

Organization Attributes Sheet: Port of Santos Gang

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No information was found describing when the organization was formed. Police rounded up the group in Sao Paulo in March of 2008.¹ One of the three arrested, João Mendonça Alves, was found dead in his jail cell while awaiting trial.² The other two (Marripersad Jhingoeri and Mahinderparkash Chuttoo) were from Suriname.³ They were released after the death of João Mendonça Alves because the only witnesses that were left to testify were police, and a judge found that a conviction based purely on police testimony was unconstitutional.⁴
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drug trafficking
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trafficked cocaine from Colombia and Bolivia disguised as truck batteries and transported over land to Sao Paulo, where the drugs were then to be shipped to the Netherlands and Poland.⁵
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Only three members were identified in news reports.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Suriname, Netherlands, Poland
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">João Mendonça Alves was from Brazil and was in charge of logistics.⁶Marripersad Jhingoeri is from Suriname.⁷Mahinderparkash Chuttoo is from Suriname.⁸
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">Information not found.
b. Human
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reports only discuss the three that were arrested, and do not give any significant information about their skills or backgrounds.

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

c.	Logistical
i.	Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had warehouses in the port of Santos.⁹
ii.	Key routes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is some confusion in the reports about where the drugs originated from, whether Colombia, Bolivia, or both. • The drugs were transported overland in trucks.
d.	Transportation
i.	Land
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trucks
ii.	Sea
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drugs were to be shipped by boat to Netherlands and Poland.¹⁰
iii.	Air
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gang also flew drugs out of the Viracopos International Airport¹¹
iv.	Intermodal container
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information, but it is likely that the shipments would have gone in containers.
G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities	
a.	Corruption
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information, but the death of João Mendonça Alves was considered suspicious and prison authorities were investigated for complicity.¹²
b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drugs were packaged into large truck batteries after being wrapped in a lead covering to thwart x-ray inspections.¹³
c.	Deception
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
d.	Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information about avoiding entry points. It appears that they relied on concealing the drugs to get them through entry points.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
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"> • Information not found.
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"> • The method of concealment suggests some technical sophistication.
K. Penchant for Innovation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
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.

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"> Two of the three arrested were acquitted and the third died before he could be brought to trial, and because of this the larger network was not uncovered. The suspicious death of Mendonça Alves and the acquittal of the Surinamese may indicate that pressure was applied to police and judicial authorities.
b.	Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gang lost a very large shipment of cocaine (over a ton). It lost one of its members involved in logistics. It lost control of its warehouses. It had its method of concealing cocaine discovered. It had its destination markets uncovered.
c.	Additional insights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Other Notes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

¹ "Preso é enterrado em São Paulo," *Diario do Grande ABC*, March 23, 2008.

<http://www.dgabc.com.br/News/638093/preso-e-enterrado-em-sao-paulo.aspx>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Tavares, Bruno and Godoy, Marcelo. "Todos absolvidos no caso de 2 t de coca," *O Estadão de São Paulo*, September 05, 2009. http://www.estadao.com.br/estadaodehoje/20090905/not_imp429905,0.php; "Judge in Sao Paulo Hinterland Absolves Surinamese Arrested in Connection With 2008 Two-Ton Cocaine Seizure," *O Estado de São Paulo*, September 05, 2009, OSC: LAP20090908020001.

⁵ "Preso é enterrado em São Paulo," *Diario do Grande ABC*, March 23, 2008.

<http://www.dgabc.com.br/News/638093/preso-e-enterrado-em-sao-paulo.aspx>.

⁶ "Preso é enterrado em São Paulo," *Diario do Grande ABC*, March 23, 2008.

<http://www.dgabc.com.br/News/638093/preso-e-enterrado-em-sao-paulo.aspx>.

⁷ "Traficante tem morte suspeita em cela da PF," *Correio do Estado*, March 23, 2008.

http://www.correiodoestado.com.br/noticias/traficante-tem-morte-suspeita-em-cela-da-pf_73639/.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ "Events Convey Colombian Cocaine Runners Moved to Bolivia, Dispatch Drugs to Europe Via Brazil," *Correio Braziliense*, March 23, 2008, OSC: LAP20080324020002.

¹² "PF diz ter achado lâmina de barbear em cela onde traficante morreu," *O Globo*, March 24, 2008.

http://oglobo.globo.com/sp/mat/2008/03/24/pf_diz_ter_achado_lamina_de_barbear_em_cela_onde_traficante_morreu-426518820.asp.

¹³ “Traficante tem morte suspeita em cela da PF,” *Correio do Estado*, March 23, 2008.
http://www.correiodoestado.com.br/noticias/traficante-tem-morte-suspeita-em-cela-da-pf_73639/.