

Organization Attributes Sheet: IJL Brazilian Trafficking Ring¹

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">It is not clear when the network was formed. Information on the network became public after <i>El Tiempo</i> published a report in 2008, stating that Carlos Castaña of the AUC had given information to the United States about a drug trafficking ring that was using routes through Suriname and Paraguay,² and was connected with the Red Command (CV)³ and the First Command of the Capital (PCC).⁴ The report identified the leaders as I. Soligo, J. Raffat, and L. Rocha.
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drug and weapons trafficking
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transporting shipments of cocaine and weapons to the CV and PCC via ParaguayTransporting drugs to Europe from southeastern Brazil
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The group around Luiz Carlos da Rocha is said to have 12 members.⁵No other information was found.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay, Suriname
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Luiz Carlos da Rocha⁶Jorge Rafaat Toumani⁷Irineu Domingo Soligo⁸Fahd Jamil or Jamil Fahd⁹
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The information found does not identify who the main leader was/is. It appears that these were different organizations all working together to traffic drugs, weapons, and money into Brazil. Alternatively, these could be leaders of separate organizations that have been incorrectly identified by Carlos Castaño and Brazilian authorities as having worked together.
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not enough information
E. Organizational Structure
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">It looks more like a network of different business interests, rather than a singular organization with a clear line of command.
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">Not enough information
c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not enough information
F. Resources
a. Financial

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

- In 2005, Jamil Fahd was convicted of money laundering in cooperation with Rafaaf Toumani, and Luiz Carlos da Rocha.¹⁰ However, he was acquitted of the charges on appeal in 2009.¹¹
- Parts of the network that have been seized in the past included tens of millions of dollars, along with hectares of ranchland, 30 houses, 50 apartments, 560 vehicles, and 18 airplanes.¹²

b. Human

- The network is comprised of some of the most important drug traffickers in the Tri-Border Area.

c. Logistical

i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.

- The network made use of clandestine air strips, as well as privately owned farms and ranches on either side of the Brazil-Paraguay border.¹³

ii. Key routes

- Cocaine is flown from Colombia and Bolivia to ranches and landing strips in Paraguay. Ponto Pora, which is controlled by Jamil Fahd, is a popular stopping point. The cargoes are then shipped across the border into Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, from where they are then transported to other parts of Latin America and Europe.¹⁴
- Contraband is also driven across the borders in cars and buses.¹⁵

d. Transportation

i. Land

- Cars and buses

ii. Sea

- No information, but likely that contraband is shipped to Europe using boats.

iii. Air

- Small planes

iv. Intermodal container

- Information not found.

G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities

a. Corruption

- The network is proficient in the use of corruption, with members routinely being acquitted of charges, or escaping prison after having been convicted.¹⁶ Numerous government officials are believed to be involved, and in some cases close relatives and business associates of the network are in elected government positions.¹⁷

b. Concealment

- Information not found.

c. Deception

- Information not found.

d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)

- The route from Colombia through Paraguay has become more popular since the Brazilian military began more closely monitoring the Amazon with radar and was given authority to shoot down suspicious planes.¹⁸ The Paraguayan border is notoriously porous.¹⁹

H. Prior / Existing Relationships

a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)

- FARC²⁰

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.
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- CV²¹
- PCC²²
- Hezbollah²³

b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.

- Jamil Fahd’s brother was an elected official in Paraguay.²⁴
- The Acevedo brothers are elected officials connected to Jamil Fahd.²⁵

c. *Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.*

- Dealings with FARC.
- Connections to Hezbollah

I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)

- Jamil Fahd has been linked to Hezbollah, as a weapons supplier. However, it is not clear whether the relationship is ideologically driven or simply a business matter.²⁶
- The FARC, PCC, and CV are all reputed to have popular leftist ideologies, and some of the members of the network connected with these organizations might harbor similar motivations. However, most reports discount the seriousness of these ideological motivations.

J. Technical Sophistication

- A significant degree of technological sophistication is evidenced by the use of airplanes, as well as logistics spread out from Colombia and Bolivia through Paraguay and Brazil all the way to Europe. Presumably, it is not possible to maintain this kind of network without a fairly sophisticated understanding of transportation and communications technology.

K. Penchant for Innovation

- Not enough information available

L. Activities in United States

a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities

- Information not found.

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 network is involved in large-scale trafficking of drugs and weapons, with connections to the major suppliers in Europe and South America.
- The network operates in an area with little state influence, almost at the level of impunity.
- The network reportedly has connections to major Brazilian gangs like the CV and PCC, as well as listed terrorist organizations, like FARC and Hezbollah.

b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities

- The network does not appear to be centralized, nor does it have a cohering ideology beyond business relationships. This, along with the relative independence of the

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separate groups that make up the network, means that conflict and double-dealing between groups could disrupt the network.

c. Additional insights

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Other Notes

- It is very difficult to construct a coherent structure for this network because many of the sources treat the different groups as separate, while many other sources show that at different times these groups have overlapped or cooperated with one another. For instance, some reports will claim that Soligo is an agent for the PCC, while other reports will claim that he worked for the CV. Yet another example would be a report claiming that Jamil Fahd worked with the CV, the FARC, and Hezbollah at one point, while a different report will claim that Jamil Fahd worked with the PCC and Luiz Carlos da Rocha. Properly untangling this network will take a great deal of time.

