

*Center for International Studies – Albuquerque International Association present*  
***Drug Wars on the New Mexico Border -  
For Whom the Bell Tolls?***

***By Secretary John Wheeler***  
***Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, New  
Mexico***

**Thursday, August 19, 2010 11:30 am – 1:15 pm**  
Hilton Albuquerque  
1901 University Blvd, NE.

Since President Felipe Calderon launched his crackdown on drug cartels in December 2006, drug related violence along the US-Mexico border has skyrocketed. On the Mexican side, the situation resembles a civil war. According to a Mexican government report presented to lawmakers on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010, an estimated 23,000 people have died from drug related violence in the past four years. The situation is especially troubling in Ciudad Juarez, a city located just across the border from El Paso, Texas. In the course of 2009, battles between security forces and the cartels, gangland executions and other drug fueled violence resulted in the deaths of 2,600 people in Ciudad Juarez, earning it the reputation of being the most dangerous city in the world. Despite efforts by law enforcement officials on both sides of the border, a 2008 US Justice Department report discovered that trade in heroin, marijuana, ecstasy and methamphetamine actually grew in the two years following the crackdown and is today valued at nearly \$40 billion US dollars per year. How does this situation affect New Mexico? Could the violence in Mexico spill over the border – and when? We have asked Secretary Wheeler to address these issues at the upcoming AIA luncheon. The situation is dire and threatening. The question is, for whom the bell tolls?

***Cost/luncheon: \$ 25 – AIA Members, \$ 30 – Non-Members***  
***Please address the check to AIA and mail it to AIA, PO Box 92995,***  
***Albuquerque, NM 87199***  
***by August 14, 2010***

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changes and updates.***