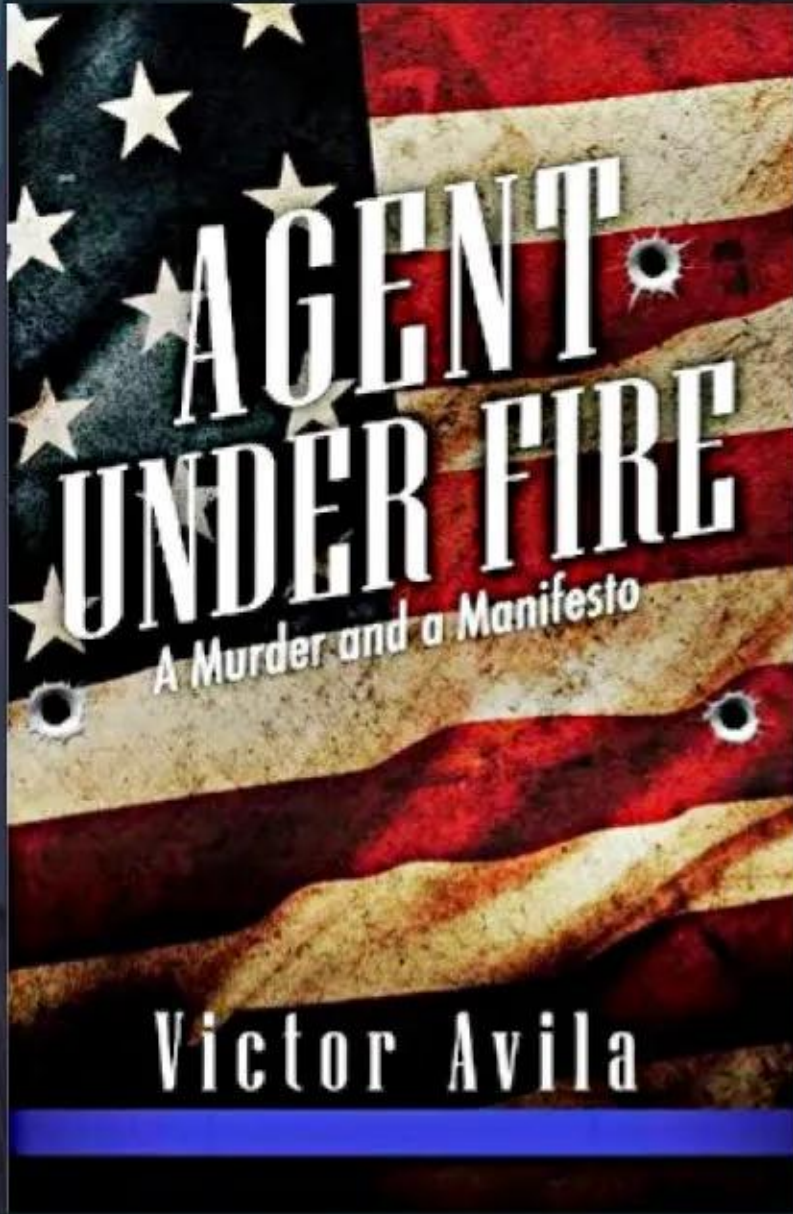


**HIDDEN TRUTH SHOW  
WITH JIM BRESLO**



**VICTOR AVILA**



1  
00:00:07,030 --> 00:00:03,909  
i was just reading from your book it

2  
00:00:07,990 --> 00:00:07,040  
says on february 11th officials from ice

3  
00:00:09,110 --> 00:00:08,000  
sent

4  
00:00:11,030 --> 00:00:09,120  
you

5  
00:00:12,629 --> 00:00:11,040  
in jaime zapata

6  
00:00:15,350 --> 00:00:12,639  
on an assignment

7  
00:00:17,590 --> 00:00:15,360  
to retrieve equipment from mexico city

8  
00:00:18,470 --> 00:00:17,600  
so i you know i don't spend a ton of

9  
00:00:20,470 --> 00:00:18,480  
time on this because there's so many big

10  
00:00:23,109 --> 00:00:20,480  
issues but i do want to kind of get into

11  
00:00:24,230 --> 00:00:23,119  
some of the details of exactly what

12  
00:00:28,070 --> 00:00:24,240  
happened

13  
00:00:29,589 --> 00:00:28,080

to you you were shot jaimé

14

00:00:30,790 --> 00:00:29,599

was killed

15

00:00:32,790 --> 00:00:30,800

um

16

00:00:34,709 --> 00:00:32,800

what what were you got where were you

17

00:00:36,389 --> 00:00:34,719

guys at the time and why were you sent

18

00:00:38,950 --> 00:00:36,399

to mexico city

19

00:00:41,430 --> 00:00:38,960

uh i was stationed in mexico city as a

20

00:00:43,430 --> 00:00:41,440

an accredited diplomat working for uh

21

00:00:45,110 --> 00:00:43,440

ice as a special agent

22

00:00:47,590 --> 00:00:45,120

you just take on a different role in

23

00:00:50,069 --> 00:00:47,600

mexico in educating the government and

24

00:00:52,310 --> 00:00:50,079

doing a lot of training and and mexico

25

00:00:54,630 --> 00:00:52,320

was hand in hand actually with all of

26  
00:00:56,709 --> 00:00:54,640  
criminal investigations of all sorts

27  
00:00:58,229 --> 00:00:56,719  
that we talked about but that particular

28  
00:01:00,709 --> 00:00:58,239  
day

29  
00:01:03,029 --> 00:01:00,719  
we were returning from

30  
00:01:05,109 --> 00:01:03,039  
closer to the monterey region

31  
00:01:07,750 --> 00:01:05,119  
picking up equipment from our ice

32  
00:01:09,670 --> 00:01:07,760  
counterparts from that office returning

33  
00:01:11,750 --> 00:01:09,680  
back to mexico city it was kind of a box

34  
00:01:12,950 --> 00:01:11,760  
assignment i challenged it

35  
00:01:14,390 --> 00:01:12,960  
we weren't supposed to be on that road

36  
00:01:15,910 --> 00:01:14,400  
there was an alert issued by the

37  
00:01:18,789 --> 00:01:15,920  
ambassador prohibiting anyone from

38  
00:01:20,149 --> 00:01:18,799

driving on highway 57 so so tell me

39

00:01:21,990 --> 00:01:20,159

about

40

00:01:23,030 --> 00:01:22,000

so you were going to drive from mexico

41

00:01:24,469 --> 00:01:23,040

city

42

00:01:26,789 --> 00:01:24,479

to monterey

43

00:01:30,149 --> 00:01:26,799

correct how far is that it's about an

44

00:01:32,390 --> 00:01:30,159

eleven hour drive okay along a highway

45

00:01:33,670 --> 00:01:32,400

called highway 57 i've had most people

46

00:01:35,590 --> 00:01:33,680

who haven't heard that name i haven't

47

00:01:37,830 --> 00:01:35,600

either highway 57 which is uh think of

48

00:01:39,030 --> 00:01:37,840

it as uh it's an interstate but it just