¹ I named the network “IJL Brazilian Trafficking Ring,” based on the *El Tiempo* report, which stated “Los capos brasileños que reciben la cocaína de la Farc son I. Soligo, J. Raffat y L. Rocha.” I took the first letters of the first name of each and put them together, as IJL. “Castaño filtró datos de 'narcos' a EU,” *El Tiempo*, August 16, 2008. <http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3056120>.

² “Castaño filtró datos de 'narcos' a EU,” *El Tiempo*, August 16, 2008.

<http://www.eltiempo.com/archivo/documento/MAM-3056120>; “Castano Gave Information on Drug Trafficking to United States,” *El Tiempo*, August 16, 2008, OSC: LAP20080817005001.

³ “Traficante da quadrilha de Beira-Mar que vivia no Paraguai é extraditado para o Brasil,” *Jornal do Brasil*, April 02, 2011. <http://www.jb.com.br/pais/noticias/2011/02/04/traficante-da-quadrilha-de-beira-mar-que-vivia-no-paraguai-e-extraditado-para-o-brasil/>.

⁴ “Los barones de la cocaine,” *ABC Digital*, August 30, 2007. <http://archivo.abc.com.py/2007-08-30/articulos/353978/los-barones-de-la-cocaina>.

⁵ “Ameaçado pelo narcotráfico, juiz federal vive confinado em forum,” *O Estado do Sao Paulo*, April 7, 2005. http://www.migalhas.com.br/mostra_noticia.aspx?cod=13766.

⁶ “Castano Gave Information on Drug Trafficking to United States,” *El Tiempo*, August 16, 2008, OSC: LAP20080817005001.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “Resumo da Sentença Condenatória,” *Instituto Brasileiro Giovanni Falcone*, 2005.

[http://ibgf.org.br/index.php?data\[id_secao\]=4&data\[id_materia\]=524](http://ibgf.org.br/index.php?data[id_secao]=4&data[id_materia]=524).

¹⁰ Bejarano Jr., Celso. “MPF pode recorrer de decisão que absolveu Fahd Jamil,” *Midiamax News*, June 23, 2009.

<http://www.midiamax.com/Pol%C3%ADcia/noticias/516909-mpf+pode+recorrer+decisao+absolveu+fahd+jamil.html>.

¹¹ “Resumo da Sentença Condenatória,” *Instituto Brasileiro Giovanni Falcone*, 2005.

[http://ibgf.org.br/index.php?data\[id_secao\]=4&data\[id_materia\]=524](http://ibgf.org.br/index.php?data[id_secao]=4&data[id_materia]=524); “Fahd Jamil sale libre en Brasil y recupera bienes,” *Ultima Hora*, June 24, 2009. <http://www.ultimahora.com/notas/232668-fahd-jamil-sale-libre-en-brasil-y-recupera--bienes>.

¹² De Abreu, Allan. “Traficante oferece US \$ 300 mil pela cabeça de juiz,” *Diarioweb.com.br*, April 13, 2008. <http://www.diarioweb.com.br/noticias/imp.asp?id=106686>.

¹³ Rocha, Graciliano. “Após Sivam, Paraguai passou a receber mais pó,” *Terra Magazine*, April 18, 2008. <http://terramagazine.terra.com.br/interna/0,,OI2746845-EI6580,00.html>.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ “Resumo da Sentença Condenatória,” *Instituto Brasileiro Giovanni Falcone*, 2005.

[http://ibgf.org.br/index.php?data\[id_secao\]=4&data\[id_materia\]=524](http://ibgf.org.br/index.php?data[id_secao]=4&data[id_materia]=524); “Fahd Jamil sale libre en Brasil y recupera bienes,” *Ultima Hora*, June 24, 2009. <http://www.ultimahora.com/notas/232668-fahd-jamil-sale-libre-en-brasil-y-recupera--bienes>.

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- ¹⁷ “Ameaçado pelo narcotráfico, juiz federal vive confinado em fórum,” *O Estado do Sao Paulo*, April 7, 2005. http://www.migalhas.com.br/mostra_noticia.aspx?cod=13766.
- ¹⁸ Rocha, Graciliano. “Após Sivam, Paraguai passou a receber mais pó,” *Terra Magazine*, April 18, 2008. <http://terramagazine.terra.com.br/interna/0,,OI2746845-EI6580,00.html>.
- ¹⁹ “A fronteira da impunidade,” *O Dia*, December 26, 2007. <http://www.sinpefgo.org.br/noticias.asp?codnot=2748>.
- ²⁰ “Ameaçado pelo narcotráfico, juiz federal vive confinado em fórum,” *O Estado do Sao Paulo*, April 7, 2005. http://www.migalhas.com.br/mostra_noticia.aspx?cod=13766.
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Rocha, Graciliano. “Após Sivam, Paraguai passou a receber mais pó,” *Terra Magazine*, April 18, 2008. <http://terramagazine.terra.com.br/interna/0,,OI2746845-EI6580,00.html>.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Dreyer Wojciechowski, Guilherme. “Deputado Denuncia ‘Nova Mafia’ na Fronteira Seca,” *SopaBrasiguaia.com*, June 04, 2007. http://sopabrasiguaia.blogspot.com/2007_04_06_archive.html.
- ²⁶ De Azevedo, Denes. “Odilon condena Fahd Jamil,” *Diario MS*, May 31, 2011. http://www.diarioms.com.br/edicoes_anteriores.php?edicao=408&id=47260; “A Global Overview of Narcotics-Funded Terrorist and Other Extremist Groups,” *Library of Congress – Federal Research Division*, May 2002. http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/loc/drug_funded_terrorism.pdf.