

# United States of America Policies in Managing Treats of Drugs from Mexico (2017-2019)

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## Abstract

*Drugs has become a trend among the US – Mexico citizens that resulted imbalance in the national security of each country especially in the border area between US – Mexico. In this study, author use the national interest theory with the concept of national security and Transnational Organized Crime. By using descriptive qualitative research, this study aims to determine the efficiency of US policies that were continued by President Donald Trump. Even though the relationship between Mexico and the US is going-well and President Donald Trump is taking serious way for handling drug abuse in the US, unfortunately, the large sense of dependence from US citizen on drugs makes the policies that have been implemented inefficient. In addition, President Donald Trump's policy can also have other impacts, such as an increase in the number of illegal immigrants entering the US through the border wall and an increasing number of the availability of several types of drugs such as heroin and marijuana in some states.*

**Keyword :** *Drugs, Drug Trafficking, Drug Abuse, Mexico Cartel*

## 1. Introduction

The development of the times or better known as globalization, which can be interpreted as a phenomenon of abuse of new elements in the form of lifestyle, information, thought and technology that occurs thoroughly and globally without recognizing the boundaries of a country's territory. Globalization is also growing after the Cold War which was marked by the progress of infrastructure, telecommunications, transportation and also the emergence of the internet. The

presence of globalization has not only changed the progress of infrastructure and technology, but has also led to a universal paradigm shift that not only addresses conventional (traditional) issues such as military power and large-scale wars, but also global issues or what is also known as non-conventional issues that are no longer based on high interdependence between world countries (Mauna, 2005). Ken Booth began to include issues regarding the role of international organizations or Non-Government

Organizations (NGOs), the environment, terrorism, democracy, public policy to the gaps between countries (Hermawan, 2007).

According to John T. Rourke (2005) states that non-conventional issues are a form of real concern and must be developed to be able to preserve and strengthen universal human togetherness. Non-conventional issues have been considered as global issues that give rise to various new aspects in various aspects such as economic, political, social and information technology aspects. Non-conventional issues have existed since 1948, which were stated through the draft General Declaration on Human Rights established by the United Nations General Assembly (Rourke, 2005). At this stage, non-conventional issues have become a form of threat to a country both in terms of its national security and the national interest of the country so that conflicts that occur are not only focused on the use of military force. Non-conventional issues are considered as domestic problems which are the responsibility of law enforcement in the

country, one of the most crucial threats is transnational crime<sup>1</sup>, such as: *drugs trafficking, slavery, human trafficking and piracy*.

*Drugs trafficking not only endangers the stability of the country's national security, but can also be the main cause of the destruction of the nation's generation. Basically drugs<sup>2</sup> can be used as drugs or materials that can be consumed by humans. However, excessive drug use and misuse of its use can cause disturbances to the central nervous system to the organs of the human body that consume it. According to global statistics, at least 275 million people in the world aged 15-64 years have used drugs during 2016 and around 31 million of them have become active drug users which require special treatment. Not only that, according to global statistics, there are at least 13.8 million teenagers aged 15-16 years who have used marijuana (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2018). High excessive rate of drug use, it is not surprising that the death rate caused by drug poisoning is getting higher*

<sup>1</sup> *Transnational Crime is an organized crime which is carried out across the borders of a country. These crimes will usually involve groups or networks that work in more than one country to plan and carry out illegal business. Transnational crimes are basically carried out with definite steps (organized) and make money as the main orientation.*

<sup>2</sup> *Drugs are a substance or active ingredient that can generally be consumed by humans which can also affect the function of the brain and nerve centers in humans. Scientifically, drugs can be interpreted as drugs or materials that can be entered and consumed by humans.*

every year.

