

## Organization Attributes Sheet: Los Catalanes

Author: Andrew Bryson

Review: Phil Williams

<b>A. When the organization was formed + brief history</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Los Catalanes is a criminal organization involved in the transatlantic drug trade. There is little to no public knowledge regarding the organization, including its history, leadership, and size.</li></ul>
<b>B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In general<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drug Trafficking</li></ul></li><li><i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recruitment of individuals to transport drugs to Europe using double bottom suitcases. The group's means of recruitment are unclear, but may involve other forms of illegal activities.<sup>1</sup></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>C. Scope and Size</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Estimated size of network and membership<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li><li>Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Venezuela</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>D. Leader Characteristics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Who is/are the leader(s)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li><li>Leadership timeline<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li><li>Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>E. Organizational Structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li><li>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></li><li>Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>F. Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Financial<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li><li>Human<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li><li>Logistical<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Forgery, safe-houses, etc.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li><li>Key routes<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

d.	Transportation
i.	Land
	• Information not found.
ii.	Sea
	• Information not found.
iii.	Air
	• Information not found.
iv.	Intermodal container
	• Information not found.
<b>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</b>	
a.	Corruption
	• Information not found.
b.	Concealment
	• Double-bottom suitcases
c.	Deception
	• Information not found.
d.	Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
	• Information not found.
<b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b>	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	• Los Catalanes likely provides its niche service many other narcotics trafficking organizations.
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.
	• Information not found.
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
	• Information not found.
<b>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</b>	
	• Information not found.
<b>J. Technical Sophistication</b>	
	• Limited, available information suggests little technical sophistication.
<b>K. Penchant for Innovation</b>	
	• Information not found.
<b>L. Activities in United States</b>	
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
	• Information not found.
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities; logistical activities</i>
	• 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

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- Information not found.

#### **M. Evaluations**

##### a. Strengths

- There is very little public knowledge of the organization and its tactics.

##### b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities

- The Venezuelan Scientific, Penal and Criminal Investigations (CICPC) arrested a member of the organization, Ana Solanes Comellas (AKA "El Caramel") in September 2010. It was reported that the CICPC has also identified multiple other members of the organization.<sup>2</sup>

##### c. Additional insights

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#### **Other Notes**

- Los Catalanes is of low priority. The group appears to be small and focused on providing a niche service, recruiting persons to carry narcotics on transatlantic flights. In addition to these characteristics, the recent arrest of one of its members makes it highly unlikely that the group could become involved in more dangerous activities.

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<sup>1</sup> "Highlights: Venezuela Crime, Narcotics Issues 17-20 Sep 10."

LAP20100919039001 17 -20 September 2010.

<sup>2</sup> "Venezuelan CICPC captured Spanish drug dealer sought by Interpol," *Agencia Venezolana de Noticias*, September 18, 2010. [http://www.avn.info.ve/node/18119?quicksync\\_5=9](http://www.avn.info.ve/node/18119?quicksync_5=9)