

Organization Data Sheet: Los Trinitarios

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Los Trinitarios (3NI) was formed the late 1989¹ in New York by either Julio Marines (AKA: “Caballo”) or Pedro Nunez (AKA: “El Caballon”)² in the Rikers Island Correction Facility.³ The majority of sources refer to Julio Marines as the gang’s founder, but the <i>History Channel’s</i> “Machete Slaughter” refers to Pedro Nunez instead. The gang was initially comprised of various Dominican gang members looking for protection while incarcerated.• When released, the gang went into organized criminal activity, based in New York’s Washington Heights.⁴ The name seems to be a reference to a founding party of the Dominican Republic of the same name. Trinitarios also means “Trinity or the Special One.”⁵• New York Law Enforcement considers 3NI to be one of the fastest growing gangs in the Northeast.• Moto: "Dios, Patria y Libertad" (DPL) which means God, Country, and Liberty• The gang has spread throughout the Eastern United States and the Dominican Republic.• In January 2010, the top two leaders of the gang were killed. The gang is still in operation.• The “Primera” of the Rhode Island chapter was arrested in August 2010.⁶
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trafficking, distribution, prison protection, kidnapping,⁷ armed robbery.⁸
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Marijuana, MDA, cocaine and crack cocaine,”⁹ heroin,¹⁰ and ecstasy (MDMA).¹¹
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are up to 30,000 members worldwide, with most members active in the US. ¹² Membership in the Dominican Republic is unknown.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group’s operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dominican Republic, United States East Coast, Alaska,¹³ Spain. ¹⁴
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The current leadership is unknown: both the founder and the head of the Dominican Republic chapter were killed in January, 2010.
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Julio Marines was the founder and leader of the gang until killed by prison guards on January 4, 2010 at Najayo Prison, Dominican Republic. ¹⁵ His replacement is unknown.• Jose Alberto Tejeda (AKA: “Bebe”) was the “Suprema” in the Dominican Republic until he was shot to death on January 18, 2010 in Santiago. His replacement is unknown.¹⁶
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diffuse: in the Northeastern United States, “universal” meetings only happen once annually.¹⁷ For the most part, it seems that regional chapters operate independently.
E. Organizational Structure
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3NI is comprised of regional chapters which are hierarchical and have authority over

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

local cells.

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?

- Formal membership—in the US, a boy “said he had to either fight someone or get stabbed to get into the gang.”¹⁸ There are identifying tattoos¹⁹ and colors.²⁰

c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)

- Recognized leadership (Founder, Suprema, Primeras, Cabezas) with highly structured local cells.²¹

F. Resources

a. Financial

- Cash is collected at meetings. This cash is used to provide a social safety net, which is used to pay for the legal defense of Trinitarios and to get them money in prison.

b. Human

- Up to 30,000 members worldwide.

c. Logistical

i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.

- Information not found.

ii. Key routes

- Transships drugs from the Dominican Republic to the United States.²²

d. Transportation

i. Land

- Information not found.

ii. Sea

- Information not found.

iii. Air

- Information not found.

iv. Intermodal container

- Information not found.

G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities

a. Corruption

- Elements of the Dominican military are involved in drug trafficking and the importing of Colombian narcotics in the Dominican Republic.²³ It is unknown whether they have ties with Los Trinitarios.

b. Concealment

- Primary means of trafficking are human mules, who swallow pellets filled with narcotics.²⁴ These mules come from the Dominican Republic to the United States via commercial and private vessels.²⁵

c. Deception

- Information not found.

d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)

- Information not found.

H. Prior / Existing Relationships

a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)

- 3NI has no alliances with gangs in the US and are “rivals of Bloods, Crips, DDP, Latin Kings, MS 13, and Ñetas.”²⁶
- The supplier of their narcotics is unknown.

