

Organization Attributes Sheet: Guaruja Trafficking Ring

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This international drug trafficking organization was responsible for selling cocaine in Guaruja, Brazil, a coastal town in Sao Paulo state. The organization also reportedly engaged in sending cocaine to Europe with the help of mules.¹• The organization was discovered in 2005 when several men were arrested driving a Mercedes Benz with 25 kilograms of cocaine inside. The men's safe house was raided shortly thereafter, where an addition 250 cocaine capsules were seized along with a machine that pressed the cocaine into capsule form.²• The Guaruja trafficking ring was comprised of members from a variety of countries including Colombia, the Netherlands, Suriname, and Brazil.
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug trafficking.
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization sold large quantities of cocaine in Guaruja, Brazil.• Organization also engaged in sending cocaine to Europe. The organization hired mules to transport cocaine in capsule form inside their stomachs on international flights bound for Europe.³
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relatively small network.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guaruja, Brazil.• Europe.
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hafizuddin Lalmahormed – a national of the Netherlands.⁴
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lalmahormed was arrested in 2005.
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">• 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">• Appears to be a group of formal members who sold cocaine in Guaruja; however, informal members were heavily relied upon to transport cocaine to Europe.
c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appears to be centralized.

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

F. Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Financial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selling large quantities of cocaine brought the organization considerable wealth.⁵ b. Human <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mules to transport cocaine to Europe. • Drug dealers in Guaruja. c. Logistical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe house that belonged to the group was raided, resulting in the seizure of a machine press that made the cocaine capsules. ii. Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sao Paulo to destinations in Europe. d. Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. ii. Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. iii. Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial flights from Sao Paulo to Europe. iv. Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. b. Concealment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cocaine capsules were carried inside the stomachs of mules. 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No connections have been determined.
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"> • Moderate – use of cocaine capsules that were coated in rubber to facilitate ingestion.
K. Penchant for Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low to moderate – transporting drugs inside people’s stomachs is relatively difficult to detect and was likely successful for the group, but is also a well-known method.

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

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 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Market/transaction links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. Stable supplier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. Franchise arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. HQ and Branch office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
M. Evaluations	
a.	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation in international drug trafficking methods.
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of innovation in domestic drug trafficking.
c.	Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Other Notes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation is likely defunct after Lalmahomed and his associates were arrested. 	

¹ "Dise dismantles international drug trafficking gang." *Sao Paulo State Public Security Secretariat* 22 Nov 2005, Web. <http://www.ssp.sp.gov.br/noticia/lenoticia.aspx?id=13377>

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ "Police Site Names Foreign Drug Traffickers Arrested in Sao Paulo," *Sao Paulo State Public Security Secretariat* (Internet Version-WWW) in Portuguese, November 24, 2005, OSC: LAP20051124020003