According to a 2015 World Health Organization report, an estimated 450,000 people have died due to excessive drug use, of which around 167,750 people died from overdose (Rourke, 2005). In the high number of drug use abuse in the world and the development of the globalization process, of course, it has created a free trade system and expanded networks and communication, which in the end is used by people who are still unable to meet their economic needs by looking for sources of illegal income by distributing drugs either directly or indirectly. or through illegal sites in a region or country, especially in the US, which has known drugs since the 18th century. The first drug that entered the US was morphine, which came from immigrants from China who worked for the construction of railroads. The presence of morphine was eventually developed by doctors which can be used as painkillers both during war and after surgery. Furthermore, during the industrial revolution, the US was again introduced to a new type of drug, namely opium from European workers (Simanungkalit, 2011).

Increasing demand for the use of opium and morphine used as an alternative

to relieve pain has led the US medical community to develop a new type of drug in 1884 called cocaine. As a new type of drug which is a combination of morphine and opium, of course, cocaine has many benefits that can help reduce fever, relieve toothache and relieve excessive cold (Simanungkalit, 2011). With these advantages, the US society makes it the most needed and sought after drug by the public. In the end, the use of these drugs was misused by the public, starting from members of the politicians to the middle class to the upper class. By seeing these opportunities, it has opened its own opportunities for certain individuals. The US, which was originally only a transit point for drug trafficking transactions, has turned into the largest major market for drug trafficking and abuse. Until 1970, drugs had been a serious problem in the United States.

According to a report from the National Drug Threat Assessment (NDTA) in 2018, there were at least 63,632 US residents died due to drug overdoses in 2016, which was an increase of 21% from the previous year. The US has considered drugs as the main enemy for the security of its country because the resulting effects can

damage the health and quality of life of individuals and other community groups. Abuse of drug use by individuals or certain groups can cause crime, crime and violence to occur among US society. These actions were not only carried out by community groups but also by cartels (TOC)<sup>3</sup> and also *street gang*<sup>4</sup> who fight each other for territory to be able to operate their business. In addition to territorial disputes, cartels and street gangs who trade drugs also commit other crimes such as theft and murder. Of course this will pose a threat that has an impact on the security situation of the US and Mexico.

Mexico is one of the countries that plays a role not only as a producer but also as a distributor for the trade of illegal drugs to the US. The increasing number of drug users in the US has pushed Mexico into the traffic of illegal drug trafficking since the 18th century and further expanded its wings in this business in 1980-1990 when the leader of Colombia's largest cartel, the Cali Cartel, offered to cooperate in distributing drugs. types of cocaine in order to enter the

US market (Simanungkalit, 2011).

The Mexican Cartel (Mexican TOC) is the largest cartel involved in drug trafficking, marketing and controlling drug trafficking to the US through various channels, especially through the southwestern border (SWB). Mexican cartels do not only work alone because they also work with cartels from other countries, transnational gangs, street gangs from the US, convicts to money laundering organizations in Asia. Mexican cartels can export large quantities of drugs, especially heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana to the United States each year.

As two countries that directly border and have cooperative relations through NAFTA, this issue has become the center of attention for various forms of trade activity. With the ease of export and import processes between the US - Mexico, of course, it can threaten US security and have a negative impact on its national security, but also the condition of the US economy. This has ultimately prompted the

<sup>3</sup> Is a group of people who commit crimes and violence which also includes prisoners. Street gangs dominate a country's national market to be able to sell and distribute illegal drugs. Street gangs also usually cooperate with big cartels in order to increase competitiveness with other street gangs.

<sup>4</sup> Is a group of individuals who gather to achieve

their goals, this group usually also consists of prisoners and people who commit crimes. Until now, street gangs are still the dominant group as distributors who trade drugs in the local environment. To be able to achieve their goals, they will often establish good relations with drug cartels, especially Mexican cartels

US Government to form policies based on state, survival and self-help (power). The policies that have been formed by the US to be able to tackle drug abuse originating from Mexico have been carried out for a long time, starting with the formation of a border patrol team that can secure and control security in the US-Mexico border area. (Department of Homeland Security, 2021). Based on the background that the author has described above, it can be seen that transnational crimes such as drug trafficking continue to grow, especially with the current flow of globalization which has developed technology and facilitated information networks. Although on the other hand drug trafficking can increase the GDP of a country, on the other hand it also has a negative impact that can harm the country, one of which is the productivity of the nation's next generation.

