

## Organization Attributes Sheet – Mazukinskaya

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<b>A. When the organization was formed + brief history</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
<b>B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,</b>
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>As pertains to Central America and the Caribbean:</b> Drug Trafficking, Arms Trafficking, Extortion, Human Trafficking, Prostitution, Kidnapping, Fraud, and Money Laundering<sup>1</sup></li><li><b>Globally:</b> Drug Trafficking, Arms Trafficking, Contract Killing, Extortion, Human Trafficking, Prostitution, Kidnapping, Fraud, Auto Theft and Smuggling, Cargo Theft</li></ul>
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Drug Trafficking:</b> According to Interpol, Mazukinskaya is actively trafficking drugs in Mexico<sup>2</sup> and farther south into the “tri-border area” (TBA) of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, sources have indicated that Russian criminal groups are the main “masterminds” or organizers, along with Italian criminal groups, for other external actors interested in moving drugs from Latin America.<sup>4</sup></li><li><b>Arms Trafficking:</b> According to Interpol, Mazukinskaya is actively trafficking arms in Mexico.<sup>5</sup></li></ul>
<b>C. Scope and Size</b>
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Although exact numbers are unknown to recent open source information, the group’s myriad activities and areas of operation would indicate that size is significant.</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><b>As pertains to Central America and the Caribbean:</b> Mexico,<sup>6</sup> the “Tri-Border Area” of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay;<sup>7</sup> Latin America and the Caribbean in general<sup>8</sup></li><li><b>Globally:</b> Russian Federation, all of Eastern and Western Europe, Balkans, Central Asia, the United States, Israel, much of China, Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia<sup>9</sup></li></ul>
<b>D. Leader Characteristics</b>
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There is no information available from open sources as to who leads operations in Latin America.</li></ul>
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Information not found.</li></ul>
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Diffuse</b> – While there is a degree of decisions made at the “core” of the group, in general, decisions tend to be spread among various levels of authority and various cells and nodes of the network.<sup>10</sup></li></ul>
<b>E. Organizational Structure</b>
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Structured, but flexible, cellular network</b> – Seems to function as a flexible network, with members/components allocated to diffuse areas and tasks that will make the group both more effective in its endeavors, but also safer from law enforcement. Moreover, the group’s structure also employs cells, especially with regard to contingents operating overseas. These cells, while loosely affiliated with the core, generally make their own decisions and operate autonomously.<sup>11</sup></li></ul>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

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"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
c.	Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Decentralized</b> - Reports from Interpol and other law enforcement agencies indicate that Russian criminal organizations, are operating in Mexico through multiple small cells.<sup>12</sup></li> </ul>
<b>F. Resources</b>	
a.	Financial
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Significant financial resources.</b> Mazukinskaya is a large group involved in numerous illicit activities. The group, therefore, has significant financial resources at its disposal.</li> </ul>
b.	Human
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Significant human resources.</b> Mazukinskaya is a large group involved in numerous illicit activities. The group, therefore, has members with various specializations to increase success in its ventures.</li> </ul>
c.	Logistical
	i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
	ii. Key routes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
d.	Transportation
	i. Land
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
	ii. Sea
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to a Balkan crime expert, Russians in Latin America involved in drug trafficking, utilize “oceangoing vessels” in a “big system” to smuggle cocaine.<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>
	iii. Air
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
	iv. Intermodal container
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<b>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</b>	
a.	Corruption
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No information on use of corruption in Central America and the Caribbean, but Mazukinskaya, like other Russian groups, is known to make extensive use of corruption in the former Soviet Union, Central Asia, and elsewhere.</li> </ul>
b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
c.	Deception
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In order to maintain low profiles in Mexico, Russian groups often operate out of resorts [or hotels or houses] owned by their Mexican business partners.<sup>14</sup></li> </ul>
d.	Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found.</li> </ul>
<b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b>	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mexican criminal organizations (highly cooperative)</b> – According to Stratfor sources, “Links between Russian organized criminal groups and one or more of the principal Mexican criminal organizations have allowed the Russians to obtain and transport</li> </ul>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

illicit narcotics at a low cost and under relatively secure circumstances for shipment to Europe and Russia.”<sup>15</sup>

- **Colombian criminal organizations (cooperative)** – might have cooperation in drug trafficking<sup>16</sup>
- **Italian criminal organizations (particularly La Cosa Nostra and the Camorra)** – there might be degrees of cooperation in drug trafficking, money laundering and/or counterfeiting. With regard to the Camorra, The two groups appear to be cooperating in such ventures as gambling, prostitution, fraud and extortion.<sup>17</sup>
- **Japanese Yakuza** – possible degrees of cooperation in drug trafficking, money laundering and/or counterfeiting<sup>18</sup>
- **Chinese Triads** – possible cooperation in drug trafficking, money laundering and/or counterfeiting<sup>19</sup>
- **Turkish criminal organizations** – cooperation in drug trafficking<sup>20</sup>
- **Balkan criminal organizations (including the Saric Group)** – According to Balkan sources, Russian groups are often “masterminds” or organizers of cocaine smuggling from Latin America, using Balkan and other external criminal groups.<sup>21</sup>

b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.

