

Mexicans fear for human rights after stricter border enforcement

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — In response to a new crackdown on illegal immigration along the Texas border, Mexican consuls from throughout South Texas met Thursday and warned the policy may lead to human rights abuses.

"We are worried about what kind of effects measures such as these might have and the general atmosphere at the border," said Enrique Loeza Tovar, Mexico's coordinator of consular affairs.

Border crackdowns in populous areas shift the immigration flow to more deserted regions where immigrants' rights may not be protected, Loeza said.

"We want this message to trickle down in a way that every agent, every individual, every single person involved in implementation of this operation should have it with him and behave in a way that shows respect for the dignity and to the rights of our fellow countrymen," Loeza said.

Loeza is presiding over a two-day closed-door meeting of Mexican consuls called by his country's foreign ministry as Operation Rio Grande got under way this week in Brownsville.

More Border Patrol agents are now on duty in down-

town Brownsville and along a 2 1/2-mile section of the Rio Grande south of downtown.

Although the 10 consuls meeting in San Antonio are not calling for an end to Operation Rio Grande, they said they hope to continue talks with U.S. officials about the impact of the policy.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service insists it has tried to allay Mexican officials' fears about the border initiative and rejects the notion that human rights abuses will grow under the new program.

"We don't anticipate that there's going to be any increase in allegations against the Border Patrol. Our presence is enhanced, but our procedures are not changing," said INS spokesperson Mario Ortiz.

Stepped-up border patrols also may suggest immigrants are criminals and incite anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States, Loeza said.

"We all know that the reason why our migrants come to the United States is economic," he said.

"They don't come to the United States to commit crimes. They come to work and through their work to contribute to the prosperity of the communities where they reside."

Green tea tested as possible cancer cure

HOUSTON (AP) — Cancer experts at the Texas Medical Center hope to prove with a new study that green tea helps to fight and prevent the disease.

Tests on laboratory animals and studies of populations in Japan and China, where green tea is popular, support the idea that it can postpone or even prevent cancer development, said Dr. Waun Ki Hong of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

"The epidemiologic studies are interesting," said Hong, chairman of the thoracic and head/neck cancer medical oncology department and a pioneer in the use of chemicals to prevent cancer.

"In Japan, people who drink green tea have a delayed occurrence of cancer compared to those who don't drink it."

A study in Shanghai, China, cited in a recent issue of the Nutrition Research Newsletter, showed green tea drinkers statistically had significant reductions in the risk of developing rectal and pancreatic cancers.

While there were numerical re-

ductions seen in colon cancer, they were not statistically significant, the researchers reported.

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DR. WAUN KI HONG
M.D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

A recent study in the scientific journal Nature showed that a component of green tea called epigallocatechin gallate, or EGCG, binds an enzyme called urokinase, thus preventing it from carrying out its mission. Urokinase is an enzyme that has been shown to have a connection with cancer metastasis, Hong said.

The family of chemicals to which the EGCG belongs seems to have some anti-tumor effect, said

Dr. Katherine Pisters, the assistant professor at Anderson who will lead the study.

The first study, planned for 30 patients with advanced cancer of the lung, breast, prostate, ovaries or head and neck, will determine if the material is safe and how much patients can tolerate, Dr. Pisters said.

The patients will receive capsules of green tea equal to six or seven cups, Hong said. Doctors will escalate the dose if they don't see any side effects.

Using capsules makes it easier to determine how much tea and chemicals each patient is receiving.

Hong believes the capsules will prove more effective in preventing cancer than in treating it.

Dr. Pisters said patients aren't given false hopes.

"We tell them we have a new and interesting compound that we are testing. We say it might be a reasonable thing for them to try," she said.

She hopes the study, which is being conducted with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute in New York, will be completed within two years.

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