

Organization Attributes Sheet: El Taquero

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history <ul style="list-style-type: none">There is very little documentation on El Taquero and the group seems to have been inactive following the nation-wide manhunt for the gang's leader, Marvin Marín Montiel, and his accomplices in the bus massacre of November 2008.¹
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in, <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. In general<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cocaine smuggling: Dealing and smuggling relatively small quantities of cocaineMurder – bus massacreb. Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
C. Scope and Size <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Estimated size of network and membership<ul style="list-style-type: none">At least 11 members, including 3 former members of the Guatemalan police force.²b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Zacapa, GuatemalaIt is suspected that the group has some connections to cocaine dealers in Nicaragua
D. Leader Characteristics <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Who is/are the leader(s)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Marvin Marín Montiel³b. Leadership timeline<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
E. Organizational Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.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">Information not found.c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
F. Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Financial<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.b. Human<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.c. Logistical<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.ii. Key routes

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
d.	Transportation
	i. Land
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buses
	ii. Sea
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	iii. Air
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	iv. Intermodal container
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities	
a.	Corruption
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 (now former) members of the (local) Guatemalan police force have connections with El Taquero.⁴
b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
c.	Deception
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
d.	Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible connection to the Mexican criminal organization Los Zetas.⁵
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 (former) members of the (local) Guatemalan police force have connections with El Taquero.⁶
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No known alliances or past dealings with terrorist groups
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
J. Technical Sophistication	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low
K. Penchant for Innovation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low
L. Activities in United States	
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
c.	Linkages with US groups
	i. Market/transaction links
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	ii. Stable supplier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	iii. Franchise arrangement

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

- Information not found.
- iv. HQ and Branch office
- Information not found.

M. Evaluations

- a. Strengths
- No readily apparent strengths
- b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
- The group was a very small organization
- c. Additional insights
- No additional insights

Other Notes

- The event that brought this group to wide attention was the murder of 16 bus passengers. On November 9, 2008 El Taquero members stopped a bus filled with 15 Nicaraguans and 1 Dutch tourist in the town of La Reforma in the eastern province of Zacapa, Guatemala. El Taquero members dismantled the bus; police assume they were looking for hidden cocaine.⁷ When no drugs were found on board, El Taquero executed all 16 passengers, including the driver, and lit the bus and the corpses on fire. 11 Suspects were indicted for the shootings, including the organization's head Marvin Montiel Marín and 3 then-members of the Guatemalan police force.⁸ To date, only 4 of the suspects have been apprehended; Marín and 6 other suspects remain at large. El Taquero has been inactive since the incident.

¹ Guatemala New Administrator, "Guatemala: CICIG Investigations Lead to Capture in Zacapa Narco Crime," The Guatemalan Times. March 31, 2009. http://www.guatemala-times.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=982

² Ibid.

³ "Wanted: Montiel Marin, Marvin." Interpol. http://www.interpol.int/public/data/wanted/notices/data/2009/66/2009_12666.asp

⁴ Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Fact Sheet: Drug Trafficking in Guatemala." January, 2011. <http://www.ghrc-usa.org/Publications/NarcoTraficofactsheet.pdf>

⁵ Bull, Benedicte and Erik Berge, "The Forgotten Wave of Violence." Norwegian Latin America Research Network; April 14, 2009. http://www.norlarnet.uio.no/pdf/behind-the-news/englis/Wave_of_violence_english.pdf

⁶ Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Fact Sheet: Drug Trafficking in Guatemala." January, 2011. <http://www.ghrc-usa.org/Publications/NarcoTraficofactsheet.pdf>

⁷ Guatemala New Administrator, "Guatemala: CICIG Investigations Lead to Capture in Zacapa Narco Crime," The Guatemalan Times. March 31, 2009. http://www.guatemala-times.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=982

⁸ Guatemala Human Rights Commission/USA, "Fact Sheet: Drug Trafficking in Guatemala."