

**Organization: Catacamas Drug Cartel**

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<b>A. When the organization was formed + brief history</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It is unclear whether the Catacamas drug cartel is one central organization or an umbrella organization working with other drug operations in the area. Catacamas, Honduras is located in the Olancho Department. Drug cartels of Catacamas are engaged in disputes with drug cartels of Juticalpa, Catacamas' sister city. Violence has grown in the area especially along the road between Juticalpa and Catacamas. Several journalists reporting on drug cartels have been murdered and there have been several shootouts and massacres of civilians. Public transport is targeted for extortion and/or as a result of conflict between gangs.<sup>1</sup> This has created fear among the residents and reporters; thus giving cartels greater control of the Catacamas area.</li></ul>
<b>B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. In general<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Murder and drug trafficking</li></ul></li><li>b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>C. Scope and Size</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Estimated size of network and membership<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Size of network and membership unknown</li></ul></li><li>b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Operates in Honduras. Local to Olancho Department and centralized in Catacamas</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>D. Leader Characteristics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Who is/are the leader(s)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The name of the leader(s) is unknown; however "La Pantera" and "Chorizo" are the nicknames of one leader<sup>2</sup></li><li>A man with the initials M.P. is believed to be close to "La Pantera" or "Chorizo"<sup>3</sup></li></ul></li><li>b. Leadership timeline<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li><li>c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>E. Organizational Structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li><li>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?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li><li>c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>F. Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Financial<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li><li>b. Human<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found</li></ul></li></ul>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

c.	Logistical
	i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
	ii. Key routes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drugs arrive via small aircraft from Nicaragua.<sup>4</sup> Drugs are unloaded in the Olancho department and transported overland to San Pedro Sula, then moved toward the coasts of Guatemala and Mexico before reaching the United States.<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>
d.	Transportation
	i. Land
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
	ii. Sea
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
	iii. Air
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small aircraft capable of transporting approximately 500kg of narcotics<sup>6</sup></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>Receive shipments of cocaine from South America on small airplanes and utilize clandestine airstrips. Planes are usually burned after shipments are removed.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
<b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b>	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflictual relationship with Juticalpa drug cartels<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
<b>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
<b>J. Technical Sophistication</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
<b>K. Penchant for Innovation</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
<b>L. Activities in United States</b>	
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>

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c.	Linkages with US groups
i.	Market/transaction links
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
ii.	Stable supplier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
iii.	Franchise arrangement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
iv.	HQ and Branch office
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found</li> </ul>
<b>M. Evaluations</b>	
a.	Strengths
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Because of the lack of police presence, the flat terrain, and nonoperational radars,<sup>9</sup> drug traffickers have managed to set up several clandestine airstrips in the Olancho Department, which are used to receive shipments of cocaine from South American countries.<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Catacamas organizations are in constant conflict with those in Juticalpa which erodes their strength.</li> </ul>
c.	Additional insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>According to Alfredo Landaverde, veteran expert on drug trafficking and former adviser to the Security Secretariat, drug cartels do not operate independently in Honduras; rather they are gangs responding to foreign drug trafficking organizations.<sup>11</sup> However, these cartels/gangs operating in Catacamas are important because the Olancho district is a prime transit point for narcotic shipments from South America. These cartels must be able to receive these shipments and transfer them to San Pedro Sula, from where they can eventually make their way to the United States.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Notes</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> "Eight Killed in Gun Attack on Bus In Honduras," *Global Insight*, January 7, 2011, Online. LexisNexis Academic

<sup>2</sup> "Oscar Alvarez: Pleito Entre "Narcos" Desencadenó Mmatanza," *La Tribuna*, January 08, 2011, Retrieved online at: <http://www.latribuna.hn/2011/01/08/oscar-alvarez-pleito-entre-%E2%80%9Cnarcos%E2%80%9D-desencadenó-matanza/>

<sup>3</sup> "Juticalpa y Catacamas Viven 'Auto Estado de Sitio,'" *El Heraldo.hn\_sucesos*, January 9, 2011, Retrieved online at: <http://www.elheraldo.hn/Sucesos/Ediciones/2011/01/10/Noticias/Juticalpa-y-Catacamas-viven-auto-estado-de-sitio>

<sup>4</sup> "Honduran Officials Believe Sinaloa Cartel Assassinated Counternarcotics Chief," *La Tribuna Online*, February 24, 2010, OSC: LAP20100224026001

<sup>5</sup> "Honduran Authorities Locate Runways Used by Drug Traffickers," *La Tribuna Online*, June 10, 2009, OSC: FEA20090611861651

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*

<sup>8</sup> "Honduran Daily Urges Action to Stop Drug Cartels From Becoming All-Powerful," *El Heraldo.hn*, January 11, 2011, OSC: LAP20110111026003

<sup>9</sup> "Honduran Officials Believe Sinaloa Cartel Assassinated Counternarcotics Chief," *La Tribuna Online*, February 24, 2010, OSC: LAP20100224026001

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<sup>10</sup> "Honduran Authorities Locate Runways Used by Drug Traffickers," *La Tribuna Online*, June 10, 2009, OSC: FEA20090611861651

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