Based on the description of the background, the author formulates the main problem in this study is "How was President Donald Trump's policy in tackling drug abuse from Mexico in 2017 - 2019?"

In conducting research, of course, requires a guideline in order to produce a goal that can provide an objective picture of

a particular phenomenon. Likewise, this research has several objectives, namely:

1. To explain the dynamics of transnational crime, especially drug trafficking that occur in the United States.
2. To find out the steps that have been implemented by the United States, especially President Donald Trump during his administration to be able to tackle drug abuse in the United States.

## **2. Literature Review and Analytical Framework**

### **2.1 National Security**

The national interest is an action that is owned by the state to be able to achieve a goal which is also considered a reflection of a state in the social environment because by achieving this goal, the state will not feel a moral burden (Morgenthau, 1990). Even though a country has tried its best to be able to achieve its desired goals, it does not rule out the possibility that this can go in the opposite direction as desired. Basically the national interest can run according to or not based on the control of the international government (Morgenthau, 1990). To be able to fulfill these goals, a country will cooperate with other countries and

international organizations related to its wishes, not only that, the state can also form a new policy to suit the objectives to be achieved.

Security is one of the vital concepts in the national interest which is often debated (Morgenthau, 1990). This is because many experts have not been able to succeed in compiling a general definition which can be mutually agreed upon because it shows a variety of different points of view and often contradicts the main focus of the security study itself. According to Buzan in his article, saying that security is a debatable matter because the conceptions generated from one individual to another must be different which states that the word 'safe' is relative to several parties. In other words, it will also give different meanings to different actors (Buzan, People, States and Fear, 1991). Until now, the opinions given by many experts have only succeeded in reaching one common understanding, namely 'security implies freedom from threats to certain values for individuals and groups'.

In 1990, the United Nations has built and developed the concept of human security, which according to the United

Nations Development Program (UNDP) is "The concept of security must change from an exclusive stress on national security to a much greater stress on people's security, from security through armaments to security through human development, from territorial to food, employment and environmental security". Human Development Report (HDR) of UNDP made seven dimensions of security, namely; economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, individual security, community security and political security.

The concept of security is no longer only focused on state security, security also includes human security (Buzan, People, States and Fear, 1991). Threats to security are no longer perceived as only coming from abroad, but can also come from within the country. The form of threats that come from within the country can be in the form of rebellions, acts of terror, natural disasters, poverty, ignorance, backwardness, and so on. In this study, the national security threat faced by the United States is the threat that comes from transnational crime that has crossed its national boundaries, namely drug trafficking which also threatens the security

and welfare of the US community.

From the explanation above, basically a country cannot be separated from two main objectives, namely; power and the welfare of the people contained in the form of the economy. Power is one of the main goals in the national interest of a country because basically the decisions formed are the role of the decision makers, in this case the government (Nye, 2004). In addition, power is also a determining factor in the position of a country in relation to other countries and international organizations, for example in terms of military security. As one of the important elements in the national interest, it is the strength of the weapons owned by the country that can make the country have power in its bilateral and multilateral relations so that the country can maintain the security and political stability of the country. In addition to power, of course, every country wants the progress and development of its country which requires economic strength. Having stability and strength in the economy can make a country improve the welfare of its people, both individually and in groups. Not only that, a stable and strong economy will also help a country to be able to compete to maintain

its existence in the international world, especially in the international market.

## **2.2 Transnational Organized Crime**

Transnational crime is an act of violating the law which is not only in the form of civil law but also criminal law where a case occurs across the borders of a country. The concept of transnational crime is seen from its actions that are carried out across the national boundaries of a country and the concept of transnational crime was first introduced internationally around the 1990s as stated in "The Eight United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Threatment of Offenders" (Madsen, 2019). At first, transnational crime had developed with the term organized crime. After that in 1995, the United Nations has identified the types of transnational crimes, namely; money laundering, terrorism, theft of artistic and cultural property, intellectual property theft, illicit arms trafficking, aircraft hijacking, sea piracy, insurance fraud, computer crime, environmental crime, human organ trafficking, human trafficking, fraud, bankruptcy, corruption, business infiltration, bribery of public officials and certain parties and drug trafficking (UNODC, Transnational

Organized Crime – The Globalized Illegal Economy).

