

## Organization Attributes Sheet: Independent Acapulco Cartel (Cartel Independiente de Acapulco)

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<b>A. When the organization was formed + brief history</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This group is a splinter organization of Edgar Valdez Villarreal (AKA: “La Barbie”) who, after Arturo Beltran Leyva was killed, became a serious contender to lead the Beltran Leyva Organization.</li><li>• When “La Barbie” was arrested in August 2010, he promoted his father in law Carlos Montemayor Gonzalez (AKA: “El Charro”)<sup>1</sup> to continue with the illegal activities of his group.</li><li>• This action was not accepted by some of the lieutenants such as Moisés Montero Álvarez (AKA: “El Koreano”), Carlos Antonio Barragán Hernández (AKA: “El Melón”) and Benjamín Flores Reyes (AKA: “El Padrino”) who decided to defect from the Valdez Villareal organization and start the Independent Acapulco Cartel.<sup>2</sup></li><li>• This organization is also known for its intense violence, (especially its hit man groups), which has enabled it to become a serious contender for the control of the pacific port of Acapulco, which is a key smuggling node for incoming cocaine from South America.</li></ul>
<b>B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,</b>
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drug trafficking and extortion.</li></ul>
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cocaine coming from Colombia.</li></ul>
<b>C. Scope and Size</b>
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The recent formation of this organization makes it difficult to provide the size of this group’s membership.</li></ul>
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group’s operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acapulco in the State of Guerrero.</li></ul>
<b>D. Leader Characteristics</b>
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moisés Montero Álvarez (AKA: “El Koreano”)</li><li>• Carlos Antonio Barragán Hernández (AKA: “El Melón”)</li><li>• Benjamín Flores Reyes (AKA: “El Padrino”) (Arrested March 2011).<sup>3</sup></li></ul>
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information not found.</li></ul>
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diffuse. Montero Alvarez is the leader and Barragan Hernandez and Flores Reyes are in charge of logistics and security, respectively.</li></ul>
<b>E. Organizational Structure</b>
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information not found.</li></ul>
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>
c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information not found.</li></ul>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<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> <li>c. Logistical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>d. Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii. Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>iv. Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This organization relies on corrupting local and state police to provide them with information regarding federal law enforcement operations as well to move freely throughout the State of Guerrero.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Concealment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. Deception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This organization works independently and has open turf wars in Acapulco against La Familia, the Gulf organization and the South Pacific Organization.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So far there is no indication of this group having any relation with terrorist organizations.</li> </ul> </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>• Although this organization was recently formed, it is using brutal violence to send out the message of its determination to gain full control of Acapulco. Proof of this is that Benjamin Flores ordered the assassination of 20 people from the State of Michoacan who went on</li> </ul>

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

vacation to Acapulco because Flores thought they were a hit squad sent by La Familia to move into Acapulco.<sup>4</sup>

#### 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 corruption and violent enforcement methods used by the Valdez Villarreal group can become an asset for this organization to gain full control of the pacific Acapulco port.
- b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
  - The recklessly violent behavior the organization has attracted attention from federal law enforcement and this has resulted in several of its members being arrested.<sup>5</sup>
- c. Additional insights
  - Although this is an organization recently formed, its propensity for reckless behavior and the pressure from the Federal Police, might lead it to engage in riskier activities.

#### Other Notes

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<sup>1</sup> Arrested on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2011 by the Federal Police. La Jornada, “Cártel Independiente de Acapulco ejecutó por confusión a los michoacanos” November, 25th, 2010,

<http://www.lajornadamichoacan.com.mx/2010/11/25/index.php?section=politica&article=004n1pol>

<sup>2</sup> Sur Acapulco, “Federal Agents Arrest Seven Alleged Members of Independent Cartel”, (Internet Version-WWW in Spanish) January 24th, 2011, OSC: LAP20110124036007

<sup>3</sup> Milenio Diario, “Capturan a “El Padrino”, identificado como líder del Cártel Independiente de Acapulco”, March 7th 2011, <http://www.milenio.com/print/663823>

<sup>4</sup> La Jornada, “Cártel Independiente de Acapulco ejecutó por confusión a los michoacanos” November 25th, 2010, <http://www.lajornadamichoacan.com.mx/2010/11/25/index.php?section=politica&article=004n1pol>

<sup>5</sup> “Federal Authorities Arrest Independent Cartel Leader”, (Internet Version-WWW in Spanish) January 2gth, 2011, OSC: LAP20110126036001