

Organization Attributes Sheet: Los Perrones

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history

- The group reportedly formed in 2006, after several of the higher ranking members met with a woman known as “The Boss”. She was linked to the Sinaloa drug trafficking organization trying to establish business in El Salvador.¹
- Money Laundering and drug trafficking are a large part of the group’s operations. The money laundering scheme with Mexican officials might have begun as early as 2003 and subsequently expanded into El Salvador.²
- The group is controlled by businessmen with connections to high ranking officials in the Salvadoran government.³ Routes for contraband trafficking were already established before the group was formed.⁴

B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

a. In general

- Trafficking
- Money Laundering

b. *Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in*⁵

- Cocaine transportation, transshipment and distribution in El Salvador and into different countries.⁶
- Human smuggling.⁷
 - Los Perrones is responsible for smuggling illegal immigrants into Guatemala in exchange for narcotics.⁸

C. Scope and Size

a. Estimated size of network and membership

- The actual size of the network is unknown; however, Los Perrones is reported to be a larger organization that can supply smaller organizations with cocaine to distribute.⁹

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

- El Salvador¹⁰
- Honduras¹¹
- Guatemala¹²
- United States¹³
- Nicaragua¹⁴
- Panama¹⁵

D. Leader Characteristics

a. Who is/are the leader(s)

- “The Boss,” identified as Sandra Avila Beltran.¹⁶
- Juan Maria Medrano Fuentes “Juan Colorado” detained in 2009.¹⁷
- Reynerio Flores Lazo detained in 2009.¹⁸ He is believed responsible for trafficking more than \$80 million worth of cocaine.¹⁹
- Oscar Molina Manzanares²⁰

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fredis Osmin Escobar Alvarenga²¹
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrests of key leaders in 2009
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"> • Made substantial profits
b. Human
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal immigrants are used as currency in exchange for narcotics.²²
c. Logistical
i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use drug storage warehouses along the coast of El Salvador.²³
ii. Key routes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fonseca Gulf in Southern La Union²⁴ • Sonsonate Province²⁵ • Route through San Miguel into Guatemala²⁶ • Northern La Union in the areas of Pasaquina and Santa Rosa de Lima²⁷ • Reportedly in Jiquilisco and Acajutla-B.Santiago²⁸
d. Transportation
i. Land
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trucks used for smuggling dairy contraband.²⁹ • Luxury vehicles such as corvettes.³⁰ • Railway cars owned by Flores³¹
ii. Sea
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive shipments via sea routes³²
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"> • The organization has many police officers and members of the Salvadoran government on its payroll. The group obtains police protection through bribes.³³ • The group uses established businesses for money laundering.³⁴

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b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automobiles with compartments are used to conceal drugs. The traffickers typically modify parts of the car, including the radio, to make secret compartments, especially in corvettes and other types of luxury vehicles.³⁵ Flores used trucks from his trucking business to transport cocaine and illegal immigrants. These trucks had special compartments for the cocaine.³⁶
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"> Potential conflicts with MS-13 moving into its territory and attempting to gain control.³⁷ Connections to the Juarez and Sinaloa organizations through Sandra Avila Beltran – captured in 2007.³⁸ Coyote organization based in Guatemala.³⁹
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Godofredo Mirando former head of the Anti-Narcotics division of the National Civilian Police (PNC) has been arrested and charged with activities in connection to Los Perrones.⁴⁰ High and low level police officers have been connected to the gang.⁴¹ Police officers provide protection to the gang.⁴² Roberto Carlos Silva, a National Conciliation Party (PCN) deputy.⁴³ William Eliu Martinez, a National Action Party (Pan) deputy.⁴⁴ Connected with other prosecutors and government officials.⁴⁵ The corruption linkages are manifest in instances where lower level members of Los Perrones are convicted whereas charges against higher-ranking members are dropped.⁴⁶ The 2009 arrests, however, suggested that even high-ranking members can be successfully targeted.
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No indication of any dealings
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None found
J. Technical Sophistication	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low
K. Penchant for Innovation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low – used familiar methods for concealing drugs in vehicles
L. Activities in United States	
a.	Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trafficking⁴⁷
b.	<i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drugs, specifically cocaine⁴⁸ Human trafficking⁴⁹

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.
All research conducted according to the project manual.

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
M. Evaluations	
a.	Strengths
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Los Perrones has displayed considerable resilience in surviving the arrests of the leaders. The group is connected with public officials, including prosecutors, police officers and politicians. These connections allow them to operate throughout El Salvador, although the arrests of the leaders show that the group does not have total impunity.
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gulf DTO and MS-13 are rivals of Los Perrones. With leaders in jail, turf war among rivals is possible.
c.	Additional insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Other Notes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gaps in the template reflect a lack of available information in the public domain.

¹ “Los Perrones habrían lavado dinero de narcos mexicanos”, *Elsalvador.com*, 3 May 2009, http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_completa.asp?idCat=6358&idArt=3600992, Date Accessed: 13 May 2009.

² IBID

AND

“Capturan a empresario vinculado con bando “Los Perrones””, *La Prensa Grafica*, 6 December 2009, <http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/judicial/77782-capturan-a-juan-maria-medrano-empresario-vinculado-con-banda-los-perrones.html>, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011.

³ Equipo de Nación, “Uno de Los Perrones indagado por lavar \$14 mil”, *La Prensa Grafica*, 26 April 2008, <http://archive.laprensa.com.sv/20080426/nacion/1043829.asp>, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011.

⁴ Dudley, Steven, “Drug Trafficking Organizations in Central America: Transportistas, Mexican Cartels and Maras”, *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*, Mexico Institute. May 2010. Pg. 9. <http://stevendudley.com/pdf/Wilson%20Center%20Central%20America%20Dudley%2005%2017%2010.pdf>, Date Accessed: 17 May 2011.

⁵ “Highlights: Northern Central America Press 8 December 09”, *Open Source Center*, 8 December 2009, OSC: LAP20091208026004, Date Accessed: 16 May 2011. (Following citations will be LAP20091208026004)

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.
All research conducted according to the project manual.

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- ⁶ Farah, Douglas, "Organized Crime in El Salvador: The Homegrown and Transnational Dimensions", *Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars: Latin American Program*, February 2011, Pg. 14-16, <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/events/docs/Farah.FIN.pdf>, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011.
- ⁷ LAP20091208026004.
- ⁸ "Highlights: Northern Central America Press 11 July 08", *Open Source Center*, OSC: LAP20080711026002, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011. (Following citations will be LAP20080711026002)
- ⁹ "El Salvador: Mexican Gulf Cartel Expands Control of Central American Drug Market", *La Prensa Grafica*, 7 December 2008, OSC: LAP20081208026004, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011. (Following citations will be LAP20081208026004)
- ¹⁰ Farah at pg. 14.
- ¹¹ Ibid at 15.
- ¹² Ibid
- ¹³ Equipo de Nación, "FGR dice que detenido es cómplice de Los Perrones", *La Prensa Grafica*, 6 February 2009, <http://www.laprensagrafica.com/index.php/el-salvador/judicial/16548.html>, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011.
- ¹⁴ "Salvadoran Officials Investigating Links Between Drug Trafficking Network, FARC", *La Prensa Grafica*, 16 August 2008, OSC: LAP20080819026002, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011. (Following citations will be LAP2008081906002)
- ¹⁵ Ibid
- ¹⁶ "Los Perrones habrían lavado dinero de narcos mexicanos", *Elsalvador.com*, 3 May 2009, http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/nota_completa.asp?idCat=6358&idArt=3600992, Date Accessed: 13 May 2009.
- ¹⁷ LAP20091208026004
- ¹⁸ "Highlights: Northern Central America Press 18 Feb 11", *Open Source Center*, 18 February 2011, OSC: V-LAP20110218026001002, Date Accessed: 13 May 2011.
- ¹⁹ Equipo de Nación, "Uno de Los Perrones indagado por lavar \$14 mil", *La Prensa Grafica*, 26 April 2008, <http://archive.laprensa.com/sv/20080426/nacion/1043829.asp>, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011.
- ²⁰ "Mexican Drug Cartels Ties to El Salvador", *La Prensa Grafica.com*, 11 May 09, OSC: FEA20090515854714, Date Accessed: 13 May 2011. (Following citations will be FEA20090515854714)
- ²¹ "Highlights: Northern Central America Press 26 Nov 08", *Open Source Center*, 28 November 2008, OSC: LAP20081126026002, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011. (Following citations will be LAP20081126026002).
- ²² LAP20080711026002
- ²³ LAP20080819026002
- ²⁴ Dudley at pg. 17
- ²⁵ Ibid
- ²⁶ Ibid.
- ²⁷ FEA20090515854714
- ²⁸ Ibid
- ²⁹ Dudley at pg. 9.
- ³⁰ LAP20091208026004.
- AND
- "Los lujos de Juan Colorado", *Elsalvador.com*, 8 December 2009. <http://www.elsalvador.com/mwedh/nota/popGaleria.asp?idart=4323162#4>. Date Accessed: 18 May 2009.
- ³¹ LAP20080819026002.

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- ³² Ibid
- ³³ Farah at pg. 17.
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ LAP20091208026004.
- ³⁶ LAP20080711026002
- ³⁷ Dudley at pg. 22-23.
- ³⁸ FEA20090515854714
- ³⁹ "Highlights: Northern Central America Press 29-31 Aug 09", 31 August 2009, LAP20090831026004, Date Accessed: 18 May 2009.
- AND
- "DEA Informant Gunned Down", *Latin American Herald Tribune*,
<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=342594&CategoryId=23558>, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011.
- ⁴⁰ "Program Summary: San Salvador TV Doce in Spanish 0200 GNT 11 Aug 09 [Sal]", *TV Doce*, 11 August 09.
LAP20090811022001, Date Accessed: 13 May 2011.
- ⁴¹ Dudley at pg. 16.
- ⁴² "Northern Central America Press 25 Apr 08", 25 April 2008, LAP20080425026002, Date Accessed: 18 May 2011.
- ⁴³ FEA20090515854714
- ⁴⁴ Ibid.
- ⁴⁵ Dudley at pg. 16.
- ⁴⁶ Farah at pg. 18
- ⁴⁷ Equipo de nación, "Detendio líder de Los Perrones", *La Prensa Grafica*, 7 December 2009,
<http://www.laprensagrafica.com/el-salvador/judicial/77885--detenido-lider-de-los-perrones.html>, Date Accessed:
18 May 2011.
- ⁴⁸ Ibid
- ⁴⁹ Ibid