According to the Palermo Convention, transnational organized crime (TOC) is a transnational crime committed by a group consisting of three or more people in a structured manner and acts in an orderly manner in order to achieve a goal of committing one or more crimes. This is done in order to gain both financial and other material benefits, this action is also carried out beyond national boundaries. In addition, Muhammad Irvan Olii also said that transnational organized crime (TOC) is a form of industry that is carried out in a clearly structured manner with the division of labor with activities that are not only carried out domestically but also in a regional to international scale. it aims to gain profit and violate the law (Olii, 2002). Through this concept, it can be seen that the trafficking and distribution of drugs in the US occurs due to the emergence of the need for drugs for some groups of society which in turn opens up opportunities for Mexican drug cartels which are included in organized crime to meet the needs for drugs in the US.

### **3. Methods**

This paper used a descriptive qualitative research method which is also known as the new method because it is based on the philosophy of post-positivism (Sugiyono, 2015). This paper described a phenomenon using words so that it can describe the phenomenon properly and completely, both in terms of social elements and elements of relationships contained in the research. This paper used a library method derived from books, journals, articles and news (Moleong, 2011).

### **4. Results and Discussion**

#### **4.1 Drug Trafficking in the Us – Mexico Border**

The 18th century was the first time the US recognized morphine as a type of drug introduced by immigrants from China. The presence of morphine is also used by US doctors as a drug that can relieve pain. Morphine is very popular among doctors and soldiers of war. After that, the US was introduced to opium from European immigrants. By looking at the benefits provided by these two types of drugs are very beneficial for the world of health, the demand for morphine and opium is increasing. As one way to provide maximum service, the US medical community in the end made a renewal by combining morphine and opium. This research was fruitful and in 1884, appeared a new type of drug called cocaine. The



benefits provided by cocaine itself are more than its predecessors, such as; can relieve pain, reduce fever, relieve toothache to cure excessive cold (Simanungkalit, 2011).

In 1970, drug abuse has been used by government officials, members of politicians to the public from the middle to high class. Due to this, a separate business opportunity arose for certain individuals. This drug trade business was developed by Mexico which was marked by the emergence of drug cartels from Mexico who sold and expanded drug trafficking in the US.

The relentless use of drugs in the US has created a sense of concern for the US public and the US government. In fact, according to the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), the use of cocaine-type drugs in the US has reached its highest peak in 1982 when at least 10 million Americans, including young people, use and abuse cocaine. And in that year too, cocaine became one of the most popular types of drugs in the US and eventually gave rise to a new type of cocaine, namely powdered cocaine (The History of Drug Use in The United States, 2020). This powdered cocaine has also taken the public's attention and has become a drug

that is also in demand by the public, this is also because the price is much cheaper than cocaine with the tablet type. Most of the powdered cocaine is consumed by workers as well as the community and lower middle class groups. The rise of powdered cocaine poses an additional threat to US peace and national security. Based on a survey conducted by Gallup in 1986, showed that 46% of the US community considers that powdered cocaine is a new threat to society, especially among US teenagers.

The US society's dependence on the benefits of drugs has made the US the most strategic market to be able to trade drugs, especially those from Mexican drug cartels. Since experiencing economic fluctuations that affect high unemployment rates and difficulty finding jobs, has also increased crime rates in Mexico. At the time of its decline, Mexico was introduced to the free market in the 1980s – 1990s, which helped Mexicans find alternative jobs such as being street vendors, taxi drivers, pirates or selling used goods obtained from local thefts. At this time, the Mexican people were introduced to the illicit business of trading illegal drugs, which is a business that has the most profits compared to other businesses. This business is considered to

be the most profitable business, especially since there was a shift in production routes due to efforts to tighten drug sales in Colombia and the Gulf of Mexico. As this shift in production routes has made Mexico a strategic transit point for cocaine, this has certainly made drug traffickers find new business opportunities that could benefit at least 450,000 people. With new business opportunities that benefit many Mexicans, Mexico's GDP has increased to more than 1 trillion US dollars, of which 3-4% is generated by drug trafficking (Esparza, 2012).

