THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. EDT

MEMORANDUM FOR
MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

FROM: Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Interagency Briefing on the Laredo Attacks

The attacks. Armed groups attacked two federal facilities in Laredo, Texas, late on October 15 while cartel gunmen attacked Mexican forces in Nuevo Laredo. U.S. authorities report 29 victims killed, including 12 federal personnel, and 67 wounded. Six attackers were also killed. Both American facilities are secured; no continuing occupation of U.S. territory has been identified.

Seven Americans, including three federal personnel, remain missing. An apparent hostage video remains unverified. Border crossings serving Laredo are closed, suspending commercial traffic.

Current assessment. The FBI and intelligence community assess with high confidence that the Sierra Norte Cartel organized the attacks following a senior leader's arrest in a joint U.S.-Mexican investigation. A statement attributed to the cartel demands his release and threatens further attacks unless both governments suspend operations against it.

Mexican authorities report disrupted policing and municipal government in the affected border region. Federal forces remain deployed, but several local officials have abandoned their posts. Investigators report that some local officials assisted the cartel; they have not established federal government involvement or the full extent of official complicity.

American response. The President has reinforced the U.S. side of the border and seeks congressional authorization for military operations inside Mexico: recovering hostages, dismantling Sierra Norte facilities, and temporarily securing and administering areas where local government cannot operate.

Mexican proposal. Mexico has communicated a proposal for an immediate 72-hour joint response: Mexican-led operations, vetted investigative units, American intelligence and equipment, and a joint search for the missing Americans. It offers continuous reporting on searches, arrests, and action against cartel leadership. The earlier joint investigation produced the cartel leader's arrest. Mexico warns that unilateral intervention would jeopardize existing cooperation.

The President requests prompt congressional action.

PRESS STATEMENT

Communiqué No. 047/2026

Mexico City | October 16, 2026 | 7:30 a.m. CST

Statement on the Attacks in Laredo and Nuevo Laredo

The Government of Mexico condemns the attacks against the people of the United States and Mexico. We extend our condolences to the families of those killed and commit our government to locating the missing, protecting civilians, and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Mexican soldiers, police officers, and civilians were also killed. These attacks were carried out by a criminal organization facing pressure from both governments. The arrest that preceded them resulted from Mexican-American cooperation. The detained cartel leader will remain in custody. Mexico will not negotiate his release.

Mexico is reinforcing federal security operations in the affected region and has invited the United States to establish a joint investigative team. We will share evidence, coordinate the search for missing Americans, and conduct Mexican-led operations against identified suspects and locations. We are prepared to accept agreed American intelligence and technical assistance.

We recognize that corruption within local institutions may have assisted the attackers. Any official implicated by credible evidence will be investigated. The joint team will also receive American evidence concerning federal officials.

We urge Congress to support this joint response and respect Mexican sovereignty.

Unilateral military action would place civilians and any surviving hostages at risk. It would also compel Mexico to reconsider the arrangements that permit American security personnel to operate here. We cannot guarantee continued intelligence access and joint operations while foreign forces conduct unauthorized attacks on Mexican territory.

We propose immediate agreement on a joint plan for the next 72 hours, with continuous reporting to both governments on the search for missing persons, arrests, and action against cartel leadership.

We call on the United States to confront this organization alongside Mexico and to preserve the cooperation that made the initial arrest possible.

TRUTH SOCIAL

Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Twenty-nine people DEAD on American soil, seven Americans still missing, and these cartel thugs think they can attack our Country and hide on the other side of the Border. They have made a VERY BIG MISTAKE!

Mexico says they have a plan. Good! Then show us RESULTS. Their people were attacked too. We need our missing Americans HOME, these killers brought to justice, and the cartel operation taken apart. We are not going to spend months talking while they threaten to do it AGAIN.

Congress must act NOW and give our incredible Military the authority it needs. No endless hearings, no weak excuses, and no more speeches about how complicated everything is. The families in Texas deserve ACTION!

I want legislation on my desk FAST. Every Senator and every Representative should be working on this TODAY. We will defend our people, defend our Border, and make these criminals regret the day they came after the United States of America. MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN!

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