

## Organization Attributes Sheet: Buxton/Agricola Gang

Author: Andrew Carpenter

Review: Phil Williams

### A. When the organization was formed + brief history

- Founded when five individuals escaped from prison in Guyana in 2002<sup>1</sup>, the group's name derives from the two areas it is most active in - Buxton and Agricola, Guyana. It is also referred to as the Buxton Gang, or Fineman's Gang. Leadership passed to Rondell 'Fineman' Rawlins, a young member when many of the founding individuals were killed.<sup>2</sup> Beginning in 2002, the gang became increasingly active in robberies, kidnapping, murders, and other violent crimes. Some of the assaults and killings were aimed at individuals, but beginning in 2006, at least three separate occurrences saw as many as twenty gang members attack entire villages.<sup>3</sup> The villages of Agricola, Eccles, and Lusignan were all targeted by the Agricola Gang. The gang is allegedly responsible for the assassination of Guyana's Agricultural Secretary Satyadeow Sawh in 2006.<sup>4</sup> Rawlins and his gang are also implicated in the murder of at least 32 individuals, though the true number is likely more.<sup>5</sup>
- Beginning in 2006 the gang became increasingly active and violent with Rawlins being made the most wanted man in Guyana. Rawlins continued to elude police until he and another gang member Jermaine 'Skinny' Charles were killed in a police operation on August 29, 2008. Since then the gang has seemed to have largely dissolved, with few news reports emerging following Rawlins's death. Initial reports seem to be that the gang was absorbed by other gangs operating in Guyana, such as the Phantom Force.<sup>6</sup>

### B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

#### a. In general

- Murder, kidnapping and ransoming individuals, theft, weapons trafficking, alleged involvement in politically motivated violence, alleged drug trafficking, corruption of members of Guyanese police and military.
- Kidnapped Kenrick Baboolal, a Trinidadian engineer working in Guyana on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. He was released the next day when a ransom of \$3M was paid.<sup>7</sup>
- Implicated in assassination of Guyana's Secretary of Agriculture Satyadeow Sawh in 2006.<sup>8</sup>
- Implicated in murder of businessman Barbot Paul in 2006.
- Theft of 33 AK-47's from Guyanese Defense Force in 2006.<sup>9</sup>
- Assault on villages of Agricola and Eccles in 2006 in which eight people were killed.
- Assaults on police stations and the murdering of members of Guyana's police force.
- Claimed responsibility for Lusignan Massacre of 2008 where eleven people were killed.
- Murder of eight miners at Lindo Creek in June 2008.<sup>10</sup>

#### b. Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in

- Information not found.

### C. Scope and Size

#### a. Estimated size of network and membership

- Estimated to have a membership around 25-35 members in 2006.<sup>11</sup>

#### b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

- Guyana

#### D. Leader Characteristics

- a. Who is/are the leader(s)
  - Rondell “Fineman” Rawlins acted as the principal leader until his death. There is no indication of any replacement for Rawlins following his death.
- b. Leadership timeline
  - Leader Rondell “Fineman” Rawlins killed in police raid on August 29<sup>t</sup>, 2008.
- c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
  - The gang seems to have largely disappeared after Rawlins’s death in 2008, indicating that the gang is/was under an autocratic leadership style.
  - The Lusignan massacre was reportedly in response to Rondell Rawlins’s girlfriend going missing.<sup>12</sup> This apparently personal motivation for committing the gang to violence shows that Rawlins had tight control over the group.

#### E. Organizational Structure

- a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
  - Hierarchical
- b. Membership – is there formal or informal membership in the organization or network? What role do informal or nonmembers play in trafficking and other criminal activities?
  - While initial membership was believed to be composed of former members of the Guyanese army, as the gang operated the membership was made up of displaced teenagers from the village of Buxton and other villages.<sup>13</sup>
- c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
  - Centralized

#### F. Resources

- a. Financial
  - Reported to have “millions” in cash and gold at time of Rondell “Fineman” Rawlins’s Death in 2008.<sup>14</sup>
- b. Human
  - 25-30.<sup>15</sup>
- c. Logistical
  - i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
    - Safe houses were reported in Christmas Falls, Guyana where Rondell “Fineman” Rawlins was supposed to have hid out following the issue of a G\$30 million Guyanese Dollars reward for his arrest.<sup>16</sup>
    - Selwyn Vaughn, an Agricola resident with connections to Shaheed “Roger” Khan a drug dealer admitted to hiding Rawlins in his house while Rawlins hid from Guyanese authorities.<sup>17</sup>
  - ii. Key routes
    - Gang operated out of Buxton, Guyana, but is also present in the nearby village of Agricola, and other villages in the area around Guyana’s capital of Georgetown.
- d. Transportation
  - i. Land
    - Information Not Found

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.  
All research conducted according to the project manual.

