



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

September 21, 2022

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
1:30pm O'CLOCK

The Honorable John B. Scott
Secretary of State
State Capitol Room 1E.8
Austin, Texas 78701

SEP 21 2022

Secretary of State

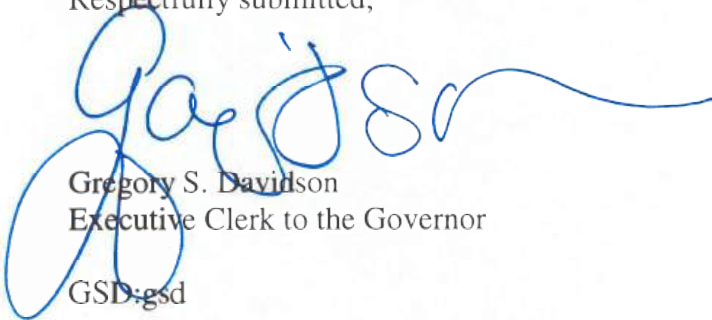
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Pursuant to his powers as Governor of the State of Texas, Greg Abbott has issued the following:

Executive Order No. GA-42 relating to designation of Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

The original executive order is attached to this letter of transmittal.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory S. Davidson
Executive Clerk to the Governor
GSD:gsd

Attachment

Executive Order

BY THE
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Executive Department
Austin, Texas
September 21, 2022

EXECUTIVE ORDER
GA 42

Relating to designation of Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

WHEREAS, Mexican drug cartels are responsible for trafficking hundreds of millions of lethal doses of fentanyl into Texas and the United States; and

WHEREAS, over 1,600 Texans were fatally poisoned by drugs containing fentanyl in 2021, representing an increase of more than 680 percent since 2018, and fentanyl's death toll continues to rise in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Mexican drug cartels also smuggle humans across the Texas-Mexico border and subject them to sexual assault, human trafficking, assault, extortion, and other dehumanizing, violent, and heinous acts; and

WHEREAS, deadly violence is associated with the Mexican drug cartels, who are fighting for the territory needed to expand their influence in the United States; and

WHEREAS, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, issued a disaster proclamation on May 31, 2021, which has been amended and renewed in each subsequent month effective through today, certifying under Section 418.014 of the Texas Government Code that the surge of individuals unlawfully crossing the Texas-Mexico border posed an ongoing and imminent threat of disaster for a number of Texas counties and for all state agencies affected by this disaster; and

WHEREAS, through Operation Lone Star, I have deployed thousands of brave men and women from the Texas National Guard and the Texas Department of Public Safety to secure the border, and they have seized over 336 million lethal doses of fentanyl trafficked through Texas since March 2021; and

WHEREAS, the head of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration has declared that "[f]entanyl is the single deadliest drug threat our nation has ever encountered," and that the "[f]entanyl available in the United States is primarily supplied by two criminal drug networks, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel"; and

WHEREAS, even though President Biden has declared a national emergency due to "trafficking into the United States of illicit drugs, including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids," his Administration still has not designated the Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1189; and

WHEREAS, designating the Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations will target them for enhanced apprehension, prosecution, and disruption, while heightening awareness of their deadly activities for our citizens and the international community;

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, do hereby designate as foreign terrorist organizations the Sinaloa Cartel, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, and any similarly situated Mexican drug cartels who may be identified in subsequent proclamations.

I further order that the Texas Department of Public Safety shall do the following:

- Order No. 1 Establish a Mexican Cartel Division within the Texas Fusion Center to collect and analyze intelligence that will enable further apprehension, prosecution, and disruption of these foreign terrorist organizations.
- Order No. 2 Identify, arrest, and impede the gangs in Texas that support the drug and human smuggling operations of these foreign terrorist organizations.
- Order No. 3 Conduct multi-jurisdictional investigations of foreign terrorist organizations operating in Texas to support criminal prosecutions here and in other States.
- Order No. 4 Conduct multi-jurisdictional investigations of transnational and Texas-based gangs that support the smuggling operations of foreign terrorist organizations.
- Order No. 5 Target, seize, and dismantle the infrastructure, assets, vehicles, and buildings used by foreign terrorist organizations to smuggle drugs and people into and throughout Texas.
- Order No. 6 Enhance southbound criminal interdiction operations resulting in the seizure of bulk cash and other assets being smuggled into Mexico.
- Order No. 7 Intensify efforts under Operation Lone Star focused on detecting and interdicting transnational criminal activity between the ports of entry.

This executive order shall remain in effect and in full force unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the governor. This executive order may also be amended by proclamation of the governor.



Given under my hand this the
21st day of September, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

GREG ABBOTT
Governor

ATTESTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Scott".

JOHN B. SCOTT
Secretary of State

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