

Figueroa Agosto Network Template

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history

- The Figueroa Agosto network is/was a large organization of drug traffickers in the Caribbean, headed by Jose Figueroa-Agosto. Figueroa-Agosto started the organization in 2001, after walking out of prison in 1999 after serving only 4 years of a 209 year sentence. Figueroa Agosto has been called the Pablo Escobar of the Caribbean.¹
- Puerto Rico and Dominican authorities report that the network controlled almost 90% of the drug trafficking through the Caribbean. Figueroa-Agosto himself was arrested in 2010, along with reportedly 64 other members of his organization.²
- Authorities in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic consider the network to be completely dismantled, however, this is debated. There is also expected to be a fight for control of the trafficking routes by rival organizations.³

B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

a. In general

- Trafficking
- Money Laundering
- Fraud
- Murder
- Conspiracy
- Kidnapping

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

- Trafficking cocaine and heroin to the U.S. through the Caribbean

C. Scope and Size

a. Estimated size of network and membership

- The size of the network is not known, though it is described as large and influential

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

- Puerto Rico⁴
- Dominican Republic⁵
- Venezuela⁶
- Colombia⁷
- United States (product destination)⁸

D. Leader Characteristics

a. Who is/are the leader(s)

- Jose Figueroa-Agosto (Junior Capsula, Felipe Rodriguez de la Rosa, Cristian "Don Cristian" Almonte Peguero, Ramon Sanchez) *
- There are several individuals rumored to be the second in command
 - Yuber/Yumer Enrique Mendez Mendez (Oreganito) was rumored to be in charge of the drug-trafficking branch of the network.⁹
 - Omar Polanco Antigua (deceased)¹⁰
 - Jorge Figueroa-Agosto who was Figueroa-Agosto's brother.¹¹
 - Jose Miguel Marrero Martell (Pito Nariz)¹²
- Eddy Brito was third in command

***Asterisk means they have been captured by authorities**

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

b.	Leadership timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figueroa-Agosto has been the only leader of the organization. He started the organization after escaping prison in 1999.¹³
c.	Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found
E. Organizational Structure		
a.	Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not known, but seems to be at least somewhat 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? ¹⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders • Transporters • Facilitators
c.	Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found
F. Resources		
a.	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figueroa-Agosto was engaged in at least two money laundering schemes. He was funding an interior decorating business and pretending to be an architect to launder money. • The organization is reported to be a multimillion dollar organization. This profit is from cocaine trafficking.¹⁵
b.	Human	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was associated with both the gang run by Angel Ayala Vasquez and the distribution ring run by Roman Antonio del Rosario Puente (Toñó Leña). • He used other armed forces, police officers and DNCD agents to protect and continue trafficking.
c.	Logistical	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used empty apartment in the Eastern part of the Dominican Republic for storage prior to delivery and distribution • Used private docks and several ports to transport money to Puerto Rico and cocaine from Puerto Rico Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reportedly used three routes through South America.¹⁶ • Also profited from the Colombia-Venezuela route utilized by Rosario Puente¹⁷
d.	Transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naval ships to collect air dropped packages out of the water off the coast of the Dominican Republic¹⁸ • Private boats to purchase and transport cocaine from Puerto Rico to the Dominican Republic¹⁹ Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transported cocaine using airplanes and received cocaine by airplane drops²⁰

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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"> A group of 13 agents and officers from the Dominican Republic’s Drugs Control Agency (DNCD) provided the Figueroa-Agosto organization with intelligence.²¹ It is reported that the DNCD officers used connections at the airport to traffic in packages²² Reportedly used former Dominican Republic Naval officers Miguel Antonia Suárez and Carlos Rossó Peña to retrieve packages dropped off the coasts of the Dominican Republic. They used official naval ships from the Dominican Republic navy.²³
b. Concealment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hid cocaine and heroin in private compartments on recreational boats and luxury motor boats.²⁴
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) ²⁵
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angel Ayala Vasquez (“Angelo Millones”) is the leader of a gang in Dominican Republic. Together with Ayala Vasquez, he is reported to have used different ports and private docks to send boats with U.S. dollars to Puerto Rico to buy drugs and return to the Dominican Republic.²⁶ Reported to have a relationship with the Colombian Cali organization through his connection was Luis Alberto Santacruz Echeverri (one of the heads of the Cali cartel that operated in the Dominican Republic).²⁷
b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dominican Republic’s Drugs Control Agency Former Dominican Republic Naval Officers
c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puerto Rican
J. Technical Sophistication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found
K. Penchant for Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found
L. Activities in United States
a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trafficking drugs to the United States
b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cocaine
c. Linkages with US groups
i. Market/transaction links
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found