- **Russian political and security structures (at all levels)** – There is often no clear distinction in Russia between criminal enterprises and the government. In point of fact, criminal organizations and their leadership often have direct ties to oligarchs and others in positions of power.<sup>22</sup>

c. *Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.*

- There is no indication in open sources of past or present dealings and/or relationships with any known terrorist groups.

#### **I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)**

- It is significant to note that Russian criminal organizations such as Mazukinskaya do not always have ethnic orientations, unlike some other criminal groups from the former Soviet Union.

#### **J. Technical Sophistication**

- Information not found.

#### **K. Penchant for Innovation**

- **Assessed as innovative.** This judgment is based upon the notion that Russian criminal organizations, including Mazukinskaya, have grown in terms of the number of illicit – and licit – activities they have engaged in over the past two decades, despite increased attention from various government, law enforcement, and academic entities.

#### **L. Activities in United States**

a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities

- Might include human trafficking/prostitution.

b. *Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities*

- *Human Trafficking/Prostitution:* The Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC) has noted that criminal gangs from Russia have been discovered attempting to traffic victims across the U.S.-Mexico border.<sup>23</sup> They have succeeded in some cases: Using Mexico as a transit point, Russian groups have moved East European/Russian victims to New York.<sup>24</sup>

c. Linkages with US groups

i. Market/transaction links

- Information not found.

ii. Stable supplier

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>
iii.	Franchise arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information not found.</li> </ul>
iv.	HQ and Branch office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Within the United States, Russian groups are known to operate extensively in New York and the “tri-state” area in general (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York).<sup>25</sup></li> </ul>
<b>M. Evaluations</b>	
a.	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Financial Resources</b> – Extensive financial resources, generated from numerous illicit and legitimate sources, bring the group significant financial power.</li> <li><b>International criminal and political connections</b> – The group has strong cooperative ties to Mexican and possibly Colombian criminal organizations that enhance its power and capabilities in the region.</li> <li><b>Operational security (OPSEC) and denial, deception, and evasion measures</b> – Russian criminal groups are exceptional at evading detection by hostile and inquisitive entities. They have good operational security and are expert at deception and denial. Compared with <b>other large and powerful transnational criminal organizations, it is extremely difficult to find information about this Russian group, especially in Latin America</b>, where investigators and journalists are less familiar with Russian organized crime.</li> </ul>
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not obvious.</li> </ul>
c.	Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Other Notes</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Burton, Fred and Dan Burges. “Russian Organized Crime,” *Stratfor*, November 14, 2007.; and Calderon, Horacio. “Organized Crime and Terrorism in the TBA and adjacent regions,” *Buenos Aires Impulso*, August 10, 2007. <http://www.impulsobaires.com.ar/nota.php?id=28292>.

<sup>2</sup> Burton and Burges.

<sup>3</sup> Calderon.

<sup>4</sup> “Crime Expert Nicovic Claims Russian Mafia Runs Drug Smuggling from South America,” *Podgorica Analitika*, November 18, 2010, OSC: EUP20101129023003.; and “Drug Boss Saric's Associate Joksovic Discloses Information on Cocaine Smuggling,” *Podgorica Revija D Online*, February 16-23, 2011, OSC: EUP20110225023001.

<sup>5</sup> Burton and Burges.

<sup>6</sup> Burton and Burges.; and Calderon.

<sup>7</sup> Calderon.

<sup>8</sup> Burton and Burges.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Burton and Burges.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> “Crime Expert Nicovic Claims Russian Mafia Runs Drug Smuggling from South America,” OSC: EUP20101129023003.

<sup>14</sup> Burton and Burges.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> "Crime Expert Nicovic Claims Russian Mafia Runs Drug Smuggling from South America," OSC: EUP20101129023003.; and "Drug Boss Saric's Associate Joksovic Discloses Information on Cocaine Smuggling," OSC: EUP20110225023001.

<sup>22</sup> Burton and Burges.

<sup>23</sup> Seelke, Clare Ribando. "Trafficking in Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean," *Congressional Research Service*, December 9, 2010.

<sup>24</sup> Lin Goh, Janice Phaik. "Deterritorialized Women in the Global City: An Analysis of Sex Trafficking in Dubai, Tokyo and New York," *Intersections*, Spring 2009.

<sup>25</sup> Finckenaer, James O., and Elin J. Waring. *Russian Mafia in America: Immigration, Culture, and Crime* (Boston: Northeastern University, 1998).