

## Organization attributes Sheet: Los Gueros organization

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<b>A. When the organization was formed + brief history</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Originally based in in the western Mexican city of Guadalajara, this organization worked as an <i>independent</i> group to smuggle cocaine into the United States either for the Federation or the Gulf cartel.</li><li>• It was headed by the brothers Luis and Esteban Rodriguez Olivera. But since the arrest (December, 2008) and recent extradition (March, 2011) of Esteban to the United States, Luis is now the sole leader of this trafficking organization.<sup>1</sup></li><li>• Once the Federation broke apart, the Rodriguez Olivera brothers refused to continue to ally with Ignacio Cornel, so were forced to move their operational base to the central city of Leon in Guanajuato State and forge a pact with Zetas to continue smuggling cocaine across the Texas border.<sup>2</sup></li><li>• In August 2009, the Eastern District of New York charged Luis and Esteban Rodriguez Olivera on narcotics trafficking charges. According to the indictment, between 1996 and 2008, the Los Gueros organization allegedly imported more than 100,000 kilograms of cocaine into the United States.<sup>3</sup></li></ul>
<b>B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,</b>
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drug trafficking</li></ul>
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cocaine smuggling from Colombia and Peru, through Central America and Mexico into the United States (New York metropolitan area) and Europe.</li><li>• Pseudoephedrine distribution to support methamphetamine distribution to United States and Europe.</li></ul>
<b>C. Scope and Size</b>
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No good estimates of membership, although it is believed to be in the hundreds.</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>• Central Mexico (Guanajuato), South America, (Colombia and Peru), United States and Europe.</li></ul>
<b>D. Leader Characteristics</b>
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Luis Rodriguez Olivera (AKA: El Güero)</li><li>• Esteban Rodriguez Olivera (extradited to the U.S)</li><li>• Daniel Rodriguez Olivera</li><li>• Miguel Rodriguez Olivera</li><li>• Jose Alfredo Rodriguez Olivera<sup>4</sup></li></ul>
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Esteban and Luis Rodriguez Olivera: Co leaders until December 2008</li><li>• Luis Esteban Rodriguez Olivera leader from 2009 to present.<sup>5</sup></li></ul>
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Probably autocratic</li></ul>
<b>E. Organizational Structure</b>
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
b.	<p>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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal. Based on ad hoc alliances and contracts with other trafficking organizations.<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>
c.	<p>Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralized under Luis Rodriguez Olivera.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
<b>F. Resources</b>	
a.	<p>Financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although there is no clear evidence of the amount of money this organization has, given the amount of cocaine smuggled into the United States over the years, it has almost certainly amassed a considerable fortune.</li> </ul>
b.	<p>Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
c.	<p>Logistical</p> <ol 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>From Peru and Colombia through either Mexico’s Pacific or Gulf coast to cross through McAllen or Laredo, Texas. From there, to the operations and distribution base in New York metropolitan area.<sup>8</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ol>
d.	<p>Transportation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trailer Trucks</li> </ul> </li> <li>Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</b>	
a.	<p>Corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
b.	<p>Concealment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
c.	<p>Deception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
d.	<p>Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
<b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b>	
a.	<p>Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although they used to work closely with the Sinaloa Organization, this group has made an effort to operate independently. To do so it forges alliances and pacts with different organizations. Currently it appears to have an arrangement with Zetas to smuggle cocaine through southern Texas.<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>
b.	<p>Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
c.	<p><i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So far there is been no indication of dealings with terrorist groups.</li> </ul>
<b>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family based. Now that Esteban has been extradited to the U.S, Luis is the leader of the organization, with operational aid from his brothers Daniel and Miguel.</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>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<b>L. Activities in United States</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drug trafficking</li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Specific detail: trafficking activities; logistical activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cocaine</li> <li>• Pseudoephedrine</li> </ul> </li> <li>Linkages with US groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market/transaction links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stable supplier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cocaine: Colombian and Peruvian Organizations</li> </ul> </li> <li>Franchise arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> <li>HQ and Branch office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>M. Evaluations</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The independent operational status that the organization has managed to sustain can be a valuable asset in a country in which drug trafficking organizations are so competitive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The familiar structure of this organization and the recent extradition of Esteban, might force Luis to submit to other organizations to remain in business.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although no indication exists that this group has had any dealing with terrorist organization, the fact that the Rodriguez Olivera Organization has managed to operate independently through all these years, gives it enormous flexibility without counterbalance from other organizations.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Other Notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> "Alleged Mexican Drug Kingpin Extradited to the United States to Face Drug and Money-Laundering Charges", Department of Justice, March 14th, 2011, <http://newsroom-magazine.com/2011/executive-branch/justice-department/dea/esteban-rodriguez-olivera-extradicted-to-u-s-on-drug-money-laundering-charges/>

<sup>2</sup> "Narcotics Rewards Program: Luis Rodriguez-Olivera", State Department, <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/narc/rewards/158865.htm>

<sup>3</sup> "Treasury Designates Band of Drug Trafficking Brothers as Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers", Department of the Treasury, January 2nd, 2011. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1043.aspx>

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4 *“Los Gueros Treasury Chart”*, Department of the Treasury, February, 2011, <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1043.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> *“Narcotics Rewards Program: Luis Rodriguez-Olivera”*, Op Cit.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> *“Narcotics Rewards Program: Luis Rodriguez-Olivera”*, Op Cit

<sup>8</sup> *“Alleged Mexican Drug Kingpin Extradited to the United States to Face Drug and Money-Laundering Charges”*, Op Cit

<sup>9</sup> *“Narcotics Rewards Program: Luis Rodriguez-Olivera”*, Op Cit.