The drug trade and has grown rapidly since the leader of the largest Colombian cartel, the Cali Cartel, has collaborated with drug cartels in Mexico to distribute cocaine to enter the United States (Simanungkalit, 2011). Over time, the influence and power possessed by Mexican drug cartels is expanding and getting stronger. This was due to the cooperation that existed between the cartels and the Mexican government which at that time was controlled by the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) under the leadership of President Luis Echeverria (1970-1976) and President Jose Lopez Portillo (1976-1982) (Esparza, 2012).

The wider the market for each Mexican drug cartel, it is not uncommon for it to also lead to disputes with one another which in turn will encourage violence as a way to gain territory. In 1990, Mexico's domestic security conditions were even worse, especially with the very severe economic crisis in Mexico which caused an increase in the number of crimes such as theft, property crimes, kidnapping, robbery, extortion and people smuggling.

Although the Mexican Government has declared war on drugs, especially in 2006, during the administration of President Felipe Calderon and has also asked for assistance to the military forces to help realize this program, it still has not had a significant impact. Even most people from Mexico themselves feel they can protect themselves instead of having to trust the government, because they feel that the trust they place in the government will only make them lose this war. At this point it can be seen that the public trust in Mexico in the security officers and the government is decreasing and they are trying to improve their security in their own way.

The worsening level of corruption, violence, crime and criminal justice that does not run well has affected economic

progress and democracy in Mexico, especially with a single-party political system<sup>5</sup> owned by Mexico which has given its own advantages for DTOs to create a system-based corruption network that guarantees distribution rights, market access to protections that are officially provided by the government as a form of lucrative bribery.

This weakness possessed by Mexico also makes it difficult for the US to be able to control a border area of at least nearly two thousand miles, especially the struggle carried out by organized crime organizations that have begun to embrace US territory. This in the end made the US commit to strengthening law enforcement in its country. This strengthening of law enforcement is considered the best hope for creating short-term progress in controlling the spread of illegal drugs, money smuggling and money laundering.

Not only committed to short-term improvement, the US is also slowly making commitments to prevent and provide treatment for drug abuse and other diseases

that arise as a result of the side effects of using illegal drugs. Not only developing ways to prevent and treat drugs caused by illegal drugs, the US also periodically re-evaluates the drug policies that have been owned by the US and internationally. This commitment is one way for the US to provide improvements in the medium term. As for the long-term improvement, the US seeks to provide economic assistance and help to strengthen and multiply the rule of law that exists in Mexico, one way is to provide training and emphasis on professionalism of the justice sector.

The actions taken by the US do not necessarily only provide economic assistance, but the US also plays an active role in reviving and re-adjusting regional security frameworks that are adapted to the transnational challenges that exist in the post-Cold War period. also aims to prevent the expansion of existing security problems in Mexico to Central America and the Caribbean.

According to data provided by the DEA in 2016, there are at least 6 Mexican

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<sup>5</sup> Single-party political system is a type of government in which only one political party has the right to run the government.

cartels that play a major role in drug trafficking and distribution in the US (US Department of Justice: Drug Enforcement Administration, 2019) which maintains its distribution to designated cities across the US whose results will be reported directly to the TCO leader in Mexico or only through intermediaries. The main Mexican cartels that dominate the drug market in the US are; The Sinaloa Cartel which has an important role and is well known internationally, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) which is the most powerful and rapidly growing cartel, the Beltran-Levy Organization (BLO) which is a split from the Sinaloa Cartel and still continues to maintain its existence through groups – a new group, the Juarez Cartel which is one of the oldest cartels in Mexico, the Gulf Cartel is also one of the cartels that has been around for a long time and has a conflict with the Los Zetas Cartel for territory and the Los Zetas Cartel which is a split from the Gulf Cartel but has been enough to dominate the market through the border area between Del Rio and Falcon Lake (US Department of Justice: Drug Enforcement Administration, 2019) .