ii. Sea
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
iii. Air
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
iv. Intermodal container
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
<b>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</b>
a. Corruption
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
b. Concealment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
c. Deception
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
<b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b>
a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate Agricola Gang reported to have emerged in 2006 when at least four members of the Buxton/Agricola Gang had a falling out with the leadership of that gang.<sup>18</sup></li> <li>• Evidence indicates that the Buxton/Agricola Gang was involved with drug dealer Shaheed “Roger” Khan’s network. During his trial in the United States in 2008, Khan reported that he worked with Guyanese security forces to turn in a member of the Guyanese Army that was working for the Buxton/Agricola Gang.<sup>19</sup></li> <li>• Khan is also reported to have used a former schoolmate of Rondell “Fineman” Rawlins to infiltrate his gang.<sup>20</sup> While this indicates a rivalry between the two groups, the statements by Khan were both made at his trial, and could be an attempt to lessen his sentence. Rawlins was supposed to have stayed at the home of Selwyn Vaughn, who had connections with Khan. The nature of the relationship between the Khan Network and the Buxton/Agricola Gang is therefore unclear.</li> </ul>
b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While no direct evidence links the Buxton/Agricola Gang with a particular political party, there is a suspicion that there are links to political parties. The veracity of such claims is unknown.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no information to suggest that this group has/had any dealings with terrorist groups.</li> </ul>
<b>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Though no sources suggest it, the makeup of the Buxton/Agricola Gang indicates it may be Afro-Guyanese oriented.</li> </ul>
<b>J. Technical Sophistication</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stole 33 AK-47 assault rifles from Guyana Defense Force Base at Camp Ayanganna in 2006.<sup>22</sup></li> </ul>
<b>K. Penchant for Innovation</b>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.  
All research conducted according to the project manual.

- Information Not Found

#### L. Activities in United States

a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities

- One informant indicated that the gang received weapons from the United States through Donald Alison, a Guyanese man with ties to the Buxton/Agricola Gang and Shaheed “Roger” Khan. According to the informant:
- “... they [Buxton/Agricola Gang] were importing ... getting guns and so on imported from the US, apparently in like fake bottoms for these crates and these kinds of thing. And what we were told is that Allison was the person that would take possession of these guns when they get to Guyana.”<sup>23</sup>

b. *Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities*

- Information Not Found

c. Linkages with US groups

i. Market/transaction links

- Information Not Found

ii. Stable supplier

- Information Not Found

iii. Franchise arrangement

- Information Not Found

iv. HQ and Branch office

- Information Not Found

#### M. Evaluations

a. Strengths

- The rural areas of Guyana present optimal conditions for gangs to operate with little interruption by Guyana’s law enforcement. Guyana also acts as a transportation hub for illegal trafficking, and individual gangs such as the Buxton/Agricola gang could find their way into drug trafficking, or be contracted by other drug traffickers to act as a paramilitary group for their operations.

b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities

- Evidence indicates that the gang was highly dependent on Rondell “Fineman” Rawlins, as after his death the gang seems to have dissolved, been absorbed by another gang, or become much less active.

c. Additional insights

- None

#### Other Notes

- There are indications that the Buxton/Agricola Gang is a loose association of a number of different gangs operating in the villages surrounding Guyana’s capital of Georgetown. The degree of this association is unclear. Many of the individual criminal activities that are associated with the Buxton/Agricola gang are sometimes attributed to what may be separate, or loosely associated gangs in the area.
- What little sources are available also indicate that the Buxton/Agricola Gang is not nearly as active as it was prior to Rondell Rawlins’s death in 2008. Though there is some indication that

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

the gang is still operational, no reference to gang activity following Rawlins's death was found.<sup>24</sup>

- The motivations for the attacks still remain unclear. Some seem to be for financial gain, while the attack on the village of Lisurgan was reportedly retaliation for the disappearance of Rawlins's girlfriend. There are also reports that the gang is operating in connection with one or more political parties in Guyana.<sup>25</sup> Finally some indications are that the Buxton/ Agricola Gang is committing ethnic related violence, as it is representative of the Afro-Guyanese population of Guyana, and many of its targets were Indo-Guyanese. However the connections between the Buxton/Agricola Gang and Guyanese political parties or the motivation for violence being ethnically related are both disputed.
- Other than the alleged smuggling in of weapons from the United States, there is no other indication that the Buxton/Agricola Gang had any connection with, or operated in the United States.
- There is little evidence to indicate that the Buxton/Agricola Gang was heavily involved in the narcotic industry or trafficking, although some reports suggest some involvement
- There are no indications that the Buxton/Agricola Gang has any connection with any known terrorist group.

---

<sup>1</sup> "Mash Day jailbreak inquiry report handed over," *Stabroek News*. June 4, 2002.  
<http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news02/ns206044.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Five-year 'Fineman' operation ends in his death," *Stabroek News*. August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
[http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins\\_Skinny\\_Death.html](http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins_Skinny_Death.html).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Williams, Nigel. "Year later, only one man charged in Sawh murders," *Stabroek News*. April 22, 2007.  
<http://www.guyana.org/sawh/sawh.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Five-year 'Fineman' operation ends in his death," *Stabroek News*. August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
[http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins\\_Skinny\\_Death.html](http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins_Skinny_Death.html).