49

00:01:40,469 --> 00:01:39,040

has the name highway but it's an

50

00:01:43,510 --> 00:01:40,479

interstate it's the toll road it's the

51  
00:01:45,190 --> 00:01:43,520  
quote unquote and there was an alert

52  
00:01:46,870 --> 00:01:45,200  
and we're talking about this is like in

53  
00:01:49,510 --> 00:01:46,880  
california the five freeway it sounds

54  
00:01:52,389 --> 00:01:49,520  
correct correct so there's an alert

55  
00:01:54,310 --> 00:01:52,399  
not to drive on highway 57 correct a few

56  
00:01:57,109 --> 00:01:54,320  
weeks before the ambassador issued an

57  
00:01:59,670 --> 00:01:57,119  
alert to all u.s personnel prohibiting

58  
00:02:01,670 --> 00:01:59,680  
them from driving for personal or

59  
00:02:03,270 --> 00:02:01,680  
business reasons because we knew the

60  
00:02:05,270 --> 00:02:03,280  
intel i knew the intel we all knew the

61  
00:02:07,670 --> 00:02:05,280  
intel that the zetas con

62  
00:02:09,669 --> 00:02:07,680  
cartel controlled most of those

63  
00:02:11,510 --> 00:02:09,679

corridors that we drove we we drove

64

00:02:13,910 --> 00:02:11,520

that's the main artery between mexico

65

00:02:14,949 --> 00:02:13,920

city and texas through monterey up to

66

00:02:17,589 --> 00:02:14,959

texas

67

00:02:20,070 --> 00:02:17,599

and we knew that the zetas cartel had a

68

00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:20,080

huge presence in certain parts of these

69

00:02:25,670 --> 00:02:23,200

uh of this highway and uh my my

70

00:02:28,229 --> 00:02:25,680

supervisors ignored that and ignored

71

00:02:30,309 --> 00:02:28,239

that intelligence and send us on that on

72

00:02:31,509 --> 00:02:30,319

that highway anyway without any backup

73

00:02:34,309 --> 00:02:31,519

without the

74

00:02:35,670 --> 00:02:34,319

customary uh you know standard operating

75

00:02:37,670 --> 00:02:35,680

procedure that we would do in mexico

76

00:02:39,910 --> 00:02:37,680

because of the security issues

77

00:02:42,550 --> 00:02:39,920

so it was just the two of you driving

78

00:02:44,470 --> 00:02:42,560

what kind of vehicle it's an arm a 2009

79

00:02:46,949 --> 00:02:44,480

armored suburban vehicle

80

00:02:48,949 --> 00:02:46,959

okay uh and when you say armored does it

81

00:02:50,390 --> 00:02:48,959

also have the um

82

00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:50,400

you know where it's all

83

00:02:55,110 --> 00:02:52,720

bulletproof protected or whatever it's a

84

00:02:57,430 --> 00:02:55,120

bulletproof car um our all of it is

85

00:02:58,470 --> 00:02:57,440

armored uh it's uh a lot of people think

86

00:03:02,229 --> 00:02:58,480

it's

87

00:03:04,229 --> 00:03:02,239

compare it to a car a

88

00:03:06,550 --> 00:03:04,239

shoe that's waterproof it's water

89

00:03:08,630 --> 00:03:06,560

resistant it might still get wet and so

90

00:03:10,630 --> 00:03:08,640

these are armored vehicles and yes they

91

00:03:12,390 --> 00:03:10,640

stop i'm the reason why i'm still alive

92

00:03:14,149 --> 00:03:12,400

is because that that windshield of one

93

00:03:16,630 --> 00:03:14,159

of that of that vehicle stopped the

94

00:03:19,350 --> 00:03:16,640

