

Organization: Luciano Cartel

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history

- The Luciano Cartel operated in Santal Lucia, Cosulmaguapa and along the Southern coast of Guatemala. In addition to the Luciano cartel, two other groups worked along the Pacific coast in Guatemala, the San Marcos DTO and Sarceno Cartel. The groups would receive shipments of cocaine from Colombia and transport product via speedboats to San Marcos or Mexico. Jimmy Jerez was head of the Luciano Cartel until his disappearance in 2000.¹ Jerez bribed naval base officers with cars and monthly stipends to permit boats to move product along the coast without inspection.² According to *Prensa Libre*, after Jerez's disappearance the group broke into smaller groups.
- Two other leaders of the cartel were Zarceño and Marcelo Magno Lemus Perez. Limited information is known on Zarceño; however he had sea and land connections with Mexican DTOs.³ Lemus Perez was arrested in 1998 and in 2000 sentenced to 16 years imprisonment.⁴ Perez used light aircrafts and speed boats to transport drugs.⁵ The cartel was known for providing security and logistics.⁶

B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

a. In general

- Drug trafficking, storage, transportation and distribution

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

- Received cocaine from Colombia and transported the product via sea or land routes.

C. Scope and Size

a. Estimated size of network and membership

- Size of organization is unknown

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

- Pacific coast Retahuleu, Suchitepéquez, Santa Lucia and Cosulmaguapa

D. Leader Characteristics

a. Who is/are the leader(s)

- Jimmy Jerez was the leader until 2000.⁷
- Zarceño was leader, but it is uncertain when his leadership began or ended.⁸
- In the 1990's Marcelo Magno Lemus Perez was leader until his arrest in 1998⁹

b. Leadership timeline

- Information not found.

c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)

- Information not found.

E. Organizational Structure

a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)

- 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?

- Information not known

c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)

- Information not known

F. Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Financial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug trafficking, logistic and security b. Human <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known c. Logistical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lemus Perez was the cartel's head of security and logistics¹⁰ ii. Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Southern Coast d. Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over land drug trafficking ii. Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug trafficking by boat iii. Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known iv. Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known
G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bribed top naval officers with cars and monthly stipends to allow boats with drugs to transport without inspection.¹¹ b. Concealment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known c. Deception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger shipments of drugs would go by boat from South America to Mexico and the United States.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2006, the Luciano cartel supplied two rival gangs Maco and El Gallito with drugs.¹² • Worked with San Marcos and Mexican groups.¹³ b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naval officers c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None apparent
J. Technical Sophistication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boats
K. Penchant for Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears low
L. Activities in United States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known

b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known
c.	Linkages with US groups
	i. Market/transaction links
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known
	ii. Stable supplier
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known
	iii. Franchise arrangement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known
	iv. HQ and Branch office
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not known
M. Evaluations	
a.	Strengths
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Luciano Cartel was very active in cocaine trafficking from Colombia to Mexico. Over the years, the group is not mentioned with other major DTOs in Guatemala. The organization had a Colombian cocaine supplier, which it dealt with directly; the knowledge of the region as well as the ability to bribe naval officers to allow boats with cocaine to pass freely through Pacific waters was significant to its drug trafficking operations.
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lack of leadership or mention of the organization after the early 2000s due to the arrest of leaders appears to have disrupted the group’s operations. It is not certain that the group still operates.
c.	Additional insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is unclear how many groups colluded with the Luciano cartel. The Pacific coast sea route is essential to drug trafficking shipments from Colombia to Mexico and the United States. It is unknown who took over from Perez but under the leadership of Jerez, the group broke into smaller factions. It is possible that the branches of the original Luciano cartel worked together or operated in different regions while contributing to the same drug trafficking operations. A connection with Juan Alberto Ortiz Chamale is highly likely as he was known to operate in the Southern coast receiving shipments from Colombia and via sea transporting cocaine to San Marcos and Mexico. Chamale was a major player in drug trafficking from South America to Mexico and the United States; he was arrested in March 2011. It is unknown who has taken over for the Luciano affiliates and who will take over for Chamale. The likelihood of a power vacuum along the Pacific coast is very likely. Thus far, Los Zetas in Guatemala is the group that has not been fractured bylaw enforcement.
Other Notes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

¹ “Guatemala: Cartel Bribed Military Commanders To Transport Narcotics Into Mexico ,” *Prensa Libre*, O SC: LAP20070126026003, January 26, 2007.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ “Highlights: Northern Central America Press” *Prensa Libre*, OSC: LAP20060705026002001, July 5, 2006.

⁵ British Broadcasting Corporation, “Guatemala: ‘Top Leader’ of Luciano Drug Cartel Arrested,” BBC Worldwide Monitoring, *Lexis Nexis Academic*, June 20, 1998.

⁶ “Highlights: Northern Central America Press” *Prensa Libre*, July 5, 2006, OSC: LAP20060705026002001.

⁷ “Guatemala: Cartel Bribed Military Commanders To Transport Narcotics Into Mexico ,” *Prensa Libre*, January 26, 2007, OSC:LAP20070126026003.

⁸ “A Deputy Appears to be the Head of a Cartel of Drug Traffickers in Guatemala,” *El Faro*, March 26, 2007.
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⁹ “Highlights: Northern Central America Press” *Prensa Libre*, July 5, 2006, OSC: LAP20060705026002001.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ “Guatemala: Cartel Bribed Military Commanders To Transport Narcotics Into Mexico ,” *Prensa Libre*, January 26, 2007, OSC:LAP20070126026003.

¹² Perez, Ana Lilia, “Alliance Posters from Mexico and Guatemala,” *Contralínea*, March 1, 2006.
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¹³ Ibid.