

Organization Attributes Sheet: La Linea and Los Linces

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history

- La Linea is the armed wing of the Juarez Cartel that serves an enforcer role, murdering and kidnapping enemies of the Juarez cartel while also contributing to drug trafficking efforts.¹
- The group is comprised of former and current Mexican state police officers as well as drug traffickers who take part in assassinations, kidnappings, and the only Mexican gang to have performed a car bombing against federal authorities. The infamous car bombing took place in Juarez City, killing four people including a police officer. It was intended to kill federal police and was detonated by cell phone.²
- Established by Amado Carrillo Fuentes, the former leader of the Juarez cartel, to specialize in enforcement. Los Linces, a special detachment of La Linea, was established in response to the need for even more assistance against Mexican authorities and associates of the Sinaloa cartel.
- Infamous for killing a group of teenagers at a birthday party which resulted in 16 deaths and many other injuries. The group thought that one of the teenagers was an informant for the police.³
- Los Linces (The Bobcats) are a special unit within La Linea whose sole purpose is to carry out assassinations on important targets. They are comprised of ex-special forces members from the Mexican Army, and are considered the more militaristic of the two enforcement groups that work for the Juarez cartel.
- Los Linces are comparable to Los Zetas in terms of military experience and have been known to operate in small groups of no larger than 5 individuals. Their targets have included municipal police, state police, mayors, state officials, and key figures in other cartels and street gangs.⁴
- Both groups take orders directly from leaders within the Juarez cartel.

B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

a. In general

- Murder, kidnapping, drug trafficking.

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

- La Linea - Smuggling drugs from Juarez City into the United States and protecting these drug routes passing through Juarez City.

C. Scope and Size

a. Estimated size of network and membership

- La Linea as a whole – unknown
- Los Linces – Approximately 80 members.⁵

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

- Concentrated in Juarez City and surrounding areas.
- Throughout the state of Chihuahua.

D. Leader Characteristics

a. Who is/are the leader(s)

- Vicente Carrillo Fuentes – leader of the Juarez cartel, gives orders to La Linea and Los Linces.
- Juan Pablo Ledesma – manages La Linea and Los Linces for the Juarez cartel.
- Rogelio Segovia Hernandez – leader of La Linea.⁶

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juan Pablo Guijarro Fragoza – A top leader in La Linea, responsible for defending Juarez City from the Sinaloa cartel.⁷ • Jesus Acosta Guerrero – operations leader of La Linea. • Fernando Contreras Meraz – regional La Linea boss in Chihuahua.⁸ • Juan Alfredo Soto Arias – leader of Los Lince.⁹
b.	Leadership timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
c.	Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autocratic – Fuentes dictates actions undertaken by both groups.
E. Organizational Structure	
a.	Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal – members are chosen because of their law enforcement/military experience.
c.	Command and Control (decentralized or centralized) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralized in that Vicente Carrillo Fuentes directly gives orders to Ledesma, Arias, Fragoza, and Hernandez.
F. Resources	
a.	Financial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive payments for being the Juarez cartel’s enforcement groups.
b.	Human <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit from among current and retired police officers and ex-special forces who possess extensive weapons training and law enforcement/military experience.
c.	Logistical <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available. Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the trafficking of cocaine and marijuana into the United States via Juarez City.
d.	Transportation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overland routes between Juarez City and El Paso, Texas. Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available. Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available. Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities	
a.	Corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
b.	Concealment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
c.	Deception

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships
a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a part of the Juarez cartel, La Linea is in cooperation with the Beltran-Levya cartel and street gangs like the Aztecas. • Main enemy is the Sinaloa cartel and its associates who are currently fighting with the group for control over Juarez and the trafficking routes around the city.
b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Linea, Los Linces and the entire Juarez cartel in general, are supported by a large network of corrupt municipal police officers, state police officers, and some federal personnel who are bribed with large sums of cash in return for their support.¹⁰ • Mexican police officers are told by their superiors to leave members of La Linea and Los Linces alone for fear of retaliation.
c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far no indication of terrorist involvement is known.
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
J. Technical Sophistication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Linea and Los Linces have been known to utilize an array of deadly weapons including AK-47 and AR-15 assault rifles, hand grenades, and car bombs with rudimentary explosives against federal law enforcement agencies and rival gangs.
K. Penchant for Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate – use of car bombs that are detonated by cell phone, something that is seldom seen in Mexico.
L. Activities in United States
a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
c. Linkages with US groups
i. Market/transaction links
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
ii. Stable supplier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
iii. Franchise arrangement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
iv. HQ and Branch office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available.
M. Evaluations
a. Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The groups’ penchant for innovation by using car bombs against law enforcement, along with their brutal tactics can be accounted as a major strength. • The small size of Los Linces makes it difficult for authorities to locate the members.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputation still strikes fear in rival gangs and law enforcement agencies.
b.	<p>Weaknesses and vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brutal tactics have caused a general lack of support for the group among the public. • Fierce rivalries threaten the group's effectiveness in Juarez , especially the attacks by the Sinaloa cartel. • Car bombing attack in Juarez brought international attention, forced federal police to focus on eradicating the groups.
c.	<p>Additional insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The groups have used tactics that can be labeled as terrorist such as their use of car bombings and assassinations. They also have targeted law enforcement agencies which might be a symptom of them losing ground in Juarez. This could also be a sign that both groups would be willing to engage in even riskier violent activities.
Other Notes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership in La Linea appears to be constantly shifting and morphing due to arrests, deaths, and an overall crackdown on the illegal activities of La Linea and Los Linces. The prospects of both groups maintaining a powerful position in Juarez appear bleak.

¹ "La Linea." *Borderland Beat*. 14 Oct 2009. <http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2009/10/la-linea.html>

² Ellingwood, Ken. "Mexico arrests man alleged to have directed fatal Juarez car bomb attack." *Los Angeles Times* 21 Oct 2010, Web. <http://articles.latimes.com/2010/oct/21/world/la-fg-mexico-carbomb-20101022>

³ Licon, Adriana. "Second man arrested in Juarez massacre." *El Paso Times* 7 Feb 2010. http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci_14351456

⁴ "Los Linces." *Borderland Beat*. 16 Oct 2009. <http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2009/10/los-linces.html>

⁵ "Los Linces." *Borderland Beat*. 16 Oct 2009. <http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2009/10/los-linces.html>

⁶ Valencia, Nick. "Top drug lieutenant seized in Mexico." *CNN* 29 July 2010.

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/07/29/mexico.drug.cartel/index.html?iref=allsearch>

⁷ "Mexican Attorney General Identifies Most Wanted Criminal." *Insight: Organized Crime in the Americas* 6 Jan 2011. <http://www.insightcrime.org/insight-latest-news/item/406-mexican-attorney-general-identifies-most-wanted-criminals>

⁸ Ellingwood

⁹ OSC. Highlights: Mexico's Northern Border Crime/Narcotics/Security Issues 18 Mar 2010.

https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/LAP2_0100318356004#index=5&searchKey=5218758&rpp=10

¹⁰ "La Linea." *Borderland Beat*. 14 Oct 2009. <http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2009/10/la-linea.html>