurr as fresh diplomatic dispute emerges

[Slide Show](#)

"Click here to find out what the home-buyer tax credit means to you!"

Start the Conversation...with RE/MAX®

remax.com®

Each RE/MAX® office is independently owned and operated.

FOCUS ZONE

More reports:

Enjoy further reading from Travel to Fashion, Business to Sport, discover more



[Need to Know](#)
[Winter Sports](#)

[Mapping Business](#)
[Visit Las Vegas](#)
[More reports](#)

Business city guides

Overseas contacts and local business information



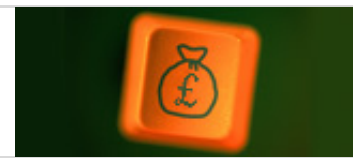
Free Credit Advice

Credit crunched? Our Credit Clinic has advice



Find an IFA

Find a local independent financial advisor



Crossword Club

Sign up today or try one of our free demo crosswords



Free CV Review

Sell yourself! Have your CV reviewed by experts



FINANCIAL BROCHURES

Get free guides to saving and investing

- Saving for your child
- Online trading
- Wine Investing
- Save for Retirement
- ISA Guides
- Investment Trusts

Find a Lawyer

Cut your legal costs



POPULAR SEARCHES ON TIMES ONLINE

concerns over the increasingly bloodshed. That announcement was in the works before the murders, officials said.

Mr Obama was "deeply saddened and outraged" by the killings, the White House said.

"He extends his condolences to the families and condemns these attacks on consular and diplomatic personnel serving at our foreign missions," a White House statement said. "In concert with Mexican authorities, we will work tirelessly to bring their killers to justice."

Mr Calderon's office said the Mexican president "expresses his indignation" and "his sincerest condolences to the families of the victims." He "reiterated the Mexican government's unwavering compromise to resolve these grave crimes."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton extended her sympathy to the families of the victims and said Washington would continue to work with the Mexican government to bring drug traffickers to justice.

"These appalling assaults on members of our own State Department family are, sadly, part of a growing tragedy besetting many communities in Mexico," said Mrs Clinton. Washington was committed to: "work closely with the government of President Calderon to cripple the influence of trafficking organizations at work in Mexico," she said.

Ciudad Juarez a city of 1.3 million people just across the US border from El Paso, is at the epicentre of the drug wars that have devastated Mexico over recent years. In the last three years alone, 15,000 people have been murdered, many of them in turf wars between rival drug gangs.

At least 18,000 people have been killed in Mexico since December 2006, when Mexican President Felipe Calderon deployed the army to battle increasingly powerful traffickers.

PRINT EMAIL SHARE

YOUR COMMENTS

4 Comments (Displaying 1-4)

Order By: [Newest first](#) | [Oldest first](#) | [Most recommended](#)

John Durham wrote:

In response to Ms Clinton's kind offer to mediate between the UK and Argentina maybe it would be appropriate to send some-one of equal political standing to mediate between the US and Mexico?

March 15, 2010 6:34 AM GMT
RECOMMEND? (12)

sal tahir wrote:

Does this mean we should expect the War on Terror to extend to Mexico? They do have plenty of oil!

March 15, 2010 5:57 AM GMT
RECOMMEND? (15)

William Kent wrote:

If I were the President I'd bring the Troops home from protecting the DMZ in South Korea (they have no function there except as a tripwire i.e. that their slaughter by any invading North Koreans will guarantee a major US response) and deploy them along the border with Mexico. In fact I'd bring home the forces from Okinawa and Germany (and elsewhere too) that serve no purpose whatsoever and deploy them along the US/Mexico border. The way things are going, one of these days the US/Mexico Border may well disappear in a hail of gunfire. Successive US Presidents (including the present one) have paid lip service to the problem and then simply ignored it; so, like a festering wound it has gotten worse and worse over the last few decades and now may be reaching 'critical mass'. Obama can get his pals in Argentina to come and tell the Mexican Drug Cartels (that basically run the whole country actually) to behave a bit better maybe?