#### **4.2 The Impact of Drug Trafficking for US**

Based on data provided by INTERPOL, global drug sales can reach US\$ 400 billion which is about 8% of total international trade. This figure for international drug trafficking also exceeds global pharmaceutical company earnings estimated at about US\$ 233 billion in 1993 and is also greater than costs spent on official development assistance which was estimated at around US\$ 69 billion in 1995. Drug use Globally, illicit drug abuse has continued to increase since the 1970s, although it can move up and down but the abuse of illegal drugs remains a trend carried out by the general public. As in the US, which experienced a decline in the 1980s, but increased again since 1992.

As one of the most dangerous transnational crimes, drug trafficking has dominated the US and dominates the international market and trends have become a threat to the US both for the economy and the lives of its people. On the economic aspect itself, the presence of drug abuse has made the US experience an increase in the cost of drug abuse to society. In 1991 alone.

The US has spent at least US \$ 76 billion which is 1.3% of GDP and based on data from the National Institute on Drug

Abuse (NIDA) in April 2020, the US has lost more than US \$ 700 billion in costs related to crime, lost productivity to health. In 2007 alone, healthcare costs reached US\$ 11 billion for illicit drugs (including the abuse of drugs outside of a prescription or doctor's order) for a total (including other aspects) of up to US\$193 billion (National Institutes on Drug Abuse, Costs of Substance Abuse, 2020).

Not only that, drug abuse can also reduce the productivity of the younger generation which makes it difficult to find work for those who consume drugs. According to the 1994 United States National Household Survey, the number of drug abusers (including those who used drugs at least once in the past month) among the unemployed was almost twice as high (13.9%) as among those in employment (6.7 %) (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1995). In addition, the United States Department of Labor in the mid-1990s, showed that drug use in the work environment has cost businesses and industry in the US an estimated US\$ 75 billion to US\$ 100 billion annually or about 1 – 1.4% of GDP) where these costs are spent on handling accidents, maintenance costs and workers'

compensation.

### **4.3 US Immigration System Strengthening Policy**

To be able to tackle drug trafficking which causes damage to national security and has a negative impact on the country, the US has implemented policies that have been carried out for a long time. During his administration, President Donald Trump who continued some of these policies showed his enthusiasm. For security on the ground, especially in the US-Mexico border area, President Donald Trump has routinely emphasized to states in the US to be able to send National Guard troops to assist Border Patrol. In addition, for the sea route itself, President Donald Trump also emphasized the duties of the Ministry of Transportation and the Maritime Administration (MARAD). His efforts to protect US territorial waters from drug trafficking transactions were also evidenced by the delivery of Navy ships to Venezuela in April 2020. This Navy troop deployment was aimed at increasing anti-narcotics operations in the Caribbean region (Foreign Policy, 2020) and doubling US counter-drug capacity in the Western Hemisphere (WH) by deploying troops in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific regions.

The delivery of these ships is also a form of response to the drug charges given by the US to Nicolas Maduro who is suspected of leading a narcotics conspiracy and responsible for smuggling narcotics into the US as much as 250 metric tons of cocaine for a year, of which half is smuggled through sea. To carry out this operation, the US has been supported by 22 partner countries. As for the air route, President Donald Trump put more emphasis on developing flight systems, both at the airport and at the Air Traffic Controller, to be able to detect suspicious actions first, so as to anticipate acts of terrorism in the air.