rounds that were trying to get to me but

95

00:03:22,229 --> 00:03:19,360

um a lot of rounds did come into the to

96

00:03:23,589 --> 00:03:22,239

the suburban but yes it was armored um

97

00:03:24,789 --> 00:03:23,599

and there's a lot of issues that

98

00:03:26,789 --> 00:03:24,799

happened during the ambush because

99

00:03:28,949 --> 00:03:26,799

that's what it was on the way back we

100

00:03:30,949 --> 00:03:28,959

got ambushed by two suvs what what

101

00:03:32,869 --> 00:03:30,959

exactly were if you can tell were you

102

00:03:35,110 --> 00:03:32,879

guys going to pick up

103

00:03:36,550 --> 00:03:35,120

uh it was electronic equipment more like

104

00:03:38,789 --> 00:03:36,560

tracking devices that was going to be

105

00:03:40,630 --> 00:03:38,799

used for a money laundering case that we

106

00:03:42,550 --> 00:03:40,640

were working on in mexico

107

00:03:45,030 --> 00:03:42,560

and there was a sense of urgency for my

108

00:03:47,430 --> 00:03:45,040

supervisors to have that back in mexico

109

00:03:49,270 --> 00:03:47,440

city uh i had challenged it let's bring

110

00:03:50,869 --> 00:03:49,280

it by air let's bring it by other means

111

00:03:52,390 --> 00:03:50,879

but they denied all that and said you

112

00:03:53,830 --> 00:03:52,400

got to go get it when you got the

113

00:03:55,350 --> 00:03:53,840

assignment you considered this to be a

114

00:03:56,949 --> 00:03:55,360

dangerous assignment

115

00:03:59,270 --> 00:03:56,959

absolutely especially because i hadn't

116

00:04:00,630 --> 00:03:59,280

been previewed to any of the information

117

00:04:01,990 --> 00:04:00,640

you know in the law enforcement world

118

00:04:03,429 --> 00:04:02,000

you got to be briefed

119

00:04:04,949 --> 00:04:03,439

and i hadn't been briefed all of a

120

00:04:06,869 --> 00:04:04,959

sudden i got the assignment thrown on me

121

00:04:08,470 --> 00:04:06,879

i had just gotten back into the country

122

00:04:10,869 --> 00:04:08,480

from another assignment

123

00:04:12,309 --> 00:04:10,879

uh that day the day before and then i

124

00:04:14,309 --> 00:04:12,319

got the assignment

125

00:04:16,069 --> 00:04:14,319

and i'm i don't know what's going on and

126

00:04:17,830 --> 00:04:16,079

uh i'm trying to catch up and they had

127

00:04:19,189 --> 00:04:17,840

already made these arrangements two

128

00:04:21,030 --> 00:04:19,199

months before

129

00:04:23,590 --> 00:04:21,040

and had been working on this and i was

130

00:04:25,189 --> 00:04:23,600

never privy to it i get brought in the

131

00:04:27,749 --> 00:04:25,199

day of the assignment and i'm

132

00:04:30,070 --> 00:04:27,759

questioning all these issues

133

00:04:31,590 --> 00:04:30,080

okay so you guys were um

134

00:04:32,950 --> 00:04:31,600

by the way when you see the vehicle is

135

00:04:35,110 --> 00:04:32,960

there any

136

00:04:36,629 --> 00:04:35,120

way someone would know that it was u.s

137

00:04:38,790 --> 00:04:36,639

agents inside this vehicle does it have

138

00:04:41,110 --> 00:04:38,800

any markings in that regard

139

00:04:43,749 --> 00:04:41,120

yeah it has diplomatic plates on it for

140

00:04:46,790 --> 00:04:43,759

sure these plates are looked different

