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**NAFTA’s Dirty Little Secret**

A writer for The Fix, Bryan Le said, “1989, In a warehouse located in an upscale California residential community in the foothills of the San Gabriel mountains, the cops cuffed big time cartel kingpin Rafael Munoz Talavera and seized his $13 billion in illicit assets: a US record-breaking (and maintaining) 21 tons of cocaine, enough to cut five lines for every American. But even this impressive haul was small-time compared to the 77 tons that had moved through the warehouse in the time up to the arrest. For that much product, Talavera shelled out $81 million for transportation costs alone,” (Le).

In 1989 the biggest drug bust of American history was recorded. Drug trade gets worse and more intense each day. Every day drug smugglers are finding different ways to smuggle drugs in North America. Bigger amounts of drugs are being traded in North America and somehow drug smugglers are taking advantage of NAFTAs laws and finding ways around them.

NAFTA is an agreement that promotes free trade in North America. Would it be surprising if NAFTA doesn’t do anything to prevent free drug trade in North America? NAFTA is not involved in the free drug trade in North America, smugglers are taking advantage of NAFTA.

It’s suspected that NAFTA would try and prevent drug trade around North America after seeing how many drugs are being traded worldwide, but NAFTA is doing nothing to prevent this problem. NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and U.S., is Drug smugglers in North America are taking advantage of NAFTA because they are not taking control of the problem.

NAFTA is making it effortless for drug smugglers to transport drugs across the border.

Free trade is a policy by which governments do not discriminate against imports or exports. Some people take advantage of free trade by drug smuggling. NAFTA controls all of the free trade in North America, therefore they should have a bigger impact on drug trafficking and putting a stop to it.

Mexico and Southern American states are taking advantage of NAFTA and how it isn't preventing drug trade. A writer for the Economics in Crisis stated,“With a billion dollars’ worth of cargo crossing the U.S.-Mexico border every day, free trade is one of the greatest gifts for drug traffickers,” (Economics in Crisis). If people are noticing that drug traffickers are using free trade as an easy import system, don't you think this would raise a red flag? It should."

The signers of NAFTA believe that their laws and penalties are so strict that drug smugglers wouldn't even consider to smuggle as many drugs as they currently do. Smugglers are taking advantage of NAFTA, relying on the easily breakable laws. Since people have found ways around the laws, the amount of drug trafficking has increased.

Smugglers are getting so creative with their ways around drug trafficking laws. This causes the amount of drugs being traded to be in large amounts at a time. One way smugglers take advantage of NAFTA is that they buy companies and use the company name so they don’t get searched.

A writer from the Huff post said, “More than two million trucks began flowing northward across the border annually. Only a small fraction of them are inspected for heroin, cocaine, and meth,” (HUFF Post).

If NAFTA tried something as simple as requiring vehicles crossing the border to be searched, that would at least be a start. NAFTA mightknow drug trafficking is happening between America and Mexico but they aren’t doing anything to stop it from happening. NAFTA needs to show that they care about this problem and try something to make a change.

It seems as if not just NAFTA is avoiding the drug trafficking problem. President Bill Clinton stated, “We were prohibited from discussing the effects of NAFTA as it related to narcotics trafficking, yes,” (Clinton). Are people afraid of approaching this problem? Maybe, but why should they be? Even if NAFTA tried something as simple as having border control search more vehicles, they would be making a change. More drugs would be caught and more smugglers will quit trying to traffic drugs.

Even though NAFTA is doing nothing to help prevent drug trafficking in North America, simple changes can be made to help avoid drug trade. NAFTA just needs to make a move before it gets too out of control and eventually becomes unorganized chaos.

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