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## **Mexico: Alleged Drug Trafficker "godfather" Arrested**

*by John Neagle*

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On April 9, Mexican federal anti-narcotics authorities conducted a surprise raid in Guadalajara, and arrested alleged Mexican "godfather" Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo. Felix Gallardo is suspected of being the Colombian Medellin cartel's main link to ship cocaine through Mexico to the US. A statement released by the Attorney General's office said the agents surprised Felix Gallardo in a family home, and did not have to fire a single shot. According to the statement, a number of automatic weapons were found in the house. US Drug Enforcement Administration officials had long believed Felix Gallardo was being protected by top-level Mexican policemen or officials. Later on Monday, Mexican Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo told reporters that in addition to Felix Gallardo and three aides, the weekend sweep also captured the top federal anti-drug official in Sinaloa, Felix Gallardo's home state, and five other high-level police officials. Alvarez said Felix Gallardo was "the No. 1 drug trafficker in Mexico. The attorney general stated that the drug kingpin disapproved of the 1985 killing of US drug Enrique Camarena Salazar, but that Felix Gallardo was the "intellectual author" of the organization that killed Carmarena. While Federal Judicial Police were seizing Felix Gallardo in the western state of Jalisco, soldiers arrested every policeman on the force in his hometown of Culiacan, capital of Sinaloa. Alvarez said federal authorities did not trust the police in Sinaloa and wanted to avert a shootout. Most of the officers were soon released. Felix Gallardo's arrest came a few days before the US Congress has to vote on Bush's recommendation to certify Mexico as cooperating in anti-drug efforts. (Basic data from Copley News Service, AP, 04/10/89)

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