141

00:04:48,710 --> 00:04:46,800

uh they're um besides uh during the

142

00:04:51,030 --> 00:04:48,720

during the ambush i yelled at them and

143

00:04:53,030 --> 00:04:51,040

at the shooters and identified ourselves

144

00:04:55,189 --> 00:04:53,040

as americans the u.s embassy employees

145

00:04:58,070 --> 00:04:55,199

as diplomats that this was a diplomatic

146

00:05:00,950 --> 00:04:58,080

vehicle and in fact they did testify in

147

00:05:02,710 --> 00:05:00,960

in 2017 at the court hearing that in

148

00:05:03,830 --> 00:05:02,720

fact they did hear me they knew we were

149

00:05:06,230 --> 00:05:03,840

americans

150

00:05:07,909 --> 00:05:06,240

so tell us what happened uh

151  
00:05:09,590 --> 00:05:07,919  
as far as the ambush

152  
00:05:10,469 --> 00:05:09,600  
so on the way back after picking up the

153  
00:05:11,430 --> 00:05:10,479  
equipment

154  
00:05:13,270 --> 00:05:11,440  
um

155  
00:05:15,510 --> 00:05:13,280  
i had been driving most of the way uh

156  
00:05:16,390 --> 00:05:15,520  
jaime zapata takes the wheel right after

157  
00:05:19,909 --> 00:05:16,400  
lunch

158  
00:05:21,990 --> 00:05:19,919  
and within 50 minutes were uh

159  
00:05:24,390 --> 00:05:22,000  
ambushed basically by two suvs full of

160  
00:05:25,749 --> 00:05:24,400  
armed gunmen zetta cartel members that

161  
00:05:27,270 --> 00:05:25,759  
we didn't know at that time obviously

162  
00:05:29,990 --> 00:05:27,280  
were just the cartel members they forced

163  
00:05:32,710 --> 00:05:30,000

us off the side of the road

164

00:05:35,270 --> 00:05:32,720

and uh amongst a lot of confusion

165

00:05:37,270 --> 00:05:35,280

and some shots that were fired they were

166

00:05:40,390 --> 00:05:37,280

trying to open the doors and while we

167

00:05:42,710 --> 00:05:40,400

were locking the doors uh my window my

168

00:05:44,710 --> 00:05:42,720

armored window came down two inches on

169

00:05:46,230 --> 00:05:44,720

my side we didn't know that because of

170

00:05:49,350 --> 00:05:46,240

the lock buttons and the window buttons

171

00:05:51,590 --> 00:05:49,360

were next to each other on this suburban

172

00:05:54,070 --> 00:05:51,600

and so during the commotion two of the

173

00:05:56,629 --> 00:05:54,080

shooters introduced an ak-47 and a

174

00:05:58,309 --> 00:05:56,639

handgun by my head on my side and i

175

00:06:00,070 --> 00:05:58,319

raised the window and caught the barrels

176  
00:06:02,550 --> 00:06:00,080  
of both guns

177  
00:06:04,950 --> 00:06:02,560  
trying to avoid them and without warning

178  
00:06:07,430 --> 00:06:04,960  
they opened fire into the cabin of the

179  
00:06:09,990 --> 00:06:07,440  
suburban striking agent zapata multiple

180  
00:06:13,350 --> 00:06:10,000  
times striking me three times once in my

181  
00:06:14,790 --> 00:06:13,360  
chest and twice in my left leg and um

182  
00:06:17,029 --> 00:06:14,800  
so you know eventually they pull the

183  
00:06:19,749 --> 00:06:17,039  
guns out i raised the window they shot

184  
00:06:21,510 --> 00:06:19,759  
at us over 100 rounds

185  
00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:21,520  
uh try to get out of there crash the

