

Organization Attributes Sheet: Trade Minister Laundering Ring

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Andy Groenwoud (or Groenewoud) was a baggage handler at Schipol Airport in Amsterdam. After the murder of underworld lawyer Evert Hingst, in 2005, police found information tying Groenwoud to money laundering on behalf of Hingst.¹ The money was laundered through real estate transactions, including real estate transactions in Suriname. Groenwoud was convicted of money laundering in the Netherlands, but the money was never directly tied to the drug trade. Groenwoud's conviction was later overturned. He was released from prison in September 2006 because evidence had been collected illegally.² In Suriname, the government brought charges against Siegfried Gilds for money laundering, from 2000-2005, claiming that he had acted as an agent for Groenwoud in Suriname. Gilds had been the Justice Minister from 2000-2005, and had been recently appointed as the Minister of Trade and Finance in 2006. He resigned the latter post after being charged. In 2009, Gilds was convicted of money laundering by taking funds from Groenwoud and using them to purchase real estate in Suriname.³ He is currently appealing the decision.
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Money launderingTaking hundreds of thousands of euros from criminal contacts in the Netherlands and using them to purchase and develop real estate in Suriname.Siegfried's role in the laundering scheme appears to have been limited to a single transaction.⁴
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">No trafficking was discovered.
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Netherlands, Suriname
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Siegfried Gilds is/was the head of the Labor Party of Suriname. He led the crackdown against drug and weapons trafficking from his post at the head of the Justice Ministry from 2000-2005. This is the same period in which Dino Bouterse was convicted of stealing and trafficking weapons. Gilds had also opened the case against Desi Bouterse for the "December Murders" massacre that occurred during the 1980s dictatorship.
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Information not found.
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Business relationships/contracts
E. Organizational Structure
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Network
b. Membership – is there formal or informal membership in the organization or network?

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

	What role do informal or nonmembers play in trafficking and other criminal activities?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal membership, contracting with businessmen and professionals to launder money through real estate purchases and development, and the purchase of small businesses.
c.	Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralized – business contracting
F. Resources	
a.	Financial
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal sources of money, probably drug related.
b.	Human
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business professionals and investors
c.	Logistical
	i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
	ii. Key routes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money was transferred to agents in Suriname to be invested. There is no information about bulk cash transfers, which suggests that the money was transferred electronically. There is no information about the specific way the money would have been transferred electronically, i.e. no information about what business was used to transfer the funds or how they were routed.
d.	Transportation
	i. Land
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
	ii. Sea
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
	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 implication of Siegfried Gilds suggests that political protection was a part of the methodology for laundering money.
b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dirty money was concealed in legitimate businesses and assets.
c.	Deception
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The money might have been presented as coming from legitimate sources.
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"> • Groenwoud's connection to Evert Hingst suggests that the money might have been come from the remnants of Klaas Bruinsma's organization.⁵
b.	Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Party of Suriname is implicated by the involvement of its leader Siegfried Gilds.
c.	<i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</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.

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"> Information not found.
K. Penchant for Innovation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found.
L. Activities in United States
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. c. Linkages with US groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political connections in Suriname b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They got caught and apparently put out of business. c. Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Siegfried Gilds was active in investigating and prosecuting the drug and weapons trade.⁶ He specifically targeted Dino and Desi Bouterse for investigation.⁷ Gilds had clashed with Desi Bouterse in the 1990s too.⁸ The conviction suggests that he too was corrupt, but it might be that the Surinamese justice system was manipulated to remove an effective enemy of the Bouterse faction.
Other Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">

¹ "Andy Groenewoud was client van geliquideerde Nederlandse advocaat," *Dagblad Suriname*, July 02, 2006. http://www.dbsuriname.com/archief/nat/2006/febr06/07-02-06/Nat_Andy%20Groenewoud%20was%20cliënt%20van%20geliquideerde%20Nederlandse%20advocaat.asp.

² "Witwasser Andy Groenewoud op vrije voeten," *Crimesite*, September 16, 2006. <http://www.crimesite.nl/misdaad/nieuws/2214-witwasser-andy-groenewoud-op-vrije-voeten.html>.

³ "Ex Suriname trade minister found guilty of money laundering," *Stabroek News*, May 06, 2009. <http://www.stabroeknews.com/2009/news/stories/05/06/ex-suriname-trade-minister-found-guilty-of-money-laundering/>.

⁴ "Ex-minister Gilds nooit aangemerkt als zaakgelastigde van zijn neefje," *Dagblad Suriname*, June 26, 2006. http://www.dbsuriname.com/archief/nat/2006/juni06/26-06-06/Nat_Ex-minister%20Gilds%20nooit%20aangemerkt%20als%20zaakgelastigde%20van%20zijn%20neefje%20.asp.

⁵ The Bruinsma Organization was led by Klaas Bruinsma, and was responsible for trafficking Colombian cocaine into Europe and ecstasy pills into the Americas. Middelburg, Bart. *De Dominee. Opkomst en ondergang van mafiabaas*

Klaas Bruinsma (Amsterdam: LJ Veen 1992); "De besmette miljoenen van Michael Vane," *Crimesite*, August 12, 2006. http://www.crimesite.nl/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=2056.

⁶ "Suriname ex-official sentenced in drug money case," *Associated Press*, May 05, 2009.

⁷ Husken, Marian. "Desi Bouterse: 'Ik ben een arme drugsbaron,'" *Vrij Nederland*, June 03, 2006.

<http://www.vn.nl/Archief/Buitenland/Artikel-Buitenland/Desi-Bouterse-Ik-ben-een-arme-drugsbaron.htm>;

Morpurgo, Leo. "Suriname confronts its past," *Associated Press*, October 18, 2000.

http://amarillo.com/stories/101800/usn_suriname.shtml.

⁸ "Suriname's Army Chief Resigns," *New York Times*, November 21, 1992.

<http://www.nytimes.com/1992/11/21/world/suriname-s-army-chief-resigns.html>.