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SUBJECT: Mexico Supreme Court rules marijuana prohibition unconstitutional

SUPREME COURT RULING COULD REDUCE ILLICIT DRUG TRADE

Mexico Supreme Court rules marijuana prohibition unconstitutional, possibly reducing the profitability of illicit trade.

On Monday, June 28th, the Mexican Supreme Court declared the prohibition of recreational marijuana unconstitutional in an 8-3 ruling, opening a pathway to legalization.¹ The potential legislation would allow users over 18 to possess up to 28 grams and collectively grow and share marijuana.² In 2016, Marijuana accounted for 17.6% of drug trafficking offenses in the U.S.³ Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations deal in marijuana, among other drugs such as cocaine and fentanyl, perpetrating acts of violence that constitute a significant threat to U.S. and Mexican security.⁴

The bill now awaits Mexican Senate approval. Signing the bill into law will make Mexico only the third country in the world, after Uruguay and Canada, to fully legalize the consumption and production of marijuana⁵. Approval of the bill will give Mexico complete control of the largest legal marijuana market⁶, creating a loss for U.S. economic

¹ Westfall, Sammy. "Mexico's Top Court Rolls Back Marijuana Prohibition, Opening Door to Legalization." The Washington Post. WP Company, June 29, 2021.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/06/29/marijuana-legalization-court-ruling-mexico/>.

*Washington Post is a left leaning U.S. news publication

² Westfall, Sammy.

³ Thomas, Scot, and Lauren Villa. "Drug Trafficking Statistics In the United States." DrugAbuse.com, February 24, 2021. <https://drugabuse.com/statistics-data/drug-trafficking/>.

*Drug Abuse.com is a subsidiary of American Addiction Centers which provides addiction treatment services.

⁴ Beittel, June S. "Mexico: Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking Organizations." Fas.org. Congressional Research Service, July 28, 2020. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R41576>.

*CRS is a research institute of the U.S. congress

⁵ Felbab-Brown, Vanda. "Mexico's Cannabis Legalization, and Comparisons with Colombia, Lebanon, and Canada." Brookings. Brookings, March 30, 2021. <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2021/03/30/mexicos-cannabis-legalization-and-comparisons-with-colombia-lebanon-and-canada/>. *The Brookings Institute is a public policy organization.

⁶ Oré, Diego. "Mexico's Congress Approves Landmark Cannabis Bill." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, March 10, 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-marijuana/mexicos-congress-approves->

opportunities and the potential risk for further expansion of underground Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations. Current U.S. legalization efforts of recreational and/or medicinal marijuana have resulted in a 30 percent decrease in Mexican marijuana production and a substantial drop in profits for Mexican marijuana growers⁷, indicating that U.S. marijuana legalization efforts have negatively impacted Mexican Drug Trafficking organizations.

landmark-cannabis-bill-idUSKBN2B22UT. *Reuters is an international news organization

⁷ Mathis, George. "U.S. Marijuana Smoking Mexican Exports." ajc. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, December 2, 2014. <https://www.ajc.com/blog/news-to-me/marijuana-smoking-mexican-exports/q7fTLdJB6uk6dLzLmcy9iM/>. *TheAtlanta Journal is a daily newspaper out of Atlanta, Georgia