186  
00:06:26,150 --> 00:06:24,240  
vehicle agent zapata became unresponsive

187  
00:06:29,029 --> 00:06:26,160  
we ended up in the median

188  
00:06:30,870 --> 00:06:29,039

and one of the one of the suvs still one

189

00:06:32,950 --> 00:06:30,880

left the other one came back two

190

00:06:35,990 --> 00:06:32,960

shooters came back and stood in front of

191

00:06:37,590 --> 00:06:36,000

me and with two ak-47s just were trying

192

00:06:40,150 --> 00:06:37,600

to penetrate and shooting through the

193

00:06:41,909 --> 00:06:40,160

the front windshield to get to me and

194

00:06:42,790 --> 00:06:41,919

then they left thinking that it had gone

195

00:06:44,870 --> 00:06:42,800

through

196

00:06:47,270 --> 00:06:44,880

and so they they left us for dead i

197

00:06:49,029 --> 00:06:47,280

called uh the u.s embassy asked for help

198

00:06:50,469 --> 00:06:49,039

called the federal police the only

199

00:06:51,990 --> 00:06:50,479

person that i trusted at that time from

200

00:06:53,990 --> 00:06:52,000

the federal government

201  
00:06:55,990 --> 00:06:54,000  
and we were there for 40 minutes which

202  
00:06:58,469 --> 00:06:56,000  
is a very long time in the middle of

203  
00:06:59,670 --> 00:06:58,479  
that highway until uh helped arrived

204  
00:07:01,510 --> 00:06:59,680  
wow

205  
00:07:02,550 --> 00:07:01,520  
so they never were able to enter the

206  
00:07:03,670 --> 00:07:02,560  
vehicle

207  
00:07:05,909 --> 00:07:03,680  
no

208  
00:07:07,830 --> 00:07:05,919  
um why do you think they did what they

209  
00:07:09,189 --> 00:07:07,840  
did

210  
00:07:10,550 --> 00:07:09,199  
i think they knew that we were americans

211  
00:07:11,589 --> 00:07:10,560  
and i think they wanted a hit on

212  
00:07:13,270 --> 00:07:11,599  
americans

213  
00:07:15,270 --> 00:07:13,280

you'll hear the uh

214

00:07:16,790 --> 00:07:15,280

the rhetoric on the the defense that

215

00:07:18,950 --> 00:07:16,800

they wanted to

216

00:07:20,550 --> 00:07:18,960

carjack us or they wanted that suburban

217

00:07:22,390 --> 00:07:20,560

and that's absolutely not true they

218

00:07:23,430 --> 00:07:22,400

destroyed that suburban

219

00:07:25,749 --> 00:07:23,440

um

220

00:07:27,110 --> 00:07:25,759

they knew that we were americans they uh

221

00:07:29,430 --> 00:07:27,120

testified that we were americans they

222

00:07:31,270 --> 00:07:29,440

heard they had happened many times in

223

00:07:32,469 --> 00:07:31,280

mexico with other u.s agents are held at

224

00:07:35,909 --> 00:07:32,479

gunpoint

225

00:07:37,670 --> 00:07:35,919

and they identify themselves as dea fbi

226

00:07:39,510 --> 00:07:37,680

and they kind of throw their hands up

227

00:07:41,029 --> 00:07:39,520

and say okay and the cartel isn't alone

228

00:07:42,469 --> 00:07:41,039

there was this always unwritten rule

229

00:07:44,950 --> 00:07:42,479

that you just don't mess with u.s law

230

00:07:45,990 --> 00:07:44,960

enforcement in mexico ever since the

231

00:07:49,350 --> 00:07:46,000

killing of

232

00:07:51,510 --> 00:07:49,360

dea agent enrique camarena in 1985.

233

00:07:53,110 --> 00:07:51,520

but that all changed on february 15th of

234

00:07:55,510 --> 00:07:53,120

2011.

