

since it is unlikely to restore order in the context of economic problems, and in southern Mexico, ethnic tension.

D) By far the most serious strategic issue in Mexico is the involvement of the Mexican military, at the request of the US government, in the fight against narcotrafficking.

E) The central problems associated with this revolve around corruption. Narcotraffickers can always pay the military more than they legitimately earn. In effect, the narcotraffickers buy off the Mexican military - from top to bottom - so that they cannot be relied upon to act in the expressed interests of the Mexican Government, or as reliable cohorts of the US.

F) Thus, the involvement of the Mexican military in the struggle against narcotrafficking has exacerbated the security crisis in Mexico by undermining the accountability of the Mexican army. This also weakens any trend toward democracy in the country, which also exacerbates the Mexican crisis.

G) Narcotrafficking - worth perhaps \$30 billion (US) annually to Mexico in profits alone - is a central contributing factor the human rights abuses in Mexico, since it essentially rests on the use of force outside the purview of legitimate legal structures.