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ii. Stable supplier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found
iii. Franchise arrangement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found
iv. HQ and Branch office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found
M. Evaluations
a. Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size of the organization makes it difficult to know whether or not the group is completely dismantled. The disputes about whether or not the group is dismantled and the nature of Figueroa Agosto's current involvement with the group might allow the group to operate under the radar for a while. Figueroa Agosto's ability to corrupt many officials in the Dominican government gave him a significant level of protection. This is seen with members of DNCD working with him while they were supposed to be trying to catch him.
b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the leadership, including Figueroa Agosto, currently in prison, the group's security in the region is in jeopardy. If it is still operating, it is most likely going to face rivals groups attempting to take control of its territory, routes, and markets.
c. Additional insights
<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Other Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group identified as Airport Group 2 is associated with the Figueroa Agosto network. This group was a group of DNCD officials who attempted to become the successor to the Figueroa Agosto network. The 5 officers attempted to establish a drug trafficking organization based at the Las Americas airport. The officials stashed cocaine and heroin into the ceiling and side of an airplane. The group was caught before the first shipment could be sent.²⁸

¹ Fieser, Eliza. "The Caribbean Drug Kingpin Turned Porn Star". *Time*. 18 August 2010. www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2011778,00.html. Date Accessed: 24 April 2011

² Ibid

³ "Figueroa Agosto network still alive". *The Dominican Sun*. 27 July 2010.

<www.drsof.info/newsroom/index.php?a=send&language=en> . Date Accessed: 24 April 2011

⁴ United States Drug Enforcement Administration. "José Figueroa Agosto and 16 Other Individuals Indicted for Drug Trafficking as a Result of a Joint DEA, FBI, and ICE Investigation". 15 November 2010.

<http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/states/newsrel/2010/carib112210.html>. Date Accessed 25 April 2011.

(For future citations, source will be cited DEA)

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ "Highlights: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Dominican Republic Media". 22 December 2010. LAP20101222022003., and, "DNCD says it trapped last big capo of Agosto Network". *DiarioLibre.com*, 22 December 2010. <diariolibre.overdesigns.com/noticias_det.php?id=273376>. Date Accessed: 24 April 2011

¹⁰ *Today Online*, in English. "Puerto Rican Fugitive Case said Testing Dominican Authorities Resolve". 03 February 2010. LAP20100203049011. Date Accessed: 25 April 2011

¹¹ "Largest Caribbean drug case points to high level corruption in Dominican Republic". *DominicanWatchdog.org* 14 December 2010. http://dominicanwatchdog.org/page-Largest_Caribbean_drug_case_points_to_high_level_corruption_in_Dominican_Republic. Date Accessed 24 April 2010.

¹² "Agosto and Angel Millones brought launches with US \$ and sent drugs to PR". *DiarioLibre.com* http://www.diariolibre.com/noticias_det.php?id=286958. Date Accessed: 24 April 2011. (For future citations, source will be cited "Agosto and Angel Millones brought launches with US \$ and sent drugs to PR")

¹³ Fieser

¹⁴ DEA

¹⁵ Fieser

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ *Dr1.com*, in English. "Further on Figueroa Agosto Case". 05 January 2010. LAP20100106057004. Date Accessed: 25 April 2011. (For future citations, sources will be cited "Further on Figueroa Agosto Case")

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ "Agosto and Angel Millones brought launches with US \$ and sent drugs to PR"

²⁰ Fieser

²¹ *DiarioLibre.com*, Dominican Drug Control Agency Gives Prosecution Evidence in Case of 13 Officers. 18 August 2010. LAP20100818084004. Date Accessed: 25 April 2011

²² "Puerto Rican kingpin "owned" the Dominican antinarcotics agency". *Dominican Today*. 19 August 2010.

<<http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2010/8/19/36692/Puerto-Rican-kingpin-owned-the-Dominican-antinarcotics-agency>> Date Accessed: 24 April 2011

²³ "Further on Figueroa Agosto Case"

²⁴ "Agosto and Angel Millones brought launches with US \$ and sent drugs to PR"

²⁵ *DominicanWatchdog.com*

²⁶ "Agosto and Angel Millones brought launches with US \$ and sent drugs to PR"

²⁷ "Further on Figueroa Agosto Case"

²⁸ "Highlights: Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Dominican Republic Media 25 Jan 2011". 25 January 2011. LAP20110125022003. Date Accessed: 27 April 2011.

AND

"DNCD officers wanted to replace Agosto's network". *DiarioLibre.com*. 25 January 2011.

<http://www.diariolibre.com/noticias_det.php?id=277064>. Date Accessed: 27 April 2011.