#### **4.4 US aid to Mexico Through the Merida Initiative**

For decades, transnational criminal activity has increased crime, violence and lawlessness in Mexico and also poses a threat to US territory. In October 2007, the US and Mexico agreed to the Merida Initiative, which is a bilateral partnership with the goal of reducing crime and violence and increasing the rule of law in Mexico (United States Government Accountability Office, 2019) with the aid of US\$ 1.6 billion which can be used to develop law in Mexico. As of March 2010,

the US has sent a variety of equipment and training which includes 5 Bell helicopters, several X-ray devices, sniffer dogs and the training of more than 4,000 Mexican police officers (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

According to the 2014 – 2018 fiscal year provided by Government Accountability Office (GAO), assistance provided for this collaboration has been allocated a total of US\$ 723 million provided by the Department of State (State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL) and also the US Agency for International Development (USAID) which aims to reduce the impact of drug trafficking and reduce violence in Mexico (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). This bilateral cooperation is based on 4 pillars, namely; fight TCO, uphold the rule of law and human rights, maintain border security and build strong and resilient communities. Since the 2008 fiscal year, the total funding assistance provided by the US through the Merida Initiative has reached US\$ 3 billion (Congressional Research Service, 2019).

State/INL and USAID allocate these aid funds under government aid

funding in categories; Civil society, Counternarcotics prevention activities, good governance, rule of law and human rights, and transnational crime. US agencies use categories to broadly define foreign aid programs and planning, state budgets, and reporting across agencies, countries, and territories. More than 80% of funding is used for the rule of law and human rights and narcotics prevention efforts. Of the total US\$ 723 million, State/INL allocated US\$ 542 million and USAID allocated US\$ 182 million (Congressional Research Service, 2019). There were at least 445 active Mérida Initiative projects operated by State/INL and USAID from fiscal 2014 to 2018. State/INL funded approximately 388 projects while USAID funded 57 projects, which tended to be larger with higher amounts of funding than projects funded by State/INL. State/INL projects generally focus on providing training and assistance to Mexican officials from the justice, border security, military, law enforcement sectors, as well as equipment including for forensic medicine laboratories, drug detection, and border surveillance (United States Government Accountability Office, 2019).

#### **4. Conclusions**

Directly bordering with Mexico, which is a drug supply and distributor country, is a challenge for the US, especially with Mexico's weak rule of law. The weakness of the rule of law has finally made many government officials able to commit acts of corruption and cooperate with well-known cartels in Mexico which has an impact on the loss of public trust in the Mexican government. Not only that, Mexico's weak rule of law has also led to many acts of violence and crime in Mexico.

The presence of drugs in this country has had a negative impact, especially on the welfare and security of the country. Drug trafficking involving Mexico's leading cartels as well as street gangs, the majority of which consist of criminals and convicts, has given rise to many acts of violence and crime in the United States, especially in Mexico. As a country that does not have a strong rule of law, many individuals are involved in illegal acts, from drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal weapons to money laundering. As a country directly bordering Mexico, the US has implemented various efforts to overcome the availability of drugs

in the US, one of which is strengthening the security of US trade and entry routes and developing the functions of the military. The National Guard is a special component unit consisting of the Army, Navy and Air Force and is owned by each state, as a special component that has the main task of maintaining the security of the US community and protecting US territory from various threats. The National Guard plays an active role in overcoming the spread drugs in the US by guarding the US-Mexico border area together with the Border Patrol and forming a Counterdrug Program which succeeded in seizing and depleting drug plants in the US.

During his administration, President Donald Trump had big enough ambitions to be able to tackle the drug problem in the US. One of them is to continue the previous policy and strengthen it such as affirming each state to be able to anticipate periodically maintaining national security by sending National Guard troops to the US-Mexico border and cooperating with the Border Patrol. In addition, President Donald Trump also wants to be able to strengthen the structure of the border wall construction. The existence of this barrier has reduced the number of arrests for illegal

immigrants slowly, especially in 2017 where the number of arrests for illegal immigrants did not reach 400,000. This figure is the lowest figure since 1971. However, the policy to strengthen the structure for the construction of the border wall is still uncertain and ends with inefficient results. This is evidenced by the number of arrests for illegal immigrants, which previously reached the lowest level since 1971, having increased again between 2017 and 2018 where the US has been led by President Donald Trump. The number of arrests of illegal immigrants increased by about 100,000 people.

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