<sup>6</sup> "Buxton still uneasy after 'Fine Man's death," *Kaieteur News*. August 31, 2008.  
<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2008/08/31/buxton-still-uneasy-after-%E2%80%98fine-man%E2%80%99s%E2%80%99-death/>.

<sup>7</sup> Williams, Nigel and Alleyne, Samantha. Trinidadian engineer kidnapped by Buxton Gang- released after \$3M ransom paid." *Stabroek News*. March 28, 2003. <http://www.landofsixpeoples.com/news301/ns303282.htm>.

<sup>8</sup> Williams, Nigel. "Year later, only one man charged in Sawh murders," *Stabroek News*. April 22, 2007.  
<http://www.guyana.org/sawh/sawh.html>.

<sup>9</sup> "Gibson was involved in theft of army weapons," *Kaieteur News*. December 17, 2008,  
<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2008/12/17/gibson-was-involved-in-theft-of-army-weapons/>.

<sup>10</sup> "Evidence shows "Fineman" gang massacred Lindo Creek miners-police," *Stabroek News*. June 2, 2009.  
<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/06/02/evidence-shows-%E2%80%98fineman%E2%80%99-gang-massacred-lindo-creek-miners-police/>.

<sup>11</sup> "Four gangs behind violent crime in Guyana say security experts-daily." *BBC Monitoring Latin America-Political*. August 21, 2006. Online. LexisNexis Academic. May 05, 2011.

- 
- <sup>12</sup> Five-year 'Fineman' operation ends in his death," *Stabroek News*. August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
[http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins\\_Skinny\\_Death.html](http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins_Skinny_Death.html).
- <sup>13</sup> Andrews, Dale. "'Fineman's Gang' a child army- 'Mud up' 16, 'Chung Boy' 16, 'Sancho' 14," *Kaieteur News*. June 18, 2008. <http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2008/06/18/fine-man%E2%80%99s-gang-a-child-army/>.
- <sup>14</sup> "Guyana's 'most wanted' takes secrets to his grave," *Kaieteur News*. August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
[http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins\\_Skinny\\_Death.html](http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins_Skinny_Death.html).
- <sup>15</sup> "Four gangs behind violent crime in Guyana say security experts-daily." *BBC Monitoring Latin America-Political*. August 21, 2006. Online. LexisNexis Academic. May 05, 2011.
- <sup>16</sup> Five-year 'Fineman' operation ends in his death," *Stabroek News*. August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
[http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins\\_Skinny\\_Death.html](http://www.guyana.org/Rawlins_Skinny_Death.html).
- <sup>17</sup> "Witness for U.S. Says he harboured Rondell Rawlins," *Stabroek News*. July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.  
<http://thebestcaribbeansite.com/smf/index.php?action=printpage;topic=5764.0>.
- <sup>18</sup> "Four gangs behind violent crime in Guyana say security experts-daily." *BBC Monitoring Latin America-Political*. August 21, 2006. Online. LexisNexis Academic. May 05, 2011.
- <sup>19</sup> "Roger Khan exposed 'army officer's links to Buxton gang'- lawyers say," *Stabroek News*. June 22, 2008.  
<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2008/news/stories/06/22/roger-khan-exposed-%E2%80%98army-officer%E2%80%99s-links-to-buxton-gang%E2%80%99/>.
- <sup>20</sup> "'Fineman' former school mate infiltrated Buxton gang for Roger Khan," *Stabroek News*. March 12, 2009.  
<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/12/%E2%80%98fineman%E2%80%99-former-school-mate-infiltrated-buxton-gang-for-roger-khan/>.
- <sup>21</sup> "Opposition ups fight for probe of gov't-Khan ties-appeals to civil courts for help" *West Indian News*. August 15, 2009. <http://www.thewestindiannews.com/opposition-ups-fight-for-probe-of-gov%E2%80%99t-khan-ties/>.
- <sup>22</sup> "Gibson was involved in theft of army weapons," *Kaieteur News*. December 17, 2008.  
<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2008/12/17/gibson-was-involved-in-theft-of-army-weapons/>.
- <sup>23</sup> "Donald Alison was gun-runner for Fine Man's Gang," *Kaieteur News*. March 16, 2009.  
<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2009/03/16/donald-allison-was-gun-runner-for-fine-man%E2%80%99s-gang/>.
- <sup>24</sup> "Buxton still uneasy after 'Fine Man's death,'" *Kaieteur News*. August 31, 2008.  
<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2008/08/31/buxton-still-uneasy-after-%E2%80%98fine-man%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%99-death/>.
- <sup>25</sup> James, Rick. "Guyana Massacre: Not election related said police," *Caribbean 360*. August 10, 2006.  
<http://www.caribbean360.com/index.php/news/10917.html#axzz1LsbwJ4EX>.