

## Organization Attributes Sheet: Shaheed “Roger” Khan Trafficking Network

Author: Andrew Carpenter

Review: Phil Williams

### A. When the organization was formed + brief history

- When Shaheed Khan AKA Roger Khan, or Shaheed ‘Roger’ Khan first became involved in narcotics trafficking is unknown. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1992 Khan was convicted of breaking and entering and theft in Montgomery County MD.<sup>1</sup> He was subsequently convicted of receiving three firearms in Burlington Vermont.<sup>2</sup> He fled the United States to Guyana to avoid arrest in 1994.<sup>3</sup> Though he could have been involved with drug trafficking before this date, Khan pled guilty to conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine between 2001 and 2006. Khan operated in Guyana becoming what the U.S. government described as “the largest drug dealer in the country [Guyana].”<sup>4</sup> Khan hid in Suriname where he was allegedly offered protection by the now president of Suriname Desi Bouterse, himself convicted in absentia of drug trafficking in the Netherlands.<sup>5</sup> Khan avoided arrest in Suriname by fleeing to Trinidad and Tobago where he was apprehended by U.S. authorities to face trial in the United States in 2006<sup>6</sup> He was convicted of cocaine trafficking, witness tampering and gun running, and implicated in a number of murders in March 2009.<sup>7</sup> He was sentenced to multiple sentences that would run concurrently equaling a fifteen-year sentence, which he is currently serving in the United States.
- Khan was implicated in creating and using the Phantom Squad in Guyana to act as a paramilitary force for his operations. However he also claimed to have supported the Guyanese police and U.S. authorities in operations against gangs and other criminals in Guyana.<sup>8</sup> Khan, and his lawyer Robert Simels were convicted of witness tampering during his trial in the United States.<sup>9</sup> The current extent and condition of his network is unknown.

### B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

#### a. In general

- Drug Trafficking, witness tampering, gun running, murder, money laundering
- Implicated in ordering the murder of Donald Allison and Ronald Waddell, and Dave Persaud.<sup>10</sup>
- Implicated in over 200 murders in Guyana

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

- Prosecutors described Khan as the leader of a “violent drug trafficking organization”.<sup>11</sup>
- When arrested 213 kg of cocaine was seized.<sup>12</sup>
- Pled guilty to trafficking 150 kg of cocaine.<sup>13</sup>
- Implicated in trafficking larger amounts of cocaine, and possibly other drugs, but the exact quantity or other details are not available.
- Believed to have supplied Queens Cartel in Queens, New York with “hundreds of kilograms of cocaine”.<sup>14</sup>

### C. Scope and Size

#### a. Estimated size of network and membership

- While the size of the network is not available, sources indicate that the network is substantial enough to earn Khan the label as “the largest drug dealer in the country [Guyana].”<sup>15</sup>

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

- Guyana, Suriname, United States, Trinidad and Tobago, Columbia

### D. Leader Characteristics

#### a. Who is/are the leader(s)

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaheed ‘Roger’ Khan</li> </ul>
<p>b. Leadership timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leader Shaheed “Roger” Khan arrested by the United States in 2006, and sentenced to 15 years in prison on October 17, 2009.</li> </ul>
<p>c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autocratic</li> </ul>
<p><b>E. Organizational Structure</b></p> <p>a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khan’s use of the Phantom Squad for paramilitary activity to support his narcotic trafficking in Guyana indicates a cellular structure.<sup>16</sup></li> </ul> <p>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?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul> <p>c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A confidential associate of Khan told newspapers that “[Khan] never got involved in actual operations,” and “used his own bodyguards and a network of armed informants—the ‘Phantom Squad’—made up of mainly ex-convicts and ex-policemen.”<sup>17</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>F. Resources</b></p> <p>a. Financial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When convicted and sentenced in his trial in the United States, Khan was waived of a court fee because he was not able to pay it.<sup>18</sup> However whether this is actually representative of Khan’s finances is unknown. It is also unclear if Khan’s personal finances reflected the financial status of his network.</li> </ul> <p>b. Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most indications are that Khan used former police officers and ex-convicts.<sup>19</sup></li> </ul> <p>c. Logistical</p> <p>i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found</li> </ul> <p>ii. Key routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found</li> </ul> <p>d. Transportation</p> <p>i. Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found</li> </ul> <p>ii. Sea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information not found</li> </ul> <p>iii. Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Though no specific sources indicate that Khan used the Cheddi Jagan Airport to traffic narcotics from Guyana to the United States, given its use by other traffickers it is likely Khan also used the airport as a method to smuggle narcotics out of Guyana.<sup>20</sup></li> </ul> <p>iv. Intermodal container</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
<p><b>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</b></p> <p>a. Corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul> <p>b. Concealment</p>

