

Organization Attributes Sheet: Los Paz

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">This group steals cars in the states of Zulia and Tachira, Venezuela and transports them across the border into Colombia for sale.¹
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Illegal car trade.
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Group steals cars in Zulia and Tachira, Venezuela and drives them across shallow rivers into Colombia where they are sold in Guajiro.²
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Likely a large network due to thousands of stolen cars being transported into Colombia.³
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">States of Zulia (mainly Maracaibo) and Tachira, Venezuela; Guajiro, Colombia.
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
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">Illegal car trade operations between Venezuela and Colombia is said to bring criminals millions of dollars.⁴
b. Human
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Transporters.Car thieves.
c. Logistical
i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
ii. Key routes

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving cars from Venezuela into Colombia via shallow rivers.
d. Transportation	
i. Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stolen cars are driven from Venezuela into Colombia.
ii. Sea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cars driven across shallow rivers.
iii. Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
iv. Intermodal container	<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"> • Taillights on the cars are covered so the light is not visible to authorities.⁵
d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross border into Colombia via shallow rivers late at night to avoid detection.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships	
a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Los Guajiros and Los de Guarero are two other groups in competition with Los Paz for the illegal car trade into Colombia.
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"> • No connections have been determined.
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"> • Low.
K. Penchant for Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low.
L. Activities in United States	
a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
c. Linkages with US groups	
i. Market/transaction links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
ii. Stable supplier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
iii. Franchise arrangement	<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.

iv. HQ and Branch office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
M. Evaluations
a. Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large market for stolen vehicles in Colombia. It is difficult for authorities to crackdown on operation because of poor relations and lack of communication between Venezuela and Colombia, although this might be changing. Porous border between Venezuela and Colombia facilitates transportation efforts.
b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low penchant for innovation.
c. Additional insights
<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Other Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very little information is known about the identity of Los Paz.

¹ "Stolen Cars in Venezuela, Sold in Colombia," *Laverdad* (Internet Version-WWW) in Spanish, December 29, 2010, OSC: LAP20101230039001

² Laverdad

³ "Colombia returns stolen cars to Venezuela, gesture and nothing else." *VHeadline* 29 Jun 2005: Web. <http://www.vheadline.com/readnews.asp?id=39561>

⁴ VHeadline

⁵ Laverdad