235

00:07:57,749 --> 00:07:55,520

and why do you think it changed why why

236

00:07:59,350 --> 00:07:57,759

would the cartels or that particular

237

00:08:02,390 --> 00:07:59,360

cartel

238

00:08:04,309 --> 00:08:02,400

suddenly want to mess with the us

239

00:08:06,390 --> 00:08:04,319

this is that's a great question uh and

240

00:08:08,070 --> 00:08:06,400

not one that i get a lot and and it's a

241

00:08:09,670 --> 00:08:08,080

great question because that's where you

242

00:08:13,189 --> 00:08:09,680

start seeing the shift

243

00:08:15,189 --> 00:08:13,199

of these of the the the the cartels how

244

00:08:17,909 --> 00:08:15,199

uh aggressive and abrasive they've

245

00:08:19,990 --> 00:08:17,919

become and no longer fear

246

00:08:21,510 --> 00:08:20,000

us law enforcement and that's what we're

247

00:08:24,309 --> 00:08:21,520

seeing at the border when we get talking

248

00:08:25,430 --> 00:08:24,319

about that they no longer fear that

249

00:08:27,510 --> 00:08:25,440

and they no longer feel the

250

00:08:28,950 --> 00:08:27,520

repercussions and they basically don't

251

00:08:31,830 --> 00:08:28,960

care and they have taken over

252

00:08:33,750 --> 00:08:31,840

territories if not all of mexico and

253

00:08:35,509 --> 00:08:33,760

they're not gonna uh they're not gonna

254

00:08:37,829 --> 00:08:35,519

let the u.s law enforcement or anyone

255

00:08:39,670 --> 00:08:37,839

get in their way of what they want to do

256

00:08:40,550 --> 00:08:39,680

yeah it was always been my impression

257

00:08:42,790 --> 00:08:40,560

that

258

00:08:45,269 --> 00:08:42,800

they don't want to awake the sleeping

259

00:08:46,870 --> 00:08:45,279

giant we'll call that the the us that

260

00:08:48,870 --> 00:08:46,880

they're getting away with

261

00:08:50,389 --> 00:08:48,880

murder down there literally and

262

00:08:53,509 --> 00:08:50,399

figuratively

263

00:08:55,430 --> 00:08:53,519

and the mexican government is inept

264

00:08:57,190 --> 00:08:55,440

in controlling them

265

00:08:58,949 --> 00:08:57,200

and then you've got the ten thousand

266

00:09:00,949 --> 00:08:58,959

pound gorilla

267

00:09:03,190 --> 00:09:00,959

right across the border which

268

00:09:04,550 --> 00:09:03,200

theoretically we could do something

269

00:09:06,710 --> 00:09:04,560

about them it would take a big

270

00:09:09,110 --> 00:09:06,720

commitment to do something about them in

271

00:09:10,870 --> 00:09:09,120

cooperation with mexico and so on but i

272

00:09:13,829 --> 00:09:10,880

always felt that the cartels attitude

273

00:09:16,070 --> 00:09:13,839

was hey let's not mess with the us let's

274

00:09:18,630 --> 00:09:16,080

not wake them up let's not kill u.s

275

00:09:20,230 --> 00:09:18,640

