

Organization Attributes Sheet: Los Negros

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This organization was created by Edgar Valdes Villarreal aka “La Barbie” (along with Los Pelones) for the Sinaloa Organization as a response to the Gulf Organization creating Los Zetas.¹• In 2008, when the Beltran Leyva brothers seceded from “La Federacion” Edgar Valdes and Los Negros decided to join forces with the Beltran Leyva Organization.• But since the death of Arturo Beltran Leyva in 2009 and the arrest of Edgar Valdes in 2010, the group has apparently started working independently in familiar states such as Sinaloa, Sonora, Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, Veracruz, Jalisco, and Guerrero²
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Illegal drug smuggling and retail 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">• The number of members working for this organization is unclear. As a result of the number of times this groups has changed alliance, it could be expected that its size has decreased.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group’s operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sonora, Sinaloa, Jalisco and Guerrero.
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although the group was under direct command of Edgar Valdes Villarreal aka “La Barbie” now that he is in jail it is unclear who leads the organization.
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">• Although the group was be centralized under Edgar Valdes, command and control is now unclear.
F. Resources
a. Financial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reports suggest this organization has sufficient financial resources to operate, but probably less than in the past since it is now on its own.³
b. Human

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of this group are known to be well armed and well trained. U.S law enforcement agencies report that Los Negros are willing to use deadly force against any law enforcement agency that attempts to confront them.⁴
c.	Logistical
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
d.	Transportation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This group is known to operate in Pacific states of Mexico (Sonora, Sinaloa, Jalisco and Guerrero) and has also operated in Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Veracruz.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities	
a.	Corruption
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As former Beltran Leyva operatives, members are known to bribe local and state law enforcement agencies to facilitate their operations. Reports claim that local police officials guard their way and let them know where checkpoints are located.⁵
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"> Information not found.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinaloa Organization and Beltran Leyva Organization. This organization was also known to use Mara Salvatrucha members to assist in the enforcement activities for the Sinaloa and Beltran Leyva organizations.⁶
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So far no indication could be found of this group dealing with terrorist organizations.
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
J. Technical Sophistication	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since its creation was a response to the militaristic style of Los Zetas, this group is also capable of using assault rifles, automatic weapons and of intelligence collection.
K. Penchant for Innovation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low

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L. Activities in United States	
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no indication of this group operating on US territory.
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
c.	Linkages with US groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Market/transaction links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. Stable supplier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. Franchise arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. HQ and Branch office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
M. Evaluations	
a.	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The violent enforcement methods background that Edgar Valdes provided, as well as military training could give this group the leverage to gain strength. • The alliance with Mara Salvatrucha members could be an asset.
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous changes in alliances suggest both size and financial resources are limited.
c.	Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although this organization is still evolving, its violent background and its alliance with Mara Salvatrucha, could lead to riskier transnational activities.
Other Notes	
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¹ Salazar, Miguel and Olson, Eric, "A profile on Mexico's Major Organized Crime Groups, The Woodrow Wilson Center, <http://wilsoncenter.org/news/docs/A%20Profile%20of%20Mexicos%20Organized%20Crime.pdf>

² Milenio Diario, "La Barbie, principal ejecutor de los Beltrán Leyva: DEA" November, 18th 2008, <http://impreso.milenio.com/node/8065980>

³ Cruz, Juan, "Son Los Zetas, Los Negros y Los Números, las bandas más peligrosas de Estados Unidos ", El Sol de México, January 4th, 2009, <http://www.oem.com.mx/laprensa/notas/n993494.htm>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Milenio Diario, "La Barbie, principal ejecutor de los Beltrán Leyva: DEA" Op Cit.

⁶ Milenio Diario, "La Barbie, principal ejecutor de los Beltrán Leyva: DEA" Op Cit