March 15, 2010 4:02 AM GMT
RECOMMEND? (17)

Damon Meek wrote:

I live about 3 miles from the border and work close to the border I hear gun fire every day from across the border. we have had many kidnapings and home invasions here in south Texas. We need the army here on the border. I have seen a lot of Mexican air fly overs. the national news is not covering all of what goes on here on the border in Texas

March 15, 2010 3:31 AM GMT
RECOMMEND? (36)

HAVE YOUR SAY

Would you like to post a comment? Please register or log in

Login | [REGISTER](#)

Live Show

FALKLANDS



Full coverage of the unfolding dispute over the Falklands

How a gift horse revved Falklands race
Windy, raining and so British
Tension rising in the Atlantic
Leader: troubled waters
Revitalised since 1982
Oil? maybe. But hard to use

SIGN UP



Free news bulletin direct to your inbox

[2010 movies](#) | [books](#) | [crosswords](#) | [eureka](#) | [fashion](#) | [formula 1](#) | [helping haiti](#) | [mortgages](#) | [movie trailers](#) | [obituaries](#) | [pensions](#) | [property](#) | [recipes](#) | [redundancy calculator](#) | [savings](#) | [sudoku](#) | [twitter](#) | [university guide](#) | [weather](#) | [wine](#)

Shortcuts to help you find sections and articles

CLASSIFIEDS

CARS JOBS
PROPERTY TRAVEL

PROPERTIES

Oahu - Honolulu, Hawaii, United States
Enjoy an exquisite location at the foot of Diamond Head in a traditional Hawaiian beach house lifestyle.
£6,593,400 GBP

Bridges Wharf, Battersea
Award-winning riverside development, SW11. Luxury apartments for sale from £350,000.

Mayfield Grange, Sussex
Find out more about our luxurious apartments and houses for sale in the heart of Sussex.

It's in your hands!
-30% off key ready properties in Cyprus with guaranteed fast and easy finance. Prices from 89,000 Euros!

Search for more properties

Place your advert now

Search Ad Reference:

[SEARCH](#)



Submit

Terms and conditions

Ads by Google

SAP CRM Solution

Learn To Balance Today's Needs With Future Imperatives. Visit SAP.
www.SAP.com

Free WSJ.com Registration

The Wall Street Journal Online. Free Registration. Sign Up Now.
www.wsjregistration.com

Local Jobs (Hiring Now)

Positions open in your area. Hiring immediately - Apply Here.
Hiring.JobsWire.com

ALSO IN US & AMERICAS NEWS

- US consulate workers killed in Mexico drug wars
- Further Lehman's revelations blocked by Barclays
- US alligator wrestling body hopes to make a killing with blood, gore and guts

ALSO IN WORLD NEWS

- Acknowledging Aborigines as traditional owners of Australia is 'tokenism' says Tony Abbott
- Thai soldiers injured in grenade attacks on military base

Where am I? Home News World News **US & Americas News**

CONTACT US | BACK TO TOP

NEWS | COMMENT | BUSINESS | MONEY | SPORT | LIFE & STYLE | TRAVEL | DRIVING | ARTS & ENTS | ARCHIVE

SEARCH

Times Online

Contact our advertising team for advertising and sponsorship in Times Online, The Times and The Sunday Times, or place your advertisement.

Times Online Services: Dating | Jobs | Property Search | Used Cars | Holidays | Births, Marriages, Deaths | Subscriptions | E-paper
News International associated websites: Milkround

Copyright 2010 Times Newspapers Ltd. This service is provided on Times Newspapers' standard Terms and Conditions. Please read our Privacy Policy. To inquire about a licence to reproduce material from Times Online, The Times or The Sunday Times, click here. This website is published by a member of the News International Group. News International Limited, 1 Virginia St, London E98 1XY, is the holding company for the News International group and is registered in England No 81701. VAT number GB 243 8054 69.