tourists for instance you know if u.s

276

00:09:22,389 --> 00:09:20,240

tourists started dying

277

00:09:23,910 --> 00:09:22,399

that's going to wake us up so

278

00:09:25,350 --> 00:09:23,920

it's always been my impression that they

279

00:09:28,070 --> 00:09:25,360

don't want to do things to wake up the

280

00:09:29,750 --> 00:09:28,080

us but you're actually saying that yes

281

00:09:30,949 --> 00:09:29,760

that was the case but you think that's

282

00:09:34,070 --> 00:09:30,959

changing

283

00:09:36,310 --> 00:09:34,080

uh it's it's changed and uh yes u.s

284

00:09:38,470 --> 00:09:36,320

tourists are are being killed just last

285

00:09:41,030 --> 00:09:38,480

month two tourists in tulum next to

286

00:09:43,750 --> 00:09:41,040

cancun were killed by gunfire one from

287

00:09:45,509 --> 00:09:43,760

the us and one from germany and so it

288

00:09:47,990 --> 00:09:45,519

happens all the time where people are

289

00:09:50,230 --> 00:09:48,000

caught in these gunfires at higher

290

00:09:53,110 --> 00:09:50,240

reports is it is it kind of caught in

291

00:09:56,550 --> 00:09:53,120

crossfire gunfire yes yes most of the

292

00:09:58,389 --> 00:09:56,560

time it is uh and um but you know

293

00:10:00,790 --> 00:09:58,399

they're there they're at the the cartels

294

00:10:02,870 --> 00:10:00,800

are everywhere especially in the resort

295

00:10:05,030 --> 00:10:02,880

areas at the high end resort areas they

296

00:10:07,590 --> 00:10:05,040

killed two cartel members on the beach

297

00:10:09,829 --> 00:10:07,600

they came in via the water

298

00:10:12,630 --> 00:10:09,839

and executed two of them just we're

299

00:10:14,550 --> 00:10:12,640

talking about two weeks ago in Cancun

300

00:10:16,470 --> 00:10:14,560

and there's video of it as well and i've

301

00:10:18,150 --> 00:10:16,480

seen that video and it's uh

302

00:10:20,150 --> 00:10:18,160

they're brazen they don't care and and

303

00:10:22,150 --> 00:10:20,160

you're there you're vacationing and the

304

00:10:24,310 --> 00:10:22,160

bullets fly and that's where they might

305

00:10:26,550 --> 00:10:24,320

not necessarily target and you're right

306

00:10:28,310 --> 00:10:26,560

that the the cartels don't want to

307

00:10:29,910 --> 00:10:28,320

target the tourists because they want

308

00:10:32,389 --> 00:10:29,920

the tourism to come in because they sell

309

00:10:33,750 --> 00:10:32,399

a lot of drugs and a lot of illegal

310

00:10:36,870 --> 00:10:33,760

activity with the tourists that come

311

00:10:38,389 --> 00:10:36,880

into mexico but um but they don't care

312

00:10:40,150 --> 00:10:38,399

when they're going to execute their

313

00:10:41,910 --> 00:10:40,160

their business and kill people they