

Organization Attributes Sheet: Juticalpa Drug Cartel

Author: Suman Sajjan

Review: Phil Williams

| |
|---|
| A. When the organization was formed + brief history |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">It is unclear whether the Juticalpa drug cartel is one central organization or comprised of several drug organizations in the area. Juticalpa, Honduras is located in the Olancho Department. Drug cartels of Juticalpa are engaged in disputes with drug cartels of Catacamas, Juticalpa's sister city. Violence has grown in the area especially along the road between Juticalpa and Catacamas. Several shootouts and massacres have killed innocent civilians as well as journalists reporting on drug cartels have been murdered. Public transport is often targeted for extortion or as a result of conflict between gangs.¹ This has created fear among the residents and reporters giving cartels greater control of the Juticalpa area. |
| B. Types of illegal activities engaged in, |
| a. In general |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Murder and drug trafficking |
| b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found |
| C. Scope and Size |
| a. Estimated size of network and membership |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Size of network and membership unknown |
| b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Operates in Honduras. Local to Olancho Department and centralized in Juticalpa |
| D. Leader Characteristics |
| a. Who is/are the leader(s) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">A man identified with the initials S.R. is allegedly close to cartel leaders²43 year old Maria de los Angeles Bonilla Discua, aka "La Doctora" allegedly plays an important role in the organization.³ |
| b. 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 |
| 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 |
| a. Financial |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found |

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| b. | Human | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |
| c. | Logistical | <p>i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>ii. Key routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drugs usually arrive via small aircraft from Nicaragua.⁴ Drugs unloaded in the Olancho department are transported overland to San Pedro Sula and then to Guatemala coasts and Mexico before reaching the United States.⁵ |
| d. | Transportation | <p>i. Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>ii. Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>iii. Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small aircraft that hold approximately 500kg of narcotics.⁶ <p>iv. Intermodal container</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |
| G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities | | |
| a. | Corruption | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |
| 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"> Receive shipments of cocaine from South America on small airplanes that land on clandestine airstrips. Planes are usually burned after shipments are removed.⁷ |
| H. Prior / Existing Relationships | | |
| a. | Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflictual relationship with Catacamas drug cartels⁸ Sinaloa cartel has operations in the Juticalpa region and probably has ties to Juticalpa drug cartels.⁹ |
| b. | Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law enforcement is corrupt. According to a Juticalpa citizen, “there is complicity between the police and the ‘narcos.’ Leaders of the cartels can often be seen going into the police station to “fix” things with the police using drugs or money.”¹⁰ |
| 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"> Information not found |
| J. Technical Sophistication | | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |

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

| |
|--|
| K. Penchant for Innovation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |
| L. Activities in United States |
| <p>a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |
| <p>b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |
| <p>c. Linkages with US groups</p> <p>i. Market/transaction links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>ii. Stable supplier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>iii. Franchise arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>iv. HQ and Branch office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found |
| M. Evaluations |
| <p>a. Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of police presence, flat terrain, and nonoperational radars¹¹ allow drug traffickers to set up clandestine airstrips in Olancho Department, which are used to receive shipments of cocaine from South America.¹² |
| <p>b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Juticalpa cartels are in constant conflict with those in Catacamas making the organizations weaker |
| <p>c. Additional insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alfredo Landaverde, veteran expert on drug trafficking and former adviser to the Security Secretariat, claimed that drug cartels do not operate in Honduras; there are simply gangs responding to foreign cartels.¹³ However, these cartels/gangs operating in Juticalpa are important because the Olancho district is a prime rendezvous and transit point for narcotic shipments from South America. These gangs must be able to receive shipments and transfer them to San Pedro Sula where they can eventually make their way to the United States. |
| Other Notes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> |

¹ "Eight Killed in Gun Attack on Bus In Honduras," *Global Insight*, January 7, 2011, LexisNexis Academic

² "Juticalpa y Catacamas Viven 'Auto Estado de Sitio,'" *El Heraldo.hn_sucesos*. January 09, 2011. Retrieved online at: <http://www.elheraldo.hn/Sucesos/Ediciones/2011/01/10/Noticias/Juticalpa-y-Catacamas-viven-auto-estado-de-sitio>

³ "Eight Dead After Bus Attack in Honduras," *BNO News*, January 8, 2011, Retrieved online at: <http://wireupdate.com/wires/13935/eight-dead-after-bus-attack-in-honduras/>

⁴ "Honduran Officials Believe Sinaloa Cartel Assassinated Counternarcotics Chief," *La Tribuna Online*, February 24, 2010, OSC: LAP20100224026001

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

⁵ "Honduran Authorities Locate Runways Used by Drug Traffickers," *La Tribuna Online*, June 10, 2009, OSC: FEA20090611861651

⁶ *ibid*

⁷ *ibid*

⁸ "Honduran Daily Urges Action to Stop Drug Cartels From Becoming All-Powerful," *El Heraldo.hn*, January 11, 2011, OSC: LAP20110111026003

⁹ "Honduran Officials Believe Sinaloa Cartel Assassinated Counternarcotics Chief," *La Tribuna Online*, February 24, 2010, OSC: LAP20100224026001

¹⁰ "With Increased US Aid, Honduras Militarizes Anti-Drug Fight," *Anti-War.com*, February 19, 2011, LexisNexis Academic

¹¹ "Honduran Officials Believe Sinaloa Cartel Assassinated Counternarcotics Chief," *La Tribuna Online*, February 24, 2010, OSC: LAP20100224026001

¹² "Honduran Authorities Locate Runways Used by Drug Traffickers," *La Tribuna Online*, June 10, 2009, OSC: FEA20090611861651

¹³ "Honduran Daily Urges Action to Stop Drug Cartels From Becoming All-Powerful," *El Heraldo.hn*, January 11, 2011, OSC: LAP20110111026003