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of the Dominican military are involved in drug trafficking and the importing of Colombian narcotics.²⁷ It is unknown whether they have ties with Los Trinitarios. c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no evidence to suggest they have had dealings with terrorist groups
I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominican affiliation, although they have accepted Puerto Ricans and other Latinos.²⁸
J. Technical Sophistication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low: there is little evidence of Los Trinitarios having greater capabilities than smuggling “swallower” mules onto commercial vessels.
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"> • Drug retail, armed robbery, and kidnapping in the US. b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the narcotics enter the United States, the product is disseminated to various local Los Trinitarios retailers. c. Linkages with US groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Market/transaction links <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase from unknown supplier • Transship narcotics from the Dominican Republic to the United States East Coast ii. Stable supplier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. iii. Franchise arrangement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional franchises: i.e. New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island. 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"> • Based in United States • Emphasis on ethnic pride and Dominican nationalism • Reputation for brutality b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unwillingness to deal with other US-based groups c. Additional insights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Other Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

¹ "Trinitario," *National Concerned Officers*. <http://www.nationalconcernedofficers.com/Trinitario.htm>.

² "Gangland: Machete Slaughter," *History Channel*, Netflix.com.

³ "FBI — Gang Leader, Three Others in Secret FBI Videotape of Trinitarios Gang Meeting Charged with Firearms, Drug Offenses," *FBI*, August 26, 2010. <http://www.fbi.gov/boston/press-releases/2010/bs082610a.htm>.

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- ⁴ "Gangland: Machete Slaughter."
- ⁵ "National Gang Threat Assessment: 2009," *FBI*, January 2009, <http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/national-gang-threat-assessment-2009-pdf>, 16.
- ⁶ "FBI — Gang Leader, Three Others..."
- ⁷ "Gangland: Machete Slaughter"
- ⁸ "One Murder as Dominican Gangs Dispute NYC ," *Dominican Today*, April 23, 2009, <http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/world/2009/4/23/31779/One-murder-as-Dominican-gangs-dispute-NYC-turf>.
- ⁹ "Forty-One Members and Associates of 'Trinitarios' Criminal Organization Indicted for Drug Trafficking in Washington Heights," *United States Department of Justice*. March 11, 2009, <http://www.justice.gov/dea/pubs/states/newsrel/2009/nyc031109.html>.
- ¹⁰ "Drug Trafficking Organizations - New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Drug Market Analysis 2008 (UNCLASSIFIED)," *United States Department of Justice*. June 2008, Web. <http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs27/27506/dtos.htm>.
- ¹¹ "FBI — Gang Leader, Three Others..."
- ¹² "Trinitario," *Trinitario.co.tv*.
- ¹³ "Drug Trafficking Organizations - New York/New Jersey ..."
- ¹⁴ "Madrid Suffering Dominican Gang Activity," *Dominican Today*, July 24, 2006, <http://dominicantoday.com/dr/world/2006/7/24/15792/Madrid-suffering-Dominican-gang-activity>.
- ¹⁵ *Trinitario.co.tv*.
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*
- ¹⁷ "Gangland: Machete Slaughter."
- ¹⁸ Taricani, Jim. "I-Team: Who Are the Trinitarios?" *Turn to 10*, November 15, 2010, <http://www2.turnto10.com/news/i-team/2010/nov/15/i-team-who-are-trinitarios-ar-291313/>.
- ¹⁹ "Gangland: Machete Slaughter,"
- ²⁰ <http://www.nationalconcernedofficers.com/Trinitario.htm>
- ²¹ "Gangland: Machete Slaughter"
- ²² *Ibid.*
- ²³ McDermott, Jeremy. "Corruption in Dominican Security Forces Aids Drug Trafficking." *Insight - Organized Crime in the Americas*. April 21, 2011, <http://insightcrime.org/insight-latest-news/item/806-corruption-in-dominican-security-forces-aids-drug-trafficking>.
- ²⁴ "Gangland: Machete Slaughter."
- ²⁵ "Drug Threat Overview," *National Drug Intelligence Center*, New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Drug Market Analysis 2009, April 2009, <http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs32/32784/drugover.htm#Top>.
- ²⁶ <http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs27/27506/dtos.htm>.
- ²⁷ McDermott.
- ²⁸ "Drug Trafficking Organizations - New York/New Jersey..."