

Organization Attributes Sheet: 'Ndrangheta (Operations in Latin America)

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• According to an FBI factsheet, the 'Ndrangheta formed in 1860 after a group of Sicilian exiles landed in Calabria and began operating small time organized crime rings.¹• It is unclear when exactly the organizations began operating in the U.S. or South America, but in the 1990s the organization turned away from small time extortion and protection rackets and began to traffic cocaine from South America implying connections with South American cartels.² At present the 'Ndrangheta has associates operating in multiple Latin American countries.³
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kidnapping, political corruption, murder, bombings, counterfeiting, frauds, theft, gambling, labor racketeering, loan sharking, alien smuggling, drug trafficking.⁴
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trafficking cocaine through West Africa via Colombian intermediaries.⁵• Trafficking cocaine from Mexico via ties to Mexican Cartels.⁶• Trafficking drugs through and from Brazil via 'Ndrangheta affiliates and members operating in the country.⁷
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The FBI estimates that the 'Ndrangheta operates over 160 individual cosche or clans and has over 6,000 members.⁸
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Calabria region of Italy⁹• Colombia¹⁰• Mexico¹¹• Brazil¹²• The United States, mainly New York and Florida.¹³• Germany¹⁴• Portugal¹⁵• Canada¹⁶
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is no one specific leader of the 'Ndrangheta, each clan or cosche has its own leader or capo and there are over 100 clans.¹⁷
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership style depends on the clan and their individual leaders.
E. Organizational Structure
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cellular structure with individual clans operating autonomously but tied through loose familial networks. Sources have described the structure as a federation, with alliances and agreements being mutable and easily changed.¹⁸• However recent sources have indicated that the group may be more hierarchical than

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

previously thought (See below).

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?

- Membership is largely formal in the ‘Ndrangheta. Clan members must maintain some familial ties to the cosca.¹⁹ However, groups have recently employed affiliates such as lawyers, bankers, and businessmen.²⁰

c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)

- As there is no head of the ‘Ndrangheta, command and controlled is decentralized among individual clans who have their own command and control structure.²¹
- However, a recent report by the Economist suggests that the command and control structure of the organization is much more centralized and hierarchical with a clearer chain of command and control.²²

F. Resources

a. Financial

- It is estimated that the ‘Ndrangheta collectively operates a \$400 Billion dollar criminal enterprise.²³

b. Human

- Within each clan there are bosses, soldiers, and distributors responsible for the day to day operation of the group.
- The group also employs affiliates, mostly bankers, politicians, and businessmen that cover the ‘Ndrangheta’s activities and launder money.²⁴
- The group also has contacts with international businessmen who provide contacts with international drug trafficking organizations.²⁵

c. Logistical

i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.

- As of yet, no sources indicate safe houses operated anywhere outside of Europe.

ii. Key routes

- One of the major trafficking routes is from Colombia, through West African Markets, and into Europe via the port at Gioa Tauro.²⁶

d. Transportation

i. Land

- No information found about specific methods for overland trafficking

ii. Sea

- Sea routes are vital for trafficking efforts from Latin America.²⁷

iii. Air

- Colombian and ‘Ndrangheta groups have used couriers to smuggle cocaine from West Africa into Europe through commercial flights.²⁸

iv. Intermodal container

- Reports indicate that a major shipping company out of Gioa Tauro port has been receiving payments from ‘Ndrangheta clans to facilitate shipping in and out of the port.²⁹

G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities

a. Corruption

- Buying of port officials.³⁰
- Corrupting politicians.³¹
- Using bankers to launder money obtained from illegal trafficking.³²
- Infiltrating European parcel shipping companies.³³

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

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b.	Concealment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shipments are hidden in intermodal containers.³⁴ Couriers hide small amounts of cocaine on/in their bodies.³⁵
c.	Deception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routing drugs through West Africa covers the source of the cocaine and its final destination.³⁶
d.	Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No information found
H. Prior / Existing Relationships		
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources indicate connections with paramilitary groups in Colombia, specifically the AUC: the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia.³⁷ In 2009, Operation Solare (“Project Reckoning” in the U.S.) uncovered ties linking the Calabrian ‘Ndrangheta to the Gulf Cartel operating in Mexico.³⁸ The groups were operating out of major hubs in Atlanta and New York, using the shipping lanes to traffic narcotics globally.
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the political party, Forza Italia, namely Sen. Nicola Di Girolamo.³⁹
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It has been alleged that the ‘Ndrangheta provide bulk quantities of cocaine to the ETA in Spain.⁴⁰
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of clans are tied to the clan itself by familial ties to other members. Clans are also tied to other clans by loose familial bonds either through marriage or distant relations.
J. Technical Sophistication		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They are very technically sophisticated. Capable of operating globally through connections with businessmen and clan members operating internationally. They employ a number of methods to carry out business including the use of various shipping methods and couriers.
K. Penchant for Innovation		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some have called the structure of the ‘Ndrangheta innovative, however, it is essentially structured like a medieval Italian aristocratic family with clans or cosche tied to each other by familial bonds.
L. Activities in United States		
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operation Solare uncovered ‘Ndrangheta high levels of ‘Ndrangheta trafficking activity in major U.S. cities such as Atlanta and New York.⁴¹
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trafficking narcotics through major port cities in the United States.⁴²
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
	iv. HQ and Branch office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found

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M. Evaluations

a. Strengths

- The 'Ndrangheta enjoys strong ties to political power which provide it protection in Italy.
- It also enjoys connections to businessmen and bankers that provide legitimate and illicit contacts.
- The 'Ndrangheta is large, with an estimate 6,000 members and over 150 clans.
- It is also incredibly strong internally. Familial ties prevent clan members from turning state's evidence and promote incredible loyalty to clans.

b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities

- Internal strife between clans causes protracted conflicts between individual families.
- Due to the closed nature of the 'Ndrangheta, diversification for the groups can be difficult. Many of the organization's activities are limited to criminal enterprises. This prevents them from expanding and diversifying as broadly as organizations like the Camorra.

c. Additional insights

- While the 'Ndrangheta have allegedly been supplying the ETA with cocaine, that terrorist organization is known to only operate within Spain. Moreover, there are no sources which indicate that the 'Ndrangheta supplies anything more than drugs for retail. There are no sources indicating arms deals or deals to smuggle CBRN material.
- Furthermore, the 'Ndrangheta are incredibly close knit internally, and therefore mistrusting of outsiders and would be very unlikely to work with suspicious groups or terrorist organizations.

Other Notes

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¹ "Italian Organized Crime" *The Federal Bureau of Investigation*. http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/organizedcrime/italian_mafia (May 24, 2011).

² Squires, Nick "'Ndrangheta: Profile" *The Telegraph*. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/8368362/The-Ndrangheta-profile.html> (May 24, 2011).

³ "Who are the 'Ndrangheta?" CNN. <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/08/15/germany.ndrangheta.reut/index.html> (May 24, 2011).

⁴ "Italian Organized Crime" http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/organizedcrime/italian_mafia (May 24, 2011).

⁵ "Colombian Drug Gangs Using 'Africa Route' to Bring Cocaine to Italy, Europe" *Corriere Della Sera* (Internet Version-WWW) in Italian, May 4, 2007 OSC: EUP20070504058004 (referred to hereafter as OSC: EUP20070504058004)

⁶ "Highlights: Mexico Eastern and DF/Interior Crime/Narcotics/Security Issues 12-16 Apr 07" *Mexico—OSC Summary in Spanish* (Internet Version-WWW) in Spanish, April 12-16, 2007, OSC: LAP20070416343001 (referred to hereafter as OSC: LAP20070416343001)

⁷ "Weekly Explores Brazil's Ties to Cocaine Trafficking Network" *Carta Capital Online* (Internet Version-WWW) in Portuguese, November 22, 2010, OSC: FEA20101123011748 (referred to hereafter as: OSC: FEA20101123011748)

⁸ "Italian Organized Crime" http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/organizedcrime/italian_mafia (May 25, 2011).

⁹ "Italian Organized Crime" http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/organizedcrime/italian_mafia (May 26, 2011).

¹⁰ OSC: EUP20070504058004

¹¹ OSC: LAP20070416343001

¹² OSC: FEA20101123011748

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- ¹³ "Italian Organized Crime" http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/organizedcrime/italian_mafia (May 31, 2011)
- ¹⁴ "Who are the 'Ndrangheta?" <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/08/15/germany.ndrangheta.reut/index.html> (May 24, 2011)
- ¹⁵ "Crime Expert Says Italian Mafia Increasingly Operating out of Portugal" *Diario de Noticias Online* (Internet Version-WWW) in Portuguese October 24, 2010, OSC: EUP20101025210002 (hereafter referred to as OSC: EUP20101025210002)
- ¹⁶ "Thunder Bay, Toronto men named in international Mafia sweep" *CSIS Canadian News Digest* (Internet Version-WWW) March 9, 2010, OSC: FBS20110315930749
- ¹⁷ "Who are the 'Ndrangheta?" <http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/europe/08/15/germany.ndrangheta.reut/index.html> (May 24, 2011)
- ¹⁸ "Foreign Links, business and bloody feuds" *Ndrangheta: Factbox*. http://www.nicaso.com/pages/doc_page238.html (May 24, 2011)
- ¹⁹ Ibid
- ²⁰ "Highlights: Colombia Crime 9-10 Dec 06" *OSC Report In Spanish* (Internet Version-WWW) December 10, 2006, OSC: LAP20061210005001 (hereafter referred to as OSC: LAP20061210005001)
- ²¹ "Foreign links, business and bloody feuds" <file:///C:/Users/Michael/Documents/START/Phase%20%20Research/'Ndrangheta/Highlights%20%20Colombia%20Crime%209-10%20Dec%202006.htm> (May 24, 2011).
- ²² "Organised Crime in Italy: Nobbling the 'Ndrangheta, Police Deal a Hammer Blow to one of Italy's Nastiest Criminal Gangs" *The Economist* July 15th, 2010.
- ²³ "Ndrangheta: Profile" <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/italy/8368362/The-Ndrangheta-profile.html> (May 24, 2011).
- ²⁴ "Taiwan News: Italy Seeks Senator, Businessman in Mafia Affair" *Taiwan News Online* (Internet Version-WWW) February 24, 2010, OSC: CPP20100224968061. (hereafter referred to as OSC: CPP20100224968061)
- ²⁵ OSC: LAP20061210005001
- ²⁶ OSC: EUP20070504058004
- ²⁷ Ibid
- ²⁸ Ibid
- ²⁹ Tran, David "Contship Boss hits out at Gioia Tauro mafia allegations" *GlobMaritime*, March 25, 2008. <http://www.globmaritime.com/news/ports-news/1906-contship-boss-hits-out-at-gioia-tauro-mafia-allegations.html> (May 24, 2011).
- ³⁰ Ibid
- ³¹ OSC: CPP20100224968061
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ "TNT tackles Italian mafia" *E-Cargo News Asia*, May 2, 2011. http://www.cargonewsasia.com/secured/print_view.aspx?article=25579&issue=2011-05-02 (May 24, 2011).
- ³⁴ Tran ""Contship Boss hits out at Gioia Tauro mafia allegations" <http://www.globmaritime.com/news/ports-news/1906-contship-boss-hits-out-at-gioia-tauro-mafia-allegations.html> (May 24, 2011)
- ³⁵ OSC: EUP20070504058004
- ³⁶ Ibid
- ³⁷ OSC: LAP20061210005001
- ³⁸ "Scores Held in Global Drug Bust" *BBC News* September 17, 2008. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7622099.stm> (May 31, 2011).
- ³⁹ OSC: CPP20100224968061
- ⁴⁰ "Italian Author Accuses Basque Separatist ETA of Narcotics Trafficking" Madrid *Elmundo.es* (Internet Version-WWW) in Spanish, February 14, 2010, OSC: EUP20100216178003
- ⁴¹ "Scores Held in Global Drug Bust", <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7622099.stm> (May 31, 2011).
- ⁴² Ibid