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>
c.	<p>Deception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Not Found</li> </ul>
d.	<p>Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no specific evidence to suggest that Khan used the Cheddi Jagan Airport as a point to smuggle drugs out of Guyana, but given the prominence of that particular airport in smuggling operations out of Guyana, it probably was used by Khan to smuggle drugs to New York and the United States.</li> </ul>
<b>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</b>	
a.	<p>Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Khan is said to be connected to the Phantom Squad, with most sources indicating he is the leader or at least the primary benefactor of the group.</li> <li>• Khan has been connected with Rondell Rawlins's Buxton/Agricola Gang. Some reports indicate this was a cooperative relationship, though most show it as a competitive relationship. An associate of Rondell Rawlins infiltrated Rawlins's Buxton/Agricola Gang under orders from Khan.<sup>21</sup> Khan claimed that he acted to stop Rawlins and his gang and bring back order to Guyana when the Guyanese authorities could not do so.<sup>22</sup></li> <li>• Connected with Queens Cartel based in Queens, New York.<sup>23</sup></li> </ul>
b.	<p>Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accused of being linked to Guyanese officials; some think the current president of Guyana Bharrat Jagdeo has ties to Khan.<sup>24</sup></li> <li>• Khan was accused of having been offered protection and to have discussed drug trafficking and murder with now president of Suriname Desi Bouterse.<sup>25</sup></li> <li>• Khan has allegedly met with Donald Ramotar, a PPP politician, who is a frontrunner to replace President Jagdeo as the president of Guyana.<sup>26</sup></li> <li>• Khan purchased advertisements in Guyanese newspapers and has consistently stated: "During the crime spree in 2002, I worked closely with the crime-fighting sections of the Guyana Police Force and provided them with assistance and information at my own expense. My participation was instrumental in curbing crime during this period."<sup>27</sup></li> </ul>
c.	<p><i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a report in the Dutch Paper NRC Handelsbad, referencing a report found in a WikiLeaks cable, Khan was implicated in organizing "gun-for-drug" deals for the Colombian rebel group FARC.<sup>28</sup></li> </ul>
<b>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is evidence to suggest Khan supports the Indo Guyanese as opposed to African Guyanese. Many of the gangs that the Phantom Squad went up against were African Guyanese, and the politicians that Khan was allegedly working with are Indo-Guyanese.<sup>29</sup></li> </ul>
<b>J. Technical Sophistication</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In one incident on December 4, 2002, Khan with his two associates Haroon Yayha and Sean Belfield, then a serving police officer for Guyana's police force, were stopped with "M-16 assault rifles with night vision devices, UZI sub-machine gun with silencer; Glock 9mm pistols; 12-gauge shotgun; other small caliber weapons; bullet proof vests; helmets; a computer and other electronic gadgetry with digitized electronic maps and plans of Georgetown and certain targeted east coast villages."<sup>30</sup></li> <li>• Through the Phantom Squad Khan was implicated in the theft of 33 AK-47s from the</li> </ul>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guyana Defense Force in February 2006.<sup>31</sup></li> <li>Khan was implicated in wiretapping</li> </ul>
<b>K. Penchant for Innovation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Not Found</li> </ul>
<b>L. Activities in United States</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convicted of theft and breaking and entering in Montgomery County, Maryland in 1992.<sup>32</sup></li> <li>Charged with receiving firearms while under probation in Burlington, Vermont in 1992.<sup>33</sup></li> <li>Trafficking and distribution of cocaine in New York. Specifically Khan was implicated in providing the supplied Queens Cartel in Queens, New York with “hundreds of kilograms of cocaine.”<sup>34</sup></li> <li>Khan was apprehended and brought to the United States to face trial for narcotics trafficking.</li> </ul> </li> <li><i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Not Found</li> </ul> </li> <li>Linkages with US groups <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market/transaction links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Not Found</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stable supplier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Not Found</li> </ul> </li> <li>Franchise arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information Not Found</li> </ul> </li> <li>HQ and Branch office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based out of Georgetown, Guyana.<sup>35</sup></li> <li>Operated in Eastern District of New York.<sup>36</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>M. Evaluations</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guyana is ideal for smuggling drugs and other illegal materials because of the inability of government forces to properly police the areas outside of the capital, the many gangs that operate in Guyana, often as paramilitary forces, the poorly guarded border between Guyana and Suriname, and the poor security at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport.</li> <li>The ability to corrupt government officials and security forces.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Centralization of authority in Shaheed “Roger” Khan.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Other Notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>His lead attorney Robert Simels was charged with paying an alleged “Phantom Squad” member \$1,000 to kill an important witness against Khan.<sup>37</sup> He was sentenced to 14 years in New York for witness tampering.</li> </ul>

- Most information available centers around Shaheed “Roger” Khan and his network. To what extent the network operated, and continues to operate without Khan’s involvement is unknown.
- Khan’s relationship with Guyanese government is also unclear. Khan himself claimed he worked with the government, while President Jagdeo has denied this.<sup>38</sup> When Khan was arrested the Guyanese government protested. Many thought that this indicated the government of Guyana would have protected Khan had he not gone to Suriname and been apprehended there.
- The size of Khan’s network, the quantity of drugs Khan trafficked, or how the narcotics were trafficked is unknown. The way Khan is described in news reports and the charges leveled against him by prosecutors in his trial, however, suggest that the network was substantial and that Khan trafficked a significant quantity of narcotics.

<sup>1</sup> “Khan admits conspiracy to traffic 150 kilos of cocaine,” *Stabroek News*, March 18, 2009.

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/18/khan-admits-conspiracy-to-traffic-150-kilos-of-cocaine/>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> “Bouterse protected Roger Khan,” *Kaieteur News*. January 23, 2011.

<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2011/01/23/explosive-revelations%E2%80%A6-dutch-news-reports-that-bouterse-protected-roger-khan/>.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> “Roger Khan Pleads Guilty To All Charges,” *Kaieteur News*. March 17, 2009.

<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2009/03/17/roger-khan-pleads-guilty-to-all-charges/>.

<sup>7</sup> “Shaheed ‘Roger’ Khan: drugs, dirty money and the death squad,” *Stabroek News*. August 20, 2009.

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/guyana-review/08/20/shaheed-%E2%80%98roger%E2%80%99-khan-drugs-dirty-money-and-the-death-squad/>.

<sup>8</sup> “Khan admits conspiracy to traffic 150 kilos of cocaine,” *Stabroek News*, March 18, 2009.

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/18/khan-admits-conspiracy-to-traffic-150-kilos-of-cocaine/>.

<sup>9</sup> “Shocker in Roger Khan saga... Attoreney associate charged with conspiracy to murder main witness,” *Kaieteur News*. September 11, 2008. <http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2008/09/11/shocker-in-roger-khan-saga%E2%80%A6-attorney-associate-charged-with-conspiracy-to-murder-main-witness/>.

<sup>10</sup> “Explosive revelations at Simel’s trial” *Kaieteur News*. July 29, 2009.

<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2009/07/29/explosive-revelations-at-simels%E2%80%99-trial/>.

<sup>11</sup> “Shaheed ‘Roger’ Khan: drugs, dirty money and the death squad,” *Stabroek News*. August 20, 2009.

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/guyana-review/08/20/shaheed-%E2%80%98roger%E2%80%99-khan-drugs-dirty-money-and-the-death-squad/>.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> “Bouterse protected Roger Khan,” *Kaieteur News*. January 23, 2011.

<http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2011/01/23/explosive-revelations%E2%80%A6-dutch-news-reports-that-bouterse-protected-roger-khan/>.

<sup>16</sup> “Khan admits conspiracy to traffic 150 kilos of cocaine,” *Stabroek News*, March 18, 2009.

<http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/18/khan-admits-conspiracy-to-traffic-150-kilos-of-cocaine/>.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> "Khan admits conspiracy to traffic 150 kilos of cocaine," *Stabroek News*, March 18, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/18/khan-admits-conspiracy-to-traffic-150-kilos-of-cocaine/>.

<sup>20</sup> "90 percent of cocaine smuggling through Cheddi Jagan Airport Guyana is deliberate authorities say," *Baiganchoka*. July 1, 2010. <http://www.baiganchoka.com/blog/90-percent-cocaine-smuggling-through-cheddi-jagan-airport-guyana-is-deliberate-says-authorities/>.

<sup>21</sup> "'Fineman' former school mate infiltrated Buxton gang for Roger Khan," *Stabroek News*. March 12, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/12/%E2%80%98fineman%E2%80%99-former-school-mate-infiltrated-buxton-gang-for-roger-khan/>.

<sup>22</sup> "Khan admits conspiracy to traffic 150 kilos of cocaine," *Stabroek News*, March 18, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/18/khan-admits-conspiracy-to-traffic-150-kilos-of-cocaine/>.

<sup>23</sup> "Shaheed 'Roger' Khan: drugs, dirty money and the death squad," *Stabroek News*. August 20, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/guyana-review/08/20/shaheed-%E2%80%98roger%E2%80%99-khan-drugs-dirty-money-and-the-death-squad/>.

<sup>24</sup> "Roger Khan was arranging to buy more spy equipment from jail," *Kaieteur News*. August 4, 2009. <http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2009/08/04/roger-khan-was-arranging-to-buy-more-spy-equipment-from-jail/>.

<sup>25</sup> "Bouterse protected Roger Khan," *Kaieteur News*. January 23, 2011. <http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2011/01/23/explosive-revelations%E2%80%A6-dutch-news-reports-that-bouterse-protected-roger-khan/>.

<sup>26</sup> "Donald Ramotar met with drug lord Roger Khan and members of his killing squad," *Guyana Observer*. January 17, 2011. <http://www.guyanaobservernews.org/content/view/4446/1/>.

<sup>27</sup> "Shaheed 'Roger' Khan: drugs, dirty money and the death squad," *Stabroek News*. August 20, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/guyana-review/08/20/shaheed-%E2%80%98roger%E2%80%99-khan-drugs-dirty-money-and-the-death-squad/>.

<sup>28</sup> "Bouterse was involved in drugs after conviction, says WikiLeaks cables," *The Daily Herald*. January 24, 2011. <http://www.thedailyherald.com/regional/2-news/12787-bouterse-was-involved-in-drugs-after-conviction-says-wikileaks-cables.html>.

<sup>29</sup> Hinds, David. "The PPP has given Democracy a Bad Name," *Guyanacaribbeanpolitics.com*. January 24, 2004. [http://www.guyanacaribbeanpolitics.com/commentary/hinds\\_012404.html](http://www.guyanacaribbeanpolitics.com/commentary/hinds_012404.html).

<sup>30</sup> "The Roger Khan Saga," *Stabroek News*. December 1, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/guyana-review/12/01/the-roger-khan-saga/>.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> "Khan admits conspiracy to traffic 150 kilos of cocaine," *Stabroek News*, March 18, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/03/18/khan-admits-conspiracy-to-traffic-150-kilos-of-cocaine/>.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> "Shaheed 'Roger' Khan: drugs, dirty money and the death squad," *Stabroek News*. August 20, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/guyana-review/08/20/shaheed-%E2%80%98roger%E2%80%99-khan-drugs-dirty-money-and-the-death-squad/>.

<sup>35</sup> "U.S. Roger Khan led five-year drug ring" *Guyana Live*. [http://www.guyanalive.com/news/1677/us:\\_roger\\_khan\\_led\\_five-year\\_drug\\_ring](http://www.guyanalive.com/news/1677/us:_roger_khan_led_five-year_drug_ring)

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> "Shocker in Roger Khan saga... Attorney associate charged with conspiracy to murder main witness," *Kaieteur News*. September 11, 2008. <http://www.kaieteurnews.com/2008/09/11/shocker-in-roger-khan-saga%E2%80%A6-attorney-associate-charged-with-conspiracy-to-murder-main-witness/>.

<sup>38</sup> "Roger Khan must 'face the music' –President," *Guyana Observer*. March 19, 2009. <http://www.guyanaobservernews